

Winter 2023

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*Waggin' Tales*





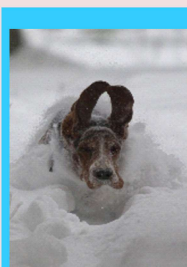
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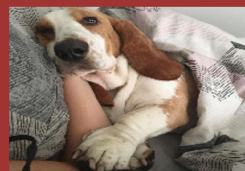
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## Holly's 'Pause for Paws'



Happy Holidays everyone! I hope that you all are having a wonderful time with family and friends these past couple of months and that it will continue on into the New Year as well. No doubt that 2023 has gone by quickly.

It's been another very slow quarter with the intake of basset hounds, but I see that as a good thing. I'm happy that there aren't as many basset hounds as in past years. Maybe that means less backyard breeding and folks making quick decisions to 'get a puppy'.

I recently saw a question on social media, where someone was asking what defined a backyard breeder. In years past, I've had discussions with legitimate breeders, asking them what they do and what they don't do, with their litters. I've found out what I believe a backyard breeder to be.

Reputable breeders have their own web page. They are certified breeders and generally with an organization, like the AKC. People seek out the breeder via their web page, to obtain a puppy. The reputable breeders have homes for their puppies *before* the mother dog is even bred. The new homes have put down a deposit for the unborn puppy. Some deposits are non-refundable, to help secure serious inquiries and patient new homes.

Reputable breeders don't place their puppies into their new homes before they are 8 weeks old. They get the puppies, at a minimum, their first round of vaccinations and a wellness check with their veterinarian prior to placement. A reputable breeder wants their puppy back from the purchaser, if for some reason the puppy doesn't work out in its new home. Some breeders even have their puppies microchipped before they go into their new home.

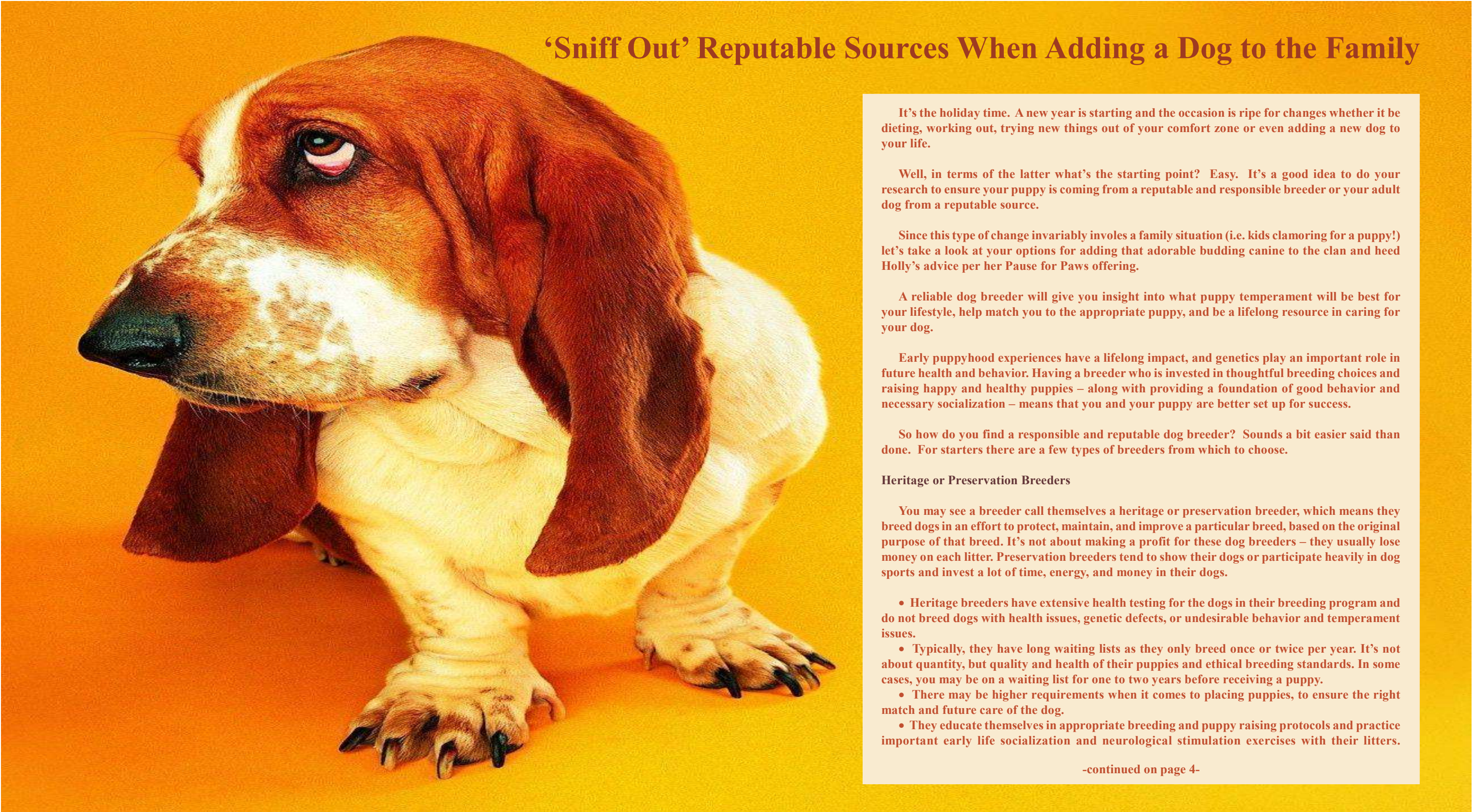
Backyard breeders post their puppies for sale and into new homes, as early as 6 weeks old. Generally social media is their format to 'sell' their puppies, as it's no cost to them. The puppies may or may not have ever been checked

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WBHR Director: Holly Moen (307) 272-8089  
wybassetrescue@gmail.com  
Editor: Michael Ryan (307) 632-5323  
thecondor@q.com





# ‘Sniff Out’ Reputable Sources When Adding a Dog to the Family

It’s the holiday time. A new year is starting and the occasion is ripe for changes whether it be dieting, working out, trying new things out of your comfort zone or even adding a new dog to your life.

Well, in terms of the latter what’s the starting point? Easy. It’s a good idea to do your research to ensure your puppy is coming from a reputable and responsible breeder or your adult dog from a reputable source.

Since this type of change invariably involves a family situation (i.e. kids clamoring for a puppy!) let’s take a look at your options for adding that adorable budding canine to the clan and heed Holly’s advice per her Pause for Paws offering.

A reliable dog breeder will give you insight into what puppy temperament will be best for your lifestyle, help match you to the appropriate puppy, and be a lifelong resource in caring for your dog.

Early puppyhood experiences have a lifelong impact, and genetics play an important role in future health and behavior. Having a breeder who is invested in thoughtful breeding choices and raising happy and healthy puppies – along with providing a foundation of good behavior and necessary socialization – means that you and your puppy are better set up for success.

So how do you find a responsible and reputable dog breeder? Sounds a bit easier said than done. For starters there are a few types of breeders from which to choose.

## Heritage or Preservation Breeders

You may see a breeder call themselves a heritage or preservation breeder, which means they breed dogs in an effort to protect, maintain, and improve a particular breed, based on the original purpose of that breed. It’s not about making a profit for these dog breeders – they usually lose money on each litter. Preservation breeders tend to show their dogs or participate heavily in dog sports and invest a lot of time, energy, and money in their dogs.

- Heritage breeders have extensive health testing for the dogs in their breeding program and do not breed dogs with health issues, genetic defects, or undesirable behavior and temperament issues.
- Typically, they have long waiting lists as they only breed once or twice per year. It’s not about quantity, but quality and health of their puppies and ethical breeding standards. In some cases, you may be on a waiting list for one to two years before receiving a puppy.
- There may be higher requirements when it comes to placing puppies, to ensure the right match and future care of the dog.
- They educate themselves in appropriate breeding and puppy raising protocols and practice important early life socialization and neurological stimulation exercises with their litters.

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# Find the Proverbial 10-Foot Pole and Definitely Keep Your Distance

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- They ensure that their dogs are up-to-date on vaccinations, deworming, vet exams, and eating quality food.
- They are committed to a puppy for their entire life and are a wealth of information and support for their puppies' families. If for any reason someone is not able to care for the dog at any point in the dog's life, preservation breeders will take the dog back or help find an appropriate home by reaching out to their network of breeders across the country.
- Puppies are often priced higher than puppies from hobby or for-profit breeders.

If you are looking for a purebred dog, it is highly recommend getting a puppy from a heritage or preservation breeder or through a breed-specific rescue (often run by a network of preservation breeders). You get what you pay for and you can rest easier knowing that you are supporting ethical and responsible dog breeding and have the lifelong support you'll need for your dog.

### Hobby Breeders

Now, here comes the first words of caution.

Hobby breeders are also not in it for the money, but rather the love of the dog breed. They may participate in showing their dogs, but not always. There are hobby breeders for "unofficial" dog breeds or mixes, such as Labradoodles, or hobby breeders that focus on breeding primarily for behavior and temperament over how a dog looks.

Hobby breeders should be health-testing their dogs prior to breeding and maintain high ethical standards when it comes to the frequency of litters and choosing sires and dams. It's important to do your due diligence if thinking about getting a puppy from a hobby breeder. Some lean more towards being unofficial preservation breeders, while others lean more towards being backyard breeders. It can be difficult to identify

whether someone is breeding more "trendy" dog breeds because they truly care about the health and behavior of the dogs or if they are simply looking to make a profit at the dog's expense.

Now we go beyond (far beyond) words of caution and into the realm of, well, don't even think about it.

### Puppy Mills

Puppy mills are large breeding facilities with high numbers of dogs as breeding stock, usually with many different breeds. The majority of puppies found in pet stores come from puppy mills, although fortunately, some states and local jurisdictions are beginning to ban the sale of puppies in pet stores that are sourced from these commercial operations.

Their main goal is to make a profit off the puppies they breed.

Puppy mills generally do not provide adequate health care, housing, or enough human interaction for both the dogs being bred and puppies. There is no health or behavior testing done prior to breeding. Breeding dogs are bred too frequently and for too long.

Some puppy mills have registered their dogs with the AKC or the CKC, so it's important to remember that just because a dog has "papers," it doesn't mean the breeder is trustworthy or responsible.

Puppy mill operations can be quite inhumane and result in serious health and behavioral issues. Avoid purchasing a puppy that may have come from a puppy mill operation at all costs.

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- They specialize in a non-standard color, size, or breed mix (e.g., "teacup," "rare" or "exotic")
- They post puppies for sale on social media or Craig's List
- Cheap or lower-than-usual price for puppies
- Extremely high price for puppies (typically seen when it is a trendy breed or the rare/exotic description)
- There are always puppies available or different breeds available
- They don't ask you any questions or require an application
- Will send puppies to new homes earlier than 8 weeks of age
- No registration papers
- No vaccination or vet records available or vaccinations given by the breeder (less likely a veterinarian has examined the puppy and done needed fecal tests)
- No proof of health tests for parents
- You aren't allowed to or able to meet the parents of the puppies
- You aren't allowed to visit or otherwise see (virtually) where puppies are raised
- The breeder provides no post-purchase support and will not take the dog back if there is a problem

## Sadly, These Sights Are Much Too Common







# Do Your Research in Identifying Your ‘Point of Sale’ for That Special Dog



Now then, let’s focus on finding that specific breeder that’s just right for your needs.

Initially connecting with a breeder is often the hardest step of finding a new puppy. The easiest place to start is by searching local and national breed clubs based on the breed(s) you’re considering. National clubs will have a breeder directory and can help direct you to local clubs in your area.

Being a member breeder of a national or local club does not automatically ensure a breeder is practicing ethical or responsible breeding, but it does provide one layer of vetting as breeders listed on club sites often must be active members for a certain amount of time and successful in the sports or conformation world.

## Go to Local Dog Shows and Events

Local clubs will host different events in your area. This gives you a chance to get connected with your local community and find out more about breeders in your area to help narrow down your search, along with learning a bit more about the breed and seeing them in action.

Once you’ve found a local club, go watch some of their events. Many reputable dog breeders will be present at these events showing their own dogs and you may have a chance to chat with them. It’s best practice to reach out to the breeder via email or phone call prior to meeting them at a dog show or event.

These events can be quite busy and a breeder or handler has lots to do as they prepare to go in the ring and compete. Ask if they are able to meet you after they are finished with their events or when the best time would be so you can ask some questions and get to know them better.

You can also talk with other spectators at these events, as they are almost always breed enthusiasts, may know the breeders, and have extensive knowledge of the breed and different lines.

## Ask for Referrals

Reach out to friends and family members about whether they know any responsible dog breeders in your area. If you know someone who has a dog you admire, ask where they got their dog.

There are quite a few social media groups that focus on particular dog breeds, and it can be hit or miss when it comes to asking what dog breeder to connect with in these groups. But it can be a good start to narrow down your search. Ideally, look for breed-specific groups that are associated with local or national clubs and tout responsible and ethical breeding practices.

Never purchase a puppy listed on social media as available or for sale. Not only can this be a scam and no actual puppy exists, but it is definitely a red flag that the puppy is from a puppy mill or backyard breeder.



## ‘Signs’ That Scream



Caveat Emptor!

## Don’t Be Surprised by Long Waits – They’re a Good Thing!

Wanting a puppy and getting one right away isn’t usually possible, and I know that can feel frustrating. But it’s actually a sign of a responsible breeder! Don’t be put off by a breeder informing you that they have a waitlist. If you have complete faith in that breeder and how they raise their puppies, be sure to put your name on the waitlist and check in with the breeder every few months so they know you are still interested.

You can also ask them if they know of other breeders who may have puppies sooner or to let you know if an older dog becomes available. If your heart isn’t set on a puppy, let your breeder know and they can be a great resource in helping you find an adolescent or adult dog in that breed. There are also breed-specific rescues that they may refer you to.

# Some Worthwhile Tips on the ‘Caliber’ of a Good Canine Breeder and Business Operator

Heading down the home stretch now. You’ve settled on the breed(s) in which you are interested, completed all of the basic research and have short listed some breeders to contact. Now, what should you expect from them in terms of professionalism and their competency as a breeder (all Internet reviews aside).

Some of the key points to examine, ask about and/or observe would relate to:

- The breeder will greet you in their house and not somewhere else.
- The puppies will live in the house and be handled often, as a pet that is born into family life has a better shot at growing up relaxed and friendly.
- The parents will be on site, and you will be able to meet them, meeting the father may not be possible, but you should certainly meet the mother.
- The place is clean and safe, and that they’re supplied with fresh water, beds, and toys. Is there a toilet area in the puppy living quarters for housetraining
- There will be minimal numbers of litters from mom, and the number of litters available for adoption will be limited.
- The parents’ health clearances will be available for you and parent and grandparent dogs were tested for hereditary problems
- The puppies will be genetically tested or come with a health guarantee
- The breeder will refer you to past clients to speak with
- The breeder will show knowledge of the breed, and be honest about its advantages and drawbacks, whether that means a tendency to develop certain health problems or a temperament
- The breeder will take the dog back if you are unable to care for it.
- The breeder will insist on keeping the puppy until it is at least 8 weeks old with his first round of vaccinations
- A responsible breeder will not have numerous breeding pairs of dogs (If they do, it is another red flag)
- The breeder will be available for assistance after you take your puppy home and offer guidance for the care and training
- The breeder has participated in shows or competitions, this shows that the breeder is motivated by enthusiasm for the breed.

One last thing, a good and responsible breeder will also have expectations of you and may well ask the following questions:

Your living situation (are you a renter or a home owner?)

- Do you have a yard or do you live in an apartment?
- Your household (Who lives with you? Can I meet them? Can I come to your place?)
- Your purpose for adopting (Is this strictly a family pet, or are you planning on showing the dog?)
- Your experience with dogs or with the breed.

You might have to sign a spay/neuter contract or come to an agreement about breeding rights to avoid contributing to pet over population.



Jane - You’re Terrific, We Couldn’t Do It Without You!



As always, our most sincerest gratitude to Jane Gates for maintaining our web page, adding dogs, updating dogs as well as doing home checks. WBHR really appreciates all your help, hard work and dedication. We would be *lost* without you!





## Reasons Behind Dogs Eating Snow Are Complicated

It's Winter time. No surprise there. We'll probably receive more than our share of snow. Ditto. Your dog will undoubtedly snack on snow whether it be in the back yard or out on a walk. Correct yet again, but just exactly why?

Well, the reasons that tend to be pinpointed are quite varied to say the least so let's examine the consensus of rational thinking.

### Canine Curiosity

Dogs learn and explore the world with their mouths. So naturally, they will be curious to see how it tastes and feels to chew. We all love to play with snow and, again, dogs play with their mouths, so eating it may just be part of their game.

### They Love The Taste

Your dog may just like the taste. After all, it's just frozen water, and dogs love water! It probably tastes and feels like the dog equivalent of a slushy or Iced.

Alternatively, your dog could be unhappy with the taste of the water in their own bowl at home. You wouldn't want to drink water that had been sitting out for days on end, would you? Dogs are no different, so make sure that their supply of water is always fresh and cold and from a clean source.

### Genetics

Though it's not been scientifically proven, some experts believe that dogs' Arctic ancestors had to eat snow to survive. In Arctic conditions, water sources can freeze over. So, ancient, Arctic canines may have had to eat the ice and snow to stay hydrated instead! If this is true, snow eating may be an innate behavior passed down through genetics.

### Dehydration

Snow. It's just frozen water. So they might just be eating it because they're thirsty. It sounds strange because we typically associate heat with dehydration, but cold air can be just as dehydrating. The indoor heating which we have on during Winter can also cause dehydration. Stomach upsets also cause dehydration.

If your dog shows signs of dehydration, don't wait for it to rehydrate itself, as it may feel too tired to do so. Instead, offer it regular drinks of water and maybe make it an electrolyte drink.

If you think your dog is severely dehydrated, take it to see a vet as soon as possible or it could face organ failure.

### Self Medication

Snow eating could also be your dog's way of self-medicating. If your dog appears to be repeatedly eating snow in order to make itself sick, it might be trying to get something out of its system; typically, a stomach bug or parasite.

Usually, dogs do this with grass. But if the ground is buried in the snow, they can still use it, as snow also causes vomiting when eaten in excessive quantities. If a dog has a stomach bug, it will likely go away on its own. However, if you think they have a parasite, they will need a vet prescribed antiparasitic medication.

### Psychological Issues

Alternatively, they might be experiencing a psychological issue. If your dog is eating snow compulsively, it may have obsessive-compulsive disorder. If it is often anxious or has a phobia, it might be indulging in this and acts over and over again to self-soothe. Some research suggests herding breeds like Border Collies and German Shepherds may be more prone to obsessive-compulsive behavior.

Don't ignore OCD. It won't go away by itself and may be causing your dog a lot of distress. Look up how to treat your dog's OCD at home or see a behaviorist.

### Other Medical Issues

Generally, eating a bit of snow is good fun. But if your dog is eating excessive amounts of snow, it could be a sign of something more serious.

Metabolic and hormonal illnesses such as Cushing's disease, kidney disease, liver disease, hyperthyroidism, and diabetes are the most common causes of disease-induced extreme thirst (and subsequent urination), that your dog may feel regular water just doesn't quench.

If your dog keeps feeling unwell, take it to a vet. It's possible that something harmful was somehow mixed in with the snow.

Harmful chemicals are not uncommon depending upon the location of the snow.



### Now Then, About Those Harmful Chemicals Your Dog Could Encounter

If your dog has eaten snow out on the street or in public areas, it may have accidentally ingested some poisonous chemicals such as rock salt or a de-icer. People put these on the roads to stop pedestrians and vehicles from slipping and having accidents.

When dogs ingest rock salt their blood becomes highly concentrated in sodium. Eating even a tiny amount leads to extreme dehydration and thirst, drooling, exhaustion, vomiting, and seizures. If you think your dog has ingested rock salt, take it to a vet immediately for blood stabilizing treatment, or they could have permanent kidney damage.

*If you suspect your dog has been poisoned by rock salt, call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline® at (855) 764-7661 for emergency assistance.*

*The vet will most likely perform blood tests to monitor and stabilize blood sodium levels while administering IV fluids to rehydrate your pooch.*

Antifreeze contains extremely high levels of ethylene glycol, which is extremely poisonous. There is an antidote, however, it only works within the first 8-12 hours of ingestion. So it's important to know the signs and seek emergency veterinary help immediately.





## A Multi-Talented Entrepreneur, A Dog Named 'Chloe' and Voila!, an Ingenious Design of Dog Steps

There's a saying to the effect that "if you want something done, ask a busy person".

Research as to who actually uttered this phrase will bring forth a myriad of credits (anonymous is your best bet, though) including, by the way, such luminaries as Ben Franklin or Lucille Ball. However, if you happen to be looking for a prime example of the phrase you probably couldn't find anyone better suited than Chris Bachman, the developer of Good Steps which we are featuring in this edition.



Actually, to say he's a busy person would be much akin to Martin Brody's wry understatement in *Jaws* that, "We're gonna need a bigger boat."

Just for the record, Bachman can readily list among his activities and accomplishments such being the Founder and Project Director for ProClass Web Design and Executive Director of EarthWell, an organization dedicated to furthering the ideals of sustainability and healthy living.

That merely scratches the surface of his abilities which range widely between business management and consulting, event production and promoting, web development, advertising and even journalistic endeavors including author and penning special interest columns.

But, let's get back to that early reference to Good Steps.

For inspiration Chris drew upon his own dog, Chloe (playfully referred to as the world's biggest Maltese) when he observed her experiencing difficulty hopping up on the family couch.

"She was trying to jump up on the couch one day and just wasn't up to it. After an embarrassing fall she looked at me as if to say, 'Can you help me?'," explained Bachman.

"I began looking for dog steps and soon realized there were none that fit her body type. In fact, the steps I saw fit maybe 10 percent of dogs; they simply weren't designed with a dog's anatomy in mind."

So, out came a drawing pad, pencil and a plethora of ideas

began popping into his head. One of the key factors he recognized was for a design to incorporate the concept of adjusting to a dog's size and shape. In other words, in this instance, 'one size' does, in fact, fit all.

What with his busy schedule it took several years of research and development and a sketchbook of plans to rival Leonardo da Vinci.

Enter Chloe once more, but this time as the #1 Test Dog to help decide which of his three final designs worked best.

"Chloe was fantastic at not only helping design the steps and testing them (including some epic falls) and even one proto type collapsing under her," enthused Bachman, "but eventually proving to be an amazing advertising model."

"I can honestly say that without her the steps never would have happened."

Sadly, the Covid outbreak a couple of years ago drove the manufacturing costs beyond what the target market would bear, but that unfortunate circumstance did provide Chris with a bit of marketing analysis. "Our impression of the market at the time we started was that the steps would appeal most to 'upper end clientele who would be willing to pay for a high-end product,'" mused Bachman.

### Bachman Notes Two Important Concepts in Utilization of Dog Steps

"The two things I learned creating Good Steps, that I wish everyone was aware of are that: 1) ramps are fine as long as they aren't too steep as when they get too steep they are dangerous and can cause serious strains and lasting injury and 2) think about how a dog steps up on things.

"Use that awareness before asking it to use steps not designed for their body shape," noted Bachman.

"It is often painful and dangerous to ask it to use steps made for humans as in many instances its body simply isn't built for their use.

"Keep in mind that a dog needs a step depth that is equal

"However, the data found that our buyers were almost completely Mid-America folks with average incomes who simply wanted the best for their dogs."

One could easily point to this as yet another example of the lengths dog lovers will go for their beloved pets.

All of this now brings us to how WBHR secured the premium set of steps we are presently raffling off.

### Need Some Help?.....

*A true dog lover, Chris has kindly offered that if anyone has questions about dog steps they may contact him personally at (435) 647- 4747 or via email at BigDog@GoodSteps.dog.*

Chris's initial inventory eventually dwindled to a mere handful and, to make space for yet another project idea he posted an online note seeking the names of canine organizations which might benefit from a donation.

The notice caught the eye of Robin Griffith who assists the Utah Friends of Basset Hounds who passed along our details, Chris made the contact and, in his own words, "It all came together and I happily donated the remaining seven sets to great causes, including, of course, the Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue."

to the distance between the front and back paws," Bachman specifies.

"The closer you get to that dimension the better. Yes, the steps will be different than typical human steps, but, then, so is your dog."

#1 Test Dog and advertising model Chloe on the job.



### Is Your Dog Scared of Stairs?

First, it helps to understand why your dog may be afraid of stairs. Did it take a tumble on them? Do stairs hurt their joints? Did someone force them up or down stairs at some point?

Whatever the trigger is you want to try to avoid that at all costs. With time, patience, love and a good supply of treats many dogs who start out scared of stairs learn to trust Good Steps.

As a dog gains a foundation of success using Good Steps they will naturally become more and more at ease with using them on a regular basis. However, take any of those positive elements out of the equation, or set the steps up improperly, and you may make things worse.

One way to help dogs that are nervous is to introduce them to the stairs in a casual almost off-hand way, just placing them where they will be used and then ignoring them. Then, while sitting close by the stairs pull out some high value treats and let the dog earn a few by doing things it is already comfortable with; sitting, rolling over, handshake, etc.

Then graduate to placing the treat on the first step rather than tossing it to them. Praise them when they take it off the step. When you feel the time is right try the second step.

At the first sign of hesitancy, stop and simply leave a few treats on the next step or two all while making sure they know it is there. Then just relax and wait for them to figure it out.

No pressure should ever be exerted towards the dog, this is where they have to do it themselves. If they do, then praise it a lot and leave it there until the next training which could be in a few hours or the next day.

Don't forget, coming down is often a lot scarier than going up and what is a safe and easy jump up to a mattress top can be scary and even unsafe when coming down if it is too far. If your dog goes up the steps ok but prefers to jump down, some extra training is in order. You should discourage jumping down from heights as it can eventually damage the dogs' joints and cause pain and arthritis later on.





# Key Components of Viable Dog Steps Include Adjustability, Angles and Tread Depth

Remember the good old days in college when most of us used a few cinder blocks and a simple plank from the local lumber yard for a bookcase? Then when family life came along replete with kids and a dog you used another simple plank to assist the dog in climbing onto the bed at night?

Chances are everything worked well for the bookcase, but you were probably doing potential harm to your pet for a variety of reasons not the least of which involves angles that are too steep and the width of the ramp.

For a truly viable set of dog steps you need to factor in the ability to adjust the rise and depth of the steps and the angle as the dog ages and/or develops physical restraint. So, let’s use Good Steps as an example of some of these parameters.

The problem with most dog ramps lies with the angle. The steeper the angle the more reasons to not use a ramp.

A dog’s paws, like human feet, have a range of motion they are designed for and beyond which there begins to be strain and stress on the joint and the ligaments supporting it. Try walking up a steep ramp, a trail, or a set of steep stairs, and you can feel the strain on your calves and ankles. Do that movement over and over, day after day, eventually it becomes painful (which is a warning) and then you develop things like snapped tendons, shin splints, inflamed ankle joints, etc. The steeper the ramp angle, the sooner you’ll have problems. Same with dogs.

Now ask your dog to do it with a dog ramp. They don’t know better but as soon as it starts to hurt, you’ll notice a hesitancy and then perhaps an outright resistance to climbing the ramp. Or, they may just continue to gamely work their way up the ramp until they can’t any-

more; at which point you go to the vet and ask “what happened?”

The features shown below in Good Steps are not only unique to dog steps in general but several are so unique they are patented.

## A Look at the Rule of 18

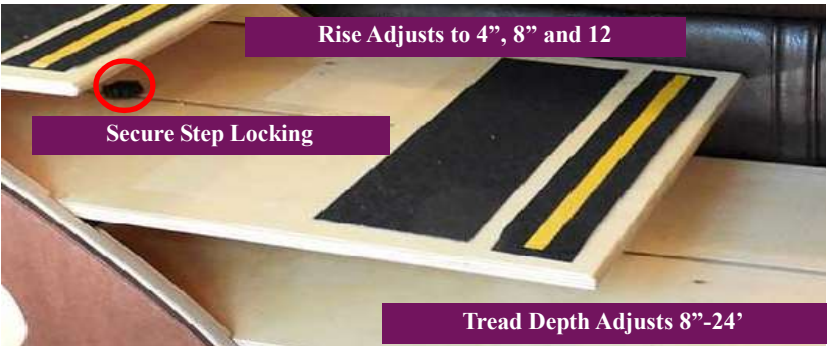
The rule says that rise plus run (r+R) should equal 18” because that’s what most people find to be a comfortable stride on most stairs. You can cheat a bit up or down, but below 17" and more than 19" will result in steps that require strides either too big or too small for most people.

Remember though, it isn’t a hard fast rule. Many dogs are born to be agile and can handle more degrees of angle on ascent or descent, at least during their prime years.

*TIP: Measure the distance between your dog’s legs from front to back. That is the recommended distance an average dog needs between the middle of the upper step and the leading edge of the step below it. This rule-of-thumb works for a lot of dogs, but you need to take into account health, body type, etc.*

The steps easily adjust to your dogs needs at every stage of life Every dog is different. Different sizes, lengths, weights, level of agility, health, and personality. Good Steps adjusts to your dog’s particular needs in order to provide them with the safest and most comfortable way to get up and down form couches and beds.

In short, there is no need to buy other steps as your dog ages and/or encounters physiccil difficulties as these steps take into account more than 100 different factors in providing the optimum comfort for your dog.



# Fall Foundation Board Minutes Wednesday, October 18, 2023



## Attendance

Due to technical difficulties and the inability to reschedule the quarterly meeting, Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Executive Director Holly Moen provided notes on all of the agenda items with requests for additional information on any line item solicited. There were none.

## Treasurer’s Report

• PayPal/Debit Card Ckg.	\$3,619.49	\$3,594.49	-\$25
• Regular Checking	\$2,309.13	\$2,375.83	+\$65
• S.A.F.E. Savings	\$20,142.18		
• BFCU Checking	\$3,000.00		
• BFCU Savings	\$ 5.00		
• PayPal	\$ 0.18		

## Old Business:

- 2024 Calendar Headed to the printer today or tomorrow; ordering 100 again, as one of the new sponsors wants 20-30 at their business to sell

## New Nusiness:

- Facebook Fall Silent Auction \$839 total income from SA
- King Soopers/Albertsons \$88.71 this past quarter
- Santa Pet Photo Shoot New backdrop – ordered from Amazon; see link in meeting announcemen email
- Adoptions
  - Stella May adopted to Casper
  - Ralph adopted to Riverton
  - Whiskey adopted by foster home in Casper
  - Blanche Rimrock Human Society dog; Billings adoption
  - 2024 Picnic Reserved Hugh Smith Park for Saturday, June 22,2024

## For the Good of the Order

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January17, 2024 12:30 p.m.

Holly Moen  
Executive Director  
Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Foundation







# When It Comes to Doggie Cuddling, Nothing, but Nothing Quite Beats an Adorable Basset Hound

'Peanuts' creator Charles Schulz was spot on when he penned the words, "Happiness is a warm puppy". Actually, though, you can expand o that by saying that happiness is, in fact, a nice warm basset hound regardless of the age especially when it comes to 'cuddle time.

Dogs are known for their loyalty and affection towards their owners, and cuddling is a way for them to express their love and affection. Dogs view their human companions as family and pack members and seek emotional connections through physical affection.

Cuddling is an essential part of human interaction. Several studies have shown that physical contact between humans increases the release of the hormone oxytocin, also known as the "love hormone." This hormone plays a crucial role in forming emotional bonds and helps establish trust and social connections.

But, cuddling is not just important for humans, but for dogs too. In fact, research has shown that dogs also experience an increase in oxytocin levels when they cuddle with their owners. It also explains why dogs get so excited when their owners arrive home and rush to greet them with cuddles and tail wags.

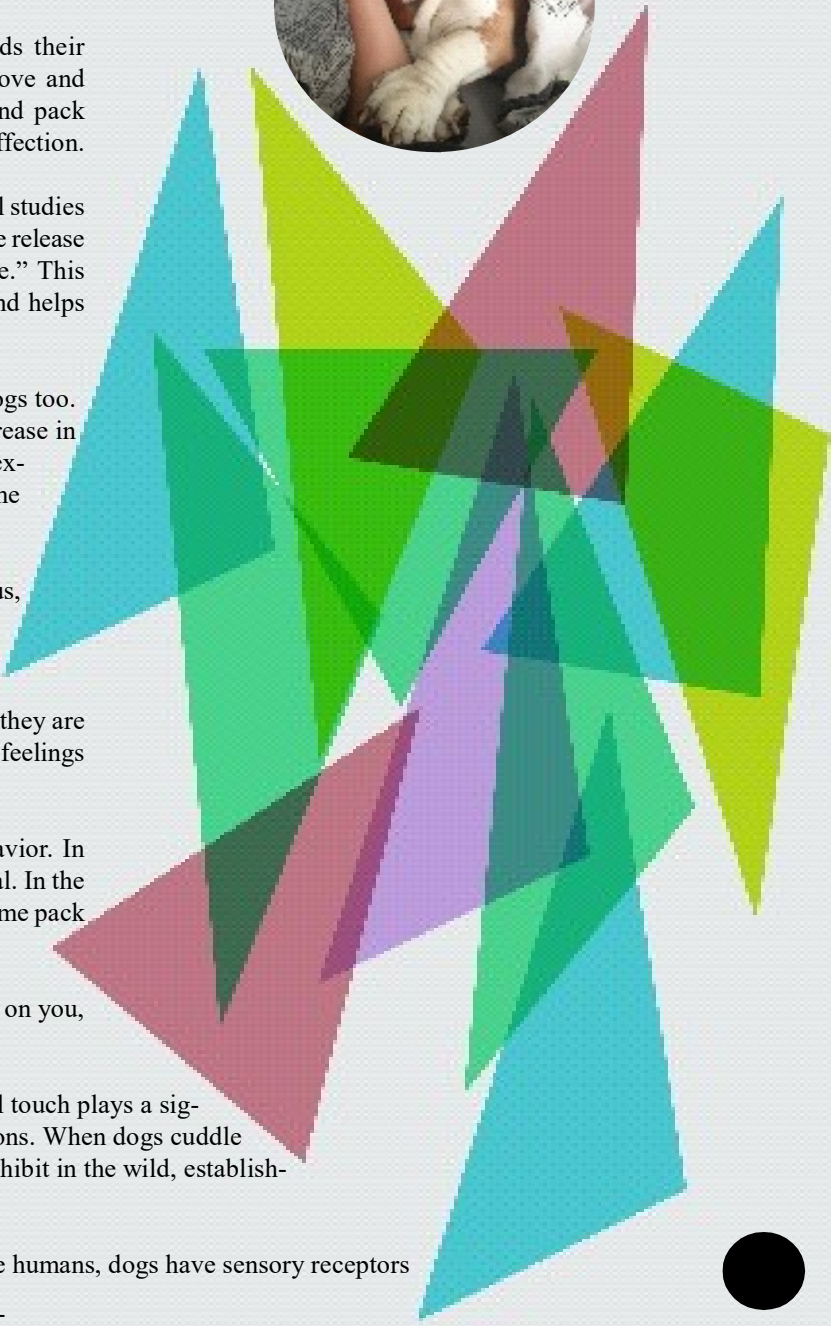
Dogs have all kinds of behaviors to show that they love us, and cuddling is one of them. They're hard-wired to stay physically close to their loved ones. Moreover, cuddling helps to reduce stress levels in dogs. Dogs are sensitive animals and can experience anxiety and stress, especially when they are separated from their owners. Cuddling helps to alleviate these feelings by providing a sense of security and comfort.

The pack mentality is an essential aspect of canine behavior. In the wild, dogs live in packs and rely on each other for survival. In the wild, as we can see in ancestors like wolves, canines of the same pack sleep together, and cuddling mimics this physical proximity.

This is also why your dog has other behaviors like laying on you, and it's because you're their pack, and they act accordingly.

Socialization is a crucial aspect of pack life, and physical touch plays a significant role in establishing and maintaining social connections. When dogs cuddle with their owners, they are mimicking actions they would exhibit in the wild, establishing a social connection with their "pack."

Physical touch is also essential for dogs' well-being. Like humans, dogs have sensory receptors



-continued on page 17-

# When It Comes to Picking Your 'Where to Purchase Your New Puppy', the Worst of the Worst By Far Is a 'Backyard Breeder'

-continued from page 5-

## Backyard Breeders

The term backyard breeder can cover a variety of scenarios, from someone whose dog had an "accidental" pregnancy after hanging out with the dog next door to someone who wants to make some money on the side.

It's not about whether the dogs are kept in the backyard or not. Many are looking to make a profit on their puppies, while for others it's simply about finding homes for these puppies.

It might be that a family wants their children to witness the "miracle of birth" or their friends or family want a puppy and love the tem-

perament or look of their dog. If someone decides to breed their dog for a reason like this, they are a backyard breeder and you should consider that they are hindering the cause of reducing the problem of pet overpopulation and dogs ending up in rescues and shelters.

Overall, a backyard breeder is someone with little to no experience in breeding dogs or is breeding with no priority given to ethical or responsible dog breeding practices.

In many cases, there is no planning involved prior to breeding, and there may be inadequate health care for pregnant dogs and newborn puppies.

Backyard breeders may not understand the breed predispositions and behavior and cannot provide lifelong support for puppies and their new families.

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Questions? - Holly Moen  
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Order Form



or  
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Don't Ever Underestimate the Importance  
and Value of a Good Old Belly Rub



-continued from page 14-

all over their bodies that respond to touch. When their owners stroke or pet them, they experience a sense of pleasure and comfort, especially when they get a good belly rub.

