



# ARL Newsletter

## Join us for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Jog on Saturday May 2, 2009



A fun filled morning of walking, running and sniffing for your dog (and you)! Every pre-registered participating dog gets a goodie bag full of pet friendly items. Pick up a registration form at one of Marshalltown's local vet offices, the



ARL of Marshalltown, Messy Missy's or print it off our website at

<http://www.arlmarshalltown.com/calendar/dogjog.html>. Hope to see you and your favorite pooch there!



## ARL to honor JR Ruopp

In remembrance of JR Ruopp, the ARL of Marshalltown will be placing an engraved brick honoring him into

their memorial pathway. A small ceremony will take place on Friday May 22, 2009 at 1:30. Melinda Ruopp, JR's partner, handler, owner and best friend will be here to place the brick. For those of you unfamiliar with JR, he was a canine officer with the Marshalltown Police Department for 10 years. JR was living in a shelter in the Minneapolis area when he was tested for traits and characteristics needed to be enrolled in canine law enforcement training. JR and Melinda Ruopp began their career together in 1998. JR, along with his partner Melinda, was instrumental in making our community a safer place to live. JR retired in March 2008 and passed away after a brief illness on October 16, 2008. Not only is JR a wonderful example of how important dogs are to us in our daily lives, he is an outstanding example of the extraordinary dogs that can be found at a local shelter.

A plaque detailing JR's life and his invaluable service to our community has been placed in the shelter's lobby. We invite you to please take the time to read

Check out our website at [www.arlmarshalltown.com](http://www.arlmarshalltown.com)

JR's inspiring life story the next you are at the shelter. We would like to extend our thanks to Duane Davis and Laser Engraving, longtime friend of both Melinda and JR for the donation of the plaque to our facility in JR's memory.

## Looking for a fun way to spend a Saturday with friends? Get a team together and participate in our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dog Days of Spring Softball Tournament.



The tournament will be held Saturday May 16, 2009 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Softball Complex in Marshalltown. Pre-registration is required, rules and registration forms can be picked up at Messy Missy's, ARL of Marshalltown or print it off our website at <http://www.arlmarshalltown.com/calendar/dogslowpitch.html>.

## Heart of Iowa Kennel Club AKC DOG SHOW

April 25 & 26, 2009

Central Iowa Fair Grounds

8:00AM to 3:00PM

Over 600 dogs entered in competition each day. With over 100 breeds represented. Three levels of obedience competitions both days.



Questions: Contact Shelley Barron at (641)752-2458

## Interested in having your group or organization learn more about the ARL?

We are happy to come visit you to share our mission, talk about animal safety/welfare issues and our plans for the future of the ARL of Marshalltown. Recently, we have visited the Heart of Iowa Kennel Club, Entre Nous Club (Conrad), BCLUW 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, and Hope United Methodist Church after school program. Perhaps your group would like to visit us? Visiting soon are many of the area pre-school students. We do ask that groups are limited to 20 and visitations by groups need to be arranged in advance. Call Kellie at 641-753-9046 to schedule a visit on or off site.



Certified Therapy Dog Oscar Hala is available to join us on many visits to talk about dog safety. So don't forget to ask if Oscar is available to come too!

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

Love animals? Looking for volunteer opportunities to help out in the community? The ARL of Marshalltown is always in need of volunteers. Volunteers do a variety of tasks at the shelter such as cleaning, giving baths, walking dogs, grooming dogs/cats, yard work, helping at fundraising events and much, much more. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Wayne at 641-753-9046.

In 2008 the ARL of Marshalltown began a program to promote support and partnering with breed specific rescues throughout the Midwest. Transfers of pure bred dogs from our shelter to breed specific rescue groups help us control the number of animals in our shelter and reduce our euthanasia rates. In 2008 we were able to transfer 38 dogs to rescue groups or other shelters, making adoption space available for 38 other special dogs. When transfers happen we often need help transporting the dog from our shelter to a drop off location to meet another transport or to meet the group's foster family. If you would be willing to help us out with transportation please contact Kellie at 641-753-9046 for more information.

**Volunteers needed for two upcoming fundraisers- Dog Jog and Dog Days of Spring Softball Tournament. Interested parties should contact Missy at 641-753-9046 or [frontdesk@arlmarshtown.com](mailto:frontdesk@arlmarshtown.com).**

Check out our website at [www.arlmarshtown.com](http://www.arlmarshtown.com)



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## From the Desk of...

**Dr. Sarah Summers, DVM**

### Heartworm Disease in Dogs

Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is a fairly large worm, up to 14 inches long, that in adulthood lives in the heart and pulmonary arteries of an infected dog. Dogs acquire this infection through mosquito bites as mosquitoes readily pick up larval heartworms from infected dogs and carry them to new dogs. A dog with heartworm disease can have from just a few adult worms to over a hundred in their hearts and if untreated leads to heart failure and death. When adult male and female heartworms are present they mate and give birth to live baby worms into the bloodstream called microfilaria. This is the first of five stages in the larval life cycle. These baby worms are slurped up by mosquitoes taking a blood meal. In the mosquito the baby worms develop through two more larval stages over a few weeks and develop to the infective stage in the mosquito when the temperature outside is above 50-55 degrees F for several days in a row, which in Iowa can be anywhere from March or April into December. After a mosquito bite transmits the infective larvae to the dog it goes through two more larval stages until it reaches adulthood after 5-7 months and the cycle begins again.

Modern testing for heartworm disease is extremely easy, fast and accurate and can be done while you wait in your veterinarian's office. All it takes is a few drops of blood from your dog. These tests look for proteins from the adult heartworms in the heart which is why it takes 6 months from the time of exposure to the time it will be positive on a heartworm antigen test. All dogs should have a negative heartworm test prior to starting on heartworm prevention, except for puppies under 6 months of age.

Heartworm disease can be deadly and treatment can be expensive and not without complications which is why monthly heartworm prevention is recommended to be given every month. There are several different types of prevention on the markets. Some are given orally, some topically, some have flea, tick and intestinal parasite control also. One is even an injection that is given in your veterinarian's office and lasts for 6 months. All are equally effective in preventing heartworm disease when properly administered. They are **all** more cost effective and safer than treating your pet after it has contracted the disease. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

The weather outside is just about to start to get nice and soon the mosquitoes will be active so now is the time to make an appointment with your dog's doctor, get this simple test done and get them started on the medication of your choice to make sure your family friend is protected from this life threatening illness.

## From the Desk of...

**Dr. Dennis Drager, DVM**

### **Vaccinating Your Pets for Life**

Vaccinations protect pets from severe and potentially fatal diseases. Regular examinations and vaccinations according to your veterinarian's recommendations will help to insure your pet's continued health.

Following is a brief explanation of some of the vaccinations your veterinarian may recommend.

The vaccinations available for cats include rabies, panleukopenia, leukemia, and respiratory disease complex. Panleukopenia and leukemia are deadly diseases.

Vaccines available for dogs include rabies, distemper, adovirus 1&2, para influenza, leptospirosis, lyme and parvovirus. Parvovirus is the #1 killer of puppies.

Puppies affected with parvovirus usually present with

# Animal Medical Clinic

Where Furry

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Family



Dr. Sarah Summers

2412 Parker Ave

Marshalltown

641-753-8532

Make an appointment today to have your dog heartworm tested and started on preventative medicines.

- Small Pet Veterinary Clinic
- Obedience Classes Available
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**“When you love your  
pets it shows!**

vomiting which progresses to bloody diarrhea, severe dehydration and rapid death. The virus is highly contagious among dogs. The virus can last in the environment for several months. At the earliest symptom your puppy should be examined and treated aggressively.

Rabies is a deadly virus which affects all warm-blooded animals, including humans. The virus is usually transmitted through saliva of an affected animal when it bites its victim or may enter the body through deep scratch wounds. The virus enters the nervous system and eventually affects the brain. Rabid animals will attack other animals, even its owner. Once infected, the animal will die. Rabies is easily prevented by vaccination. State law requires all vaccinated dogs have a current rabies tag displayed. Vaccinations protect your pet from debilitating and life threatening diseases. Speak to your veterinarian about your pets risk factors and which vaccinations they recommend.

### **Dog Lovers Wanted!**

The Heart of Iowa Kennel Club is starting its 2009 membership drive. Are you a dog lover, dog owner or

dog admirer? Then the Heart of Iowa Kennel Club is the club for you!

While they are affiliated with the AKC, they do not require that your dog be a registered AKC dog or even a pure bred dog to join. They even encourage dog lovers who are without a furry companion to join.

Membership in the club puts you in touch with other dog-minded people in the area. Members share their knowledge and talents to benefit the dog community as a whole. The Heart of Iowa Kennel Club promotes responsible pet ownership through education, example, friendship and participation.

The kennel club would like to increase its member base to enable it to broaden its reach out into the community, expanding events such as their annual Dog Show, coming up April 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Central Iowa Fair Grounds. Plus, adding more dog related events, educational programs, Therapy Dog programs and increasing their promotion of responsible pet ownership.

Anyone interested in membership can contact Shelley Barron at 752-2458 or via [emailskycutter@adiis.net](mailto:emailskycutter@adiis.net).



## **Animal Clinic-THE VET**

**507 W. High Street**

**Marshalltown,**

**641-753-5486**

**Dr. Dennis Drager**

**Dr. Grant Jacobson**

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## Dog Behavior 101

Don't "untrain" your dog. For example, if your dog bolts out the door, runs over to the neighbors to greet his buddy, don't call him back and then punish him for running away. Your dog doesn't understand what you are punishing him for. Your dog will soon learn that approaching you equals punishment.

Instead, always reward your dog when he or she recalls. Solve the bolting problem with some simple door manners... Teach your dog to wait at the door by making it sit in a doorway with an open door. When you are ready to go outside, step outside yourself, then release your dog through the door.

-Tip provided by Hala Dog Academy.

## Grooming 101

Bathing your pet can be a fun and rewarding experience. Here are a few things to remember:

- Always use "pet" shampoo. These shampoos are PH balanced and made especially for your pet.
- Dilute your shampoo. 1part shampoo, 2 parts water. This helps when you are rinsing, save money and is gentler on your pet's skin.
- Rinse, Rinse, Rinse. It is important to ensure all of the shampoo is out of your pet's coat. Shampoo residue can cause itchy skin.
- Have fun!! Make bath time a great experience for both you and your pet.

-Tip provided by Grooming By Ashley

## Tales from the Kennel...



Meet Angus, he is a 7 year old Male English Mastiff. Angus came to us weighing only 98lbs, underfed and dehydrated! He was covered in sores as a

result of a terrible lice and flea infestation that was not being treated. The poor guy was miserable. Angus is currently in a foster home. Angus is putting on weight slowly. He goes for brief walks with the other dogs he lives with but tires easily, as he had little to no muscle on his body. He is slowly gaining momentum with each outdoor adventure though and is likely to bulk up those muscles over the summer. He was diagnosed with Lyme disease; which is being treated with antibiotics. Luckily, he tested negative for heartworm, he has been put on preventative and will be retested in several months for both diseases. He does appear to have some arthritis, but since he is seven years old that is not surprising. He also has a lump on his right shoulder which may eventually require surgery. Testing to see exactly what the lump entails will have to wait until he has put on an adequate amount of weight though. Male mastiffs typically weigh in from approximately 150lbs to 200+lbs and have a life span of 10 to 12 years. Angus is currently about 115lbs. He gets a weekly bath with medicated shampoo to help clear up his skin issues and his hair is starting to grow back, looking better overall each week. He is a happy guy and enjoys going for car rides to visit all of the new friends he is making. Angus is learning all about house training, obedience and what a good, loving home is all about.

*Teri Stahl*  
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## What kind of dog is that?

Dachshund: The Dachshund originated in Germany and the word "Dachs" means

badger. These dogs were bred to hunt and follow badgers into their burrows in the ground. Smaller Dachshunds were bred to hunt hares. Dachshunds are versatile and courageous; they have been known to take on foxes and otters.

Two sizes of dachshund are recognized in the US: standard and miniature. Either size can have one of the three coat varieties- short-haired, wire-haired or long-haired. Standard dachshunds are 14-18" in height and will weigh over 12 lbs. at the age of 1 year. Miniature dachshunds have a height of up to 14" and will weigh 11 lbs or less at 1 year of age.

Dachshunds are lively, playful companions. They are curious and quite smart- often getting themselves into mischief. Dachshunds require a strong leader in their owner or they will soon take over and run the house. Dachshunds allowed to 'be the boss' will often develop negative behavior issues. Many also develop 'small dog syndrome' caused by owners treating them like a baby rather than a dog. Negative behaviors such as barking, nipping or aggression should never be handled with coddling. This will only reinforce the behavior and encourage it to continue.

With proper obedience, daily walks, rules and limitations the dachshund will make a great companion. They make wonderful travel companions due to their small and compact size.

Dachshunds are prone to spinal disc problems and care should be taken to not put any undue pressure on their back at any time. Dachshunds can easily become overweight, which can also add strain onto their back. Owners should take care not to overfeed or over treat their pet.

Dachshunds make great pets. However they are not for the meek and mild. They require strong leadership in their owner, daily exercise and lots of human interaction. Living approximately 12-15 years, a Dachshund will provide many years of love and companionship.

## What kind of cat is that?

Abyssinians are one of the oldest known breeds of cat in the world and resemble many ancient statues of

cats that have been found in crypts and temples. The name Abyssinian is derived from Ethiopia.

The Abyssinian cat is a lithe cat with a very hard and muscular body. They are known for a distinctive ticked coat, a regal bearing and consistent body type. The coats can come in several colors, ruddy (burnt



sienna), red, sorrel (burnt orange), blue (soft blue and apricot), and fawn (pinkish beige and oatmeal) with even ticking. They have large almond-shaped green or gold eyes with a fine dark line around them and large ears.

The Abyssinian is very much a "people cat," and enjoys being

close to its people, often winding themselves between their owners legs. Playful well into their adult years, the Abyssinian cat is often thought of as a bit of a mischievous prankster and troublemaker.

Some health concerns associated with the breed are: knee problems, retinal atrophy, and kidney problems. Occasionally a member of the breed may develop a sensitive stomach and require a special diet. The breed also is more prone to developing gingivitis, but regular brushing can help prevent this.

Abyssinians are active and social cats, enjoying lots of running and jumping to high places. They also enjoy playing with water and will entertain themselves with nothing more than a running faucet. They are a good choice for an owner looking for a cat to be something more than a typical 'lap cat'. Their typical life span is 13 to 20 years. Anyone bringing home an Abyssinian will be in for a long time of enjoyment and entertainment from their new companion.



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## ARL WISH LIST

The ARL is always in need of in-kind donations to help us care for the many needy animals that cross our threshold each year. Listed below are items we use daily. Feel free to contact us to see if we have any special needs!

### Pet Foods:

- Dry and Wet Adult Dog Food
- Dry and Wet Puppy Food
- Dry Cat Food
- Dry and Wet Kitten Food
- Small Animal Food: call for current need.

### Other Pet Items:

- Cat & Dog Beds
- Assorted Cat Toys
- Cat Trees
- Assorted Dog Toys (non-plush)
- Stainless Steel Feeding Bowls, all sizes
- Baking Soda
- Cat Litter, Clay Only Please
- Towels, Blankets
- Grooming Supplies, such as scissors, nail trimmers, brushes and combs
- Nylon Dog and Puppy Collars

- Nylon and Leather Dog Leashes
- Pet Taxis
- Bird and Small Animal Cages
- Bird and Small Animal Toys

### Cleaning Supplies

- Powdered Laundry Soap
- Unscented Dryer Sheets
- Dish Soap
- Glass Cleaner
- Bleach, Bleach and more Bleach
- Paper Towels

### Office Supplies

- Pens
- 8 ½ X 11 Copier Paper
- Staples and Staplers
- Binder Clips
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Stamps
- File Folders
- Scotch Tape
- Staples Gift card to purchase printer Ink cartridges



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# DOG DAYS OF SPRING

## WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM

MAY 16, 2009

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

League (circle the level you competed at this year, or the approximate skill level of your team): A B C D

Team Captain/Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and FULL PAYMENT to: Missy Sharer • 109 Thunderbird Drive • Marshalltown, IA 50158  
Please make checks payable to: ARL Marshalltown



5th annual  
**Dog JOG**  
2009

To benefit the ARL of  
Marshalltown  
**May 2**  
9:00 a.m. 2-mile Run  
9:30 a.m. 1-mile Run/Walk  
South 6th St. Softball  
Complex Bike Path

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle Your Sex: M F

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Canine's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Canine's Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Canine's Sex: M F

Please sign me up for:

<input type="checkbox"/> 2-mile Run @ \$15/person & dog	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-mile Fun Run/Walk @ \$15/person & dog
<input type="checkbox"/> additional dogs @ \$5 per dog	<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot participate, but please accept this donation of \$ _____

**You must show proof of rabies vaccination at check-in!**

Please make checks payable to:  
"Marshalltown Animal Rescue League"  
Please complete and return the attached registration form with entry fee and/or your donation to:  
Dog Jog c/o Kim Johnson  
505 Dennis Drive  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_