

The Yorkie Times

All the news that's fit to bark at

Volume 5, Issue #16 March 2010

From the Editor: Work with What You Have

Pete Gedro, dictated to his Mother, Julie



Hey Gang!

It's my turn to write the Editorial for this month, and I'm feeling pretty well today so here goes. As Dr. Stack predicted, I have lost my eyesight. Completely. I amble around the house when I feel like it, and although I bump into walls, I don't elicit pity. I am a tough little Yorkie, and I work with what I have. I'm so glad to still be alive and to have an excellent quality of life. My heart beats strong, my appetite is hearty, and I know when Mom comes home. We have lost, recently, some very good friends and I would like to pay them respects in this message. I recently said goodbye to my pals Muffin and Dylan—two little geriatric dudes like me. Their Mom, Tina Ann Byers, is an angel on this earth. My Mom met Tina, Muffin and Dylan at the Yorkshire Terrier National Rescue Ball in Nashville last October, and she told me about them. They were a lot like me. Physically challenged and chronologically advanced. Turns out, Tina specializes in guys like me. How amazing is that? On a related note, it was incredibly sad to say goodbye to Scarlett Lamanteer who made her transition recently. She was a beautiful gal, and the Lamanteers have been in my thoughts and prayers.

I have a message for this issue: work with what you have. I am not particularly pretty, but I am scrappy. I have a certain 'animal magnetism,' as evidenced by all the girls who express their affection for me. I'm being serious. There's Mischa, who works at the bookstore in my neighborhood, who begs Mom to bring me. She holds me and whispers into my ear that she loves me very much. There is Marin, who just last night told her Aunt that she saw a guy who looked like me. I have a memorable face. The crew at Stack Veterinary Hospital reaches over the counter when Mom brings me in, and they take turns loving on me. Hey, when you got it, you got it.

Despite my challenges, I know what a great life I have. I will spare you the details of my life prior to Yorkie Rescue, but trust me when I tell you that you would not have envied me. I know how lucky I am. Sometimes I wonder what happens to little dudes and gals during disasters, like the earthquake in Haiti. Who saves *them*? Where do they go? So many four leggeds, and so few angels like Tina. Like Connie. Like my Aunts Mary Elizabeth, Corrine, Helen, Mary, and Linda. I'm not pretty, but I'm grateful. I'm comfortable. I am loved. I work with what I have, focus on the good, and give as many kisses each day as possible.

I hope you enjoy our efforts at an informative and fun newsletter.

Until next time,

Petie Boy

New York State Gets Together!

Contributed by Elaine Leshnower

On Saturday, January 23 YTNR members from the western part of the state met for dinner in Rochester. We had a wonderful time talking, laughing and sharing Yorkie stories in our private room in the restaurant. Those who were able to attend were Julie Gedro, Mary and Charlie Schmidt, Dave and Diane Ross, Maria and Jimmy Boyle , and Elaine Leshnower.



Dave and Diane Ross toast good friends!

Maria and Jimmy Boyle in between courses. Yum!



Julie Gedro and Elaine Leshnower, enjoying a great meal and Yorkie stories!

A Letter from Winston

Contributed by Harry Winston Churchill Matteson, the First.

Dear Ellie,

What's up! I was so stoked to get your letter and the warm fuzzy blanket! The moment my mom passed it to me, I was hooked! I couldn't believe that such a beautiful little girl, like you, would make me such an awesome present! THANK YOU!

My new family is super cool. Not only do I have a new forever mom...but I also got a new forever sister too! She is a gorgeous lab named Sable and she's got my back. We play together all the time and my favorite thing to do with her is to go for a walk. Behind my house is a great big hill that is fenced in so that we can run around like mad! Sable knows her way around pretty good and she lets me in on her rabbit hunting secrets; when the weather gets warmer, she's even gonna teach me how to surf just like she does! I guess we are some seriously lucky dogs; our families are both real cool. This California boy is as sweet as I can be!



I told my mom about the Smoky Award and she's pretty psyched to get the chance to nominate me! I think my story is pretty cool...I mean...I ended up in the place I used to only dream about. I'm glad that you are my new friend, even though we are in different states; we've got a lot in common. So thanks for reaching out to me, it means a lot that people really do care about me.



I thought you might like to have this autographed picture of me... I'm just chillin and catching some California sunshine in the back yard. You never know...if I win the Smoky Award, I could be famous! (smile). My mom also said that it's the "gentleman thing" to get you a present too. I hope you love it!



Love,

Harry Winston Churchill Matteson, the First.

Tellington Touch

Contributed by Penny Case

February, 2010

One of the many gifts of sharing TT with a fabulous group of dogs and their delightful, devoted humans at last fall's Yorkshire Terrier National Rescue convention is the information I received regarding issues challenging Yorkies and their families. Number one is **separation anxiety**, followed closely by **severe stress** while riding in the car.

Separation anxiety is traumatic for animal and human alike. The resulting behaviors are a frequent cause of dogs being given up, or worse. Frantic dogs may anger neighbors by vocalizing unceasingly. They may destroy furniture, walls, paint on doors, and may defecate and urinate in inappropriate places. Frustrated care givers, pushed to breaking, may punish a dog that's destroying home, hearth and neighborhood peace. Punishment doesn't solve the problem, but does add to the dog's fear. A momentary loss of control can consume caregivers with guilt. To heal Separation Anxiety, we need professional guidance from qualified dog trainers and behaviorists. Trainers who understand and respect animals, combining head and heart, help dogs become confident and able to cope with their lives. Old school, fear based techniques such as dominating, shaming and inflicting pain, are abusive to your dog and damaging to the relationship between the two of you.

Here are two excellent resources:

[Dog Training Books at Patricia McConnell](#) "I'll Be Home Soon" for preventing and eliminating Separation Anxiety.

AND

Amazon.com: Scared to be home alone: a dog with separation anxiety or isolation distress must be treated, lest he destroys your home--or himself.(BEHAVIOR): An article from: Whole Dog Journal: Pat Miller: Books

Pat Miller's [web site](http://www.peaceablepaws.com) :<http://www.peaceablepaws.com>

What I **can** give you are tools to support your dog, you and your entire family during the process of behavior modification and beyond. These tools are soothing in the moment, and also support and assist the animal in making the shift. Each of these tools is powerful on its own. Use them together on a regular basis to create a relaxed, nurturing environment that supports the health and well being of all species who share your home.

Tellington Ttouch

All Ttouches, are useful and powerful. For Separation Anxiety and Car Stress, **Ear TTouch** is first choice. Also use Ear Ttouch for illness, injury, stress, shock, trauma. Linda Tellington-Jones describes Ear Ttouch in her book ***Getting In TTouch With Your Dog***:

“Stabilize the dog's head with one hand. The thumb and the fingers of your other hand hold the opposite ear in such a way that your thumb is on top. Change hands when you want to stroke the other ear. Gently stroke the ear with your thumb from the center of the head to the base of the ear and all the way to the tip. Work different areas with each slide so that you cover every square inch of the ear. With a floppy-eared dog, lift the ears gently so they are horizontal to the ground. Work upright ears in an upward direction. If your dog has soft, floppy ears, support the ear with your fingers. Do not pull the ear, bu just stroke the fur gently. Imagine the ear to be a rose petal so use only the lightest pressure. If you are trying to help a dog that is in pain or in shock, you may want to make your strokes faster and apply slightly more pressure. **If you are trying to help your dog relax, use slow and gentle slides.** Using this and other Ttouches on a regular basis helps your dog become more confident and relaxed, resulting in a happier, better behaved animal. Visit TTOUCH.com for DVD s, videos and books for dogs, cats, horses and humans. Treat yourself to a few minutes of Ear Touch. You may be surprised how much you relax!

FLOWER ESSENCES

For immediate stress:

For over half a century Rescue Remedy has been the go-to essence mixture for stressful situations of any kind. Like all flower essences, it's absolutely safe for all life. Use as often as needed for your dog, and yourself. Widely available at natural foods stores and some nutrition centers.

For deep healing and more:

www.greenhopeessences.com

603 469-3662

Green Hope Farms' Animal Wellness Collection includes, Anxiety, Abuse and Abandonment, and Separation, plus other useful mixtures.

Aroma Therapy

Pure essential oils are powerful healing tools. Some that address fears and anxieties are lavender, chamomile, bergamot, and frankincense, There are several ways to use essential oils safely, and a wealth of articles, books and online information. NOTE: Essentials are known to have long term negative effects on cat health, so avoid using them where cats live.

Calming Music

Over time I've tried several pieces of recorded music and sounds of nature intended to calm animals, with not much visible success. Through A Dog's Ear is different. Psychoacoustic

expert Joshua Leeds and musician Lisa Spector have created music “demonstrated in clinical trials to calm 70% of dogs in kennels or shelters and 85% in households.” The mission of their partnership “is to provide audio programs specifically for the health, well-being and longevity of our beloved animal friends.” I first used the calming CD in my home for two dogs, one of them recently rescued, still nervous and quite fearful of any noise. For almost two weeks, a crew loudly removed our old metal roof and replaced it with a new one. Playing **Through A Dog's Ear** helped the dogs noticeably through the ordeal, and helped me, too. There's a CD for calming, another for the 'Canine Household’ and recently a CD for driving that includes sounds to help the driver stay focused and alert. Only the CD specifically for use in the car is safe to use while driving. The other ones can cause drowsiness—desirable in the dog, not so for the driver! For over 25 years I have explored the use of specifically created sound and music to enhance my own mental, emotional and physical health, with outstanding results. I'm excited this lovely healing tool is now available for our stressed and overstimulated dogs!

Leeds and veterinary neurologist Susan Wagner have written a book of the same name, full of ways to create a calming, healing sound environment for our animals, as well as many insights into dealing with a wide array of stresses and behaviors. Through a Dog's Ear, the new book and CD series – A clinical breakthrough in the use of music with dogs:
<http://www.throughADogsEar.com>.

Balance

Life in the 21st Century is stressful. When our beloved animals are traumatized, or behave in undesirable ways, we are more stressed. Then *our* stress adds to *their* stress adds to *our* stress, and we're off and running. We can turn down the volume on stress by stopping for a minute or two of feeling our feet on the ground, of breathing deeply and slowly in through the nose, of exhaling through the bottoms of our feet. Imagine roots growing out of your feet, going deep into Mother Earth. Feel Her support. Gently shake tension from your arms and hands. Then gently shake your entire body, allowing a sweet sense of relaxation. Express gratitude to yourself for these moments of self care. Do this as often as you notice stress... yours and your dog's stress. **When we relax we help them relax.** More on tools for Separation Anxiety and Car Stress next time!

Namaste,
Penny Case
The Well Being
Star9fish@aol.com
Guild Certified Tellington Ttouch Practitioner



Grounded....ME?

Mary Margaret

Well, shoot. I'm sitting there with my mom watching "Good Morning America" and I hear "MEEE-YOOOOOOWWR" and "RRRR-OOOOWWRRRRR". Ooooh, (I said) "CAT FIGHT!". Woo hoo! Who doesn't love a cat fight, I ask?

So I went racing out my little personal door to get a good seat. But they were gone. I missed the whole fight, darn it. I kept walking back and forth along the back wall hoping to catch a glimpse of them but no success. Then I hear "Mary-Margaret, COME!" I pretend I hear nothing and continue patrolling.

"YOU GET IN HERE YOUNG LADY!!". Oh yell yourself silly (I say quietly). I'll come in when I'm darn good and ready. "I SAID COME!!" Yeah Yeah (I say) and I keep walking.

"YOU ARE NOW GROUNDED!" Yeah? Big whoopeeeee (I say) and sit down in the sunlight against the back wall. I hear the door in the kitchen slam a couple of times, but I know it's just a ploy. She's got so many tricks up her sleeve and I'm wise to them all.

Next thing I see is my mom in her lavender bathrobe and bare feet walking across the lawn to me. Uh oh (I think)...jig's up. I surrender. I am scooped up and...egads! I am thwacked on my butt. Yup. Not hard, but it's emotionally painful for me. I'll probably need therapy, now. I am put in my place and told NEVER do that again and I should "come when you're called!" Well, fine! I am SORRY!

So she goes upstairs to get ready for work and turns around when she gets to the landing. She says "Come!" in her most nicest voice ever. This is a test, I'm sure, but I come anyway. I even race her to the top of the stairs. Hah! I showed her. I am a GOOD puppy. Yup. I just happen to know that I'm smarter than she is, but she is the one with the food and the bed, so I let her think she's boss. I can do "pawlitics" just as good as the next guy.

Love and kisses,

Mary-Margaret

Spotlight on Volunteers Extraordinaire: Mary and Charlie Schmidt

Editor's Note: *Mary and Charlie Schmidt are fabulous Yorkie Rescue volunteers! Mary serves as the Secretary of our Board of Directors, Charlie knits stunning bags and sweaters, and together, they are invaluable to our organization. They also happen to be incredibly kind and wonderful people. I hope you enjoy our interview with them.*

YT: Tell us about yourselves. What started your interest in Yorkies?

We had always had bigger dogs: collie, collie-shepherd mix, and finally a lab-shepherd mix. I kept saying I wanted a tiny dog, one I could pick up with one hand, one who would eat and drink out of a tiny bowl. I always thought Yorkies were so pretty and that I would enjoy having one.

The night Bogart (the lab-shepherd) died, I sobbed all night – no thoughts of getting another dog. But in the morning, I was drawn to the newspaper and to ads for puppies. There, surrounded by little hearts was an ad for Yorkie puppies. I called and talked to the breeder; she had one female already spoken for, and one male. She assured me I would love the male just as much as the little girl. Before making any commitment, I spent most of my morning on the phone talking to some other breeders, my obedience trainer, and another other Yorkie owner. I then called back and made an appointment to see the available puppy. Charlie called me from work, and when I said I was going to look at a puppy, he said, “Not without me, you’re not! I’ll be home in 20 minutes.” Long story short, we fell in love with Jester. We were very lucky in that his breeder was a lovely lady with whom we are still in touch 18 years later, and we consider her a friend.



Three years later, we got our second Yorkie, Robin, also a male. Both dogs went thru obedience classes and after earning their Canine Good Citizen certificates, they became members of Therapy Dogs International. We spent several years visiting nursing homes and sharing love with the residents.

YT: How did you get involved in Yorkie Rescue?

Shortly after getting my second Yorkie, I joined a Yorkie chat list; I think it was Yorkie Spice. Mary Elizabeth Dugmore was a member of that list; actually I think she was the owner of the list. She was deeply involved in Rescue and took in a large number of puppy mill dogs. At that time, Charlie and I were volunteering with a medical supply recycling organization. Our boss,

who was a dog lover, told us we could take a load of supplies to Mary Elizabeth. He pretty much knew what was needed because the charity supplied several local animal shelters with their needs. So, off Charlie went to Tennessee with supplies for Mary Elizabeth and for the nearby humane society.

A while later, Mary Elizabeth contacted us and asked for our help. She had a young Yorkie who had just had a litter of four. She wanted to know if we could foster and find homes for them. It took Charlie about 2 minutes to say, “We can’t leave before Wednesday!” (two days later.) That mother dog was Hope, who many have met at the Balls in Nashville. What a wonderful mother she was and still is. We kept Hope (yes, we officially flunked Fostering 101), and her tiniest pup, Mouse. Mouse was born without hip joints and needed serious surgery; we opted to keep her also. Since our town has a 2-dog limit, we had a long talk with our Dog Control Warden and got her permission before making the final decision. She even offered to help find homes for the other 3 puppies. As it turned out, we did not need to take her up on the offer, but it sure was appreciated.

YT: What do you think are the most exciting aspects of Yorkie Rescue?

For us, it was watching an unsocialized and frightened Yorkie turn into a loving and trusting pet. For some unfathomable reason, Hope accepted and trusted Charlie and me from the first moment we met. (I have always believed an angel whispered in her ear.) But when anyone else came on the scene, she turned into Cujo – willing to die protecting her puppies.

Also placing the pups in their new homes was rewarding and frightening at the same time. I think you always pray that your decision was a good one.

YT: How many Yorkies do you have now, what are their names? What are they like?

Jester and Robin have gone to Rainbow Bridge. Hope is now 12 years old (we think), and Mouse will soon be 11. In November, we were blessed with the gift of Zoey who is now 15 months old. Hope is getting deafer by the day. Mouse is still going strong. I often joke that I have one dog with two heads – the two are that close, always cuddling and grooming each other. Even their groomer says that it is obvious that they do love each other. Still, due to her mother’s early training, Mouse does not trust strangers. I watch her very carefully when anyone outside the family is around, but she does love attention. Both of them accepted Zoey with no problems at all. Zoey picks on Mouse incessantly to play with her. Sometimes, Mouse obliges. Other times she threatens to rip Zoey’s face off, but she doesn’t really mean it. Zoey is now attending obedience classes and hoping to become a Therapy Dog.

YT: How did Charlie become such an expert knitter?

Many years ago, during World War II, school children learned to knit 9 by 9 inch afghan squares for the Red Cross to make into completed afghans to be used at veteran’s hospitals. Young Charlie decided he could knit as well as the girls, so his mother taught him to knit. Then, many years later, he took up knitting again just to see if he still could do it. He knit several beautiful patterned sweaters and jackets. One of his sweaters won a blue ribbon in a Monroe County Fair!

He found knitting to be a relaxing pastime and enjoys challenging patterns. He has also found that the act of knitting is good exercise for arthritic fingers.

Currently, he is using his talents to knit handbags (which then are decorated by Mary Elizabeth Dugmore and lined by Corrine Ellison) and dog sweaters for YTNR's Yorkie Boutique.

YT: What do you care most about, with respect to Rescue?

Dogs need rescue for such a variety of reasons. The saddest situations are where a dog is facing euthanasia because it has no one to give it a home. Seeing a dog adopted into a loving home and becoming a part of a family, perhaps for the first time, is so heart warming.

YT: What else can we learn about you?

Because of a town limit on the number of dogs in a home, we cannot do much fostering. When I was asked to join the YTNR Board of Directors, and asked if I would act as Board Secretary, I was more than willing to take on the job. Even though I am rarely working directly with a dog, I am contributing to our organization. Charlie, by volunteering his knitting ability, is also dedicated to the success of YTNR.

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