Behaviors like cuddling and even others like staying by your feet show that your dog feels comfortable and safe around you. While dogs protect us, we also protect them. Enhancing physical proximity by cuddling is your dog's way of feeling more protected.

Cuddling can also help alleviate anxiety and stress in dogs, especially during unfamiliar or unsettling situations.

Dogs crave attention and affection from their owners, and cuddling is a way for them to receive them undividedly. It makes them feel valued and cherished, strengthening the emotional bond between dogs and their owners as it instills a sense of happiness and well-being.

It can create a calming effect and promote relaxation, which is especially beneficial during times of stress or uncertainty.

The "cuddling relationship" actually works both ways as dogs and humans each benefit greatly and in very similar fashion.

Cuddling is an excellent way to strengthen the bond between a dog and its owner. It creates a shared experience and fosters a sense of trust and connection. When you cuddle with your dog, you are showing them that you love and care for them, which can help build their confidence and sense of security.

Additionally, cuddling helps in enabling the pack mentality and the dog's role as a loyal companion. By cuddling with your dog, you are acknowledging their importance in your life and showing them that they are a valued member of your family.

Other health benefits for both dogs and humans are that it can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease. It also helps increase dopamine levels, which is a neurotransmitter that plays a role in pleasure and happiness.

For dogs, cuddling can help alleviate joint pain and stiffness, as well as promote better sleep. It can also boost their immune system and improve their overall well-being.

For humans, cuddling can help reduce stress levels and improve mood. It can also help promote better sleep and reduce the risk of developing depression.

The way a dog is raised and its individual personality play a significant role in its cuddling behavior. Dogs that were not socialized as puppies may be fearful and anxious and may not enjoy physical contact.

Similarly, some dogs may have experienced trauma, leading them to become fearful or aggressive toward physical contact.

-continued on page 18-

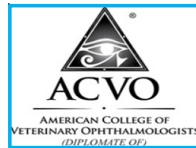
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# Pause for Paws

-continued from page 1-

out by a veterinarian. Backyard breeders don't care who buys their puppies. They generally also don't want the puppies back if they don't work out at their new home. The backyard breeders just want the money.

We all know on the rescue side of things, we may not know any history on the basset hounds we've taken in. They could be from any situation. We don't even know if they or their parents were healthy, vet checked, etc.

No matter where they come from, once puppies are born, they need a home. They need a chance at a good life.

So, if you or someone you know is looking to purchase a puppy, please do your homework and consider a reputable breeder. Ask for references, ask how long they've been a breeder, etc.

Like with a lot of things we purchase, the least expensive option doesn't mean the best quality option.

Best wishes to all of you for 2024! I hope you enjoy this edition of Waggin' Tales and be sure to check out the great articles Michael has for us, plus the awesome pet steps we have for our upcoming raffle!

Happy New Year!

Holly

WBHR Executive Director

**BACKYARD**  
Breeders

# Cuddling May Seem Like Second Nature, but It's Not for Every Dog

-continued from page 17-

Cuddling can be a great way to bond with your dog, provided that it is done in a healthy and respectful manner. Sometimes, either you or your dog are not really up for cuddles, and it's important to respect each other's boundaries.

Here are some tips to encourage healthy cuddling habits:

- ◆ Create a safe and comfortable environment for your dog to cuddle. Provide a comfortable bed or blanket, fresh water, and ensure that your dog is adequately fed and exercised.
- ◆ Use positive reinforcement and training to encourage healthy cuddling habits. Reward your dog with treats and praise for good behavior, and limit physical contact if your dog shows signs of discomfort or aggression.
- ◆ Respect your dog's boundaries and be mindful of their body language. If your dog shows signs of discomfort or anxiety, it's essential to respect their boundaries and avoid physical contact until they are ready.

Lastly, dogs may love cuddling at night because it helps them feel safe and secure, provides warmth, and promotes relaxation and bonding before bedtime. Perhaps a nervous dog wants a bit more comfort after a long day of day, also manifesting in other ways like restlessness and panting.

Additionally, dogs are generally more receptive to physical affection and social interaction during quiet and calm nighttime hours. If you let your dog sleep in your bed, the night also gives them a chance and time to get some snuggles.

# Tip-offs Your Dog Isn't a Snuggler

Some signs that your dog doesn't particularly like cuddling include:

- Licking their mouths constantly
- They are stiff when you cuddle them
- Shaking
- Pinning their ears back
- Averting their gaze
- Showing the whites of their eyes

When people ignore these signs that a dog does not want to be touched, the dog may escalate to biting or nipping.

# Don't Just Run Out the Door When You Leave, Pet Your Dog for a Moment before Departing



Between the heartrending sad eyes when we leave and the explosion of happiness when we return, many (rightfully flattered) dog owners reasonably wonder what happens in-between. The physical evidence suggests nothing really bad happens (outside the occasional chewed slipper), but it's nonetheless clear your basset would prefer not to be left behind.

A study from researchers at the Universities of Pisa and Perugia, Italy, published in Science Direct, confirms that canines don't exhibit signs of extreme upset while we're away. However, the scientists found that dogs do have an easier time emotionally when we give them an affectionate, gentle petting before leaving.

The researchers conducted experiments with 10 healthy dogs between 1-11 years old and without unusual attachment issues. Six were spayed females and four were neutered males.

One researcher greeted a dog and a second researcher measured the dog's heartbeat using a phonendoscope and quickly departed. Each dog was tested twice. In the first test, called the NGT ("No Gentle Touch"), the owner and researcher chatted for a minute, essentially ignoring the dog. For the second, WGT ("With Gentle Touch"), the owner petted the dog during the chat.

In both tests, after the brief chat, the owner handed the leash to researcher and hid behind a shed for three minutes at a distance considered too far for the dog to pick up its owner's scent. The dog was free to move around the enclosure to the extent that the five-foot leash allowed. The dogs spent a significant amount the time looking for their owner.

After the separation, the researcher called over the owner, and the leash was handed off. After 15 minutes of light activity, the dog's saliva was tested for the presence and level of the stress hormone cortisol.

All dogs participated in both tests, separately.

The researchers found that the petted dogs exhibited a more relaxed demeanor during the separation. The study suggests it would be good to develop the habit of building in a little extra departure time for your buddy when you plan to leave. Your dog will be happier for it.



# Passing over the Rainbow Bridge

# In Loving Memory.....



# For the First Time in More Than a Decade We have No Deceased Bassets to Report!

If you have lost a special friend and would like them listed in this section of Waggin' Tales please contact WBHR Director Holly per the address on page 1.







# Frolics with Floyd

It's Fall and Floyd's fancies have turned to one o his favorite hobbies - photography! He has a large array from which to choose so what will it be?



Maybe something with a little wider lens?



Let's see, there's the basic everyday set-up

I'll have to think about it some more



Which lens to use; which lens?!



Aha! Got it! It's time to roll out the big gun!

Oh, No! Floyd's Caught a Bug! Shutterbug, That Is!

## It's Not Too Late to Purchase The 2024 WBHR Calendar!

Fret not! You still have a chance to purchase the official Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue 2024 calendar, but time is running out as only a few copies remain!

To make your purchase even more appealing we're playing a late version of Santa Claus by offering free postage for one or two calendars in the same order. This means the price on the calendar drops to just \$13, an even greater bargain, if you make personal pickup arrangements with Holly it's only \$11 each! Now that's the epitome of the word bargain!

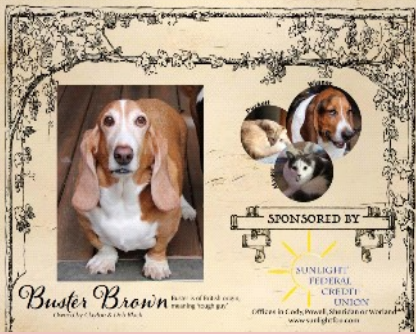
The 2024 calendar features both dogs past and present who have made their way to their forever homes.

For those wishing to purchase more than two copies additional postage will be involved so please contact Holly at (307) 272-8089 or email her at [wymbassetrescue@gmail.com](mailto:wymbassetrescue@gmail.com) for full details.



2024

Last Chance To Order Your WBHR Calendar



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For the love of a basset.....



WBHR Decals

Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue Decals are 4" tall and 6" wide. They are suitable for placement on outside windows and come with instructions to apply them. \$6.00 each, which includes shipping.

Basset Hound Dog Treat Cookbook

This cookbook is 8½" x 11" in size, with over 40 pages of great treat recipes for your dog! The covers can also be personalized, such as "Toby's Treats" and they can also be made for other breeds, not just basset hounds. The cookbooks are \$20.00 including shipping. Personalized cookbooks are \$23.00 (dog's photo and name). Order well in advance if a gift as they take four-to-six weeks to compile.



Wyoming Basset Hound Rescue T-Shirts

Three adult colors - Grey, Texas Orange and Colonial Blue . Shirts have 'Opt to Adopt' on the front and the WBHR logo on back. It's \$25.75 for sizes Small through X-Large, \$27.75 for 2XL and \$28.75 for 3XL. All prices include postage. *There are no Youth Size T-shirts available.*

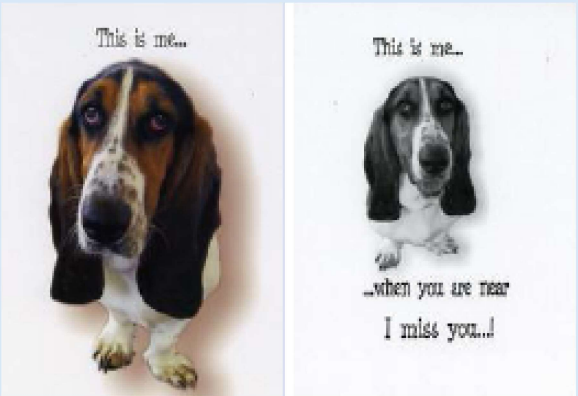
Basset Hound Greeting Cards

The basset pictured is Mena, who was rescued by an animal sanctuary in Nebraska.

The back of each card tells her story to her new, forever home. The pictures are on the front and inside of each card

These are high-quality, 5x7 cards, with a glossy finish on the outside and a mat finish on the inside. The cost of the cards, which includes envelopes, is \$1.50 each with an additional \$.50 shipping per card for a total of cost of \$2.

'Missing You' Design



.....they light up our lives



Basset Hound Note Cards

Like to write notes? We've got you covered with two different 12-pack sets of cards with each pack featuring four of our inspiring bassetts and their stories. The front has one of our rescued bassetts, the back highlights their story, the inside is blank and the cards measure 5.5 inches wide and are 4.25 inches high.

Pack "A" features Nick, Toby, Diamond and Cyndi and Pack "B" highlights Chloe, Hugo, Daisy and Ripley. The packs have three cards of each basset and are \$15 per set including shipping.

Iris Folding Greeting Cards

These beautiful cards are decorated with the iris paper folding technique. Each card is blank inside and lined with white card stock. Designs include two basset hounds, two poodles, two cats, a Scottie and a bulldog. The cost of the cards is \$3 each or two for \$5 which includes the mailing envelope. Postage is 75 cents per card.



Exclusive 'Floyd Wear' WBHR Caps

Thanks to John Minium and Floyd we have a full supply of official 'Floyd Wear' WBHR baseball caps for the great price of \$25 including postage. Caps are now available in coral, chamois, khaki, periwinkle, tangerine and dusk. As for the cap construction, it's a 100% cotton material, has an adjustable leather back strap with brass closure and features a cool-crown mesh top.

'Memoir of an Abandoned Basset Hound'

Rocky was abandoned by his family in Wyoming and after a failed adoption, he was adopted to his forever home in Montana. His master, Jim, simply wrote this book about Rocky's antics and adventures through the eyes of Rocky. Rocky's book is available for a donation to WBR (*suggested donation - \$3.00*) Format: ebook pdf - Length: 199 pages.



For questions about any of these items, please email Holly at: [wymbassetrescue@gmail.com](mailto:wymbassetrescue@gmail.com)



To the following people for all their help since our last newsletter, whether with fostering, transport or placing bassets and bloodhounds



Chris Bachman/Good Steps, Jane Elliott, Denise Finning, Shannon Gerdel, Linda and Danny Griego, Frank Mallon,

Luke McNeely, John Minium and Floyd, Stephanie Geiger Oneto, Heidi Rasmussen, Michael Ryan.

*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."*

Harry S. Truman

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**2024 is Known as  
'The Year of the Dragon'  
on the Chinese Calendar,  
but for Basset Hounds  
Every Year is  
'The Year of the Dog'!**



**Make 2024 a  
A Great Year!**