



SPEAKS!

FELLOWSHIP FOR THE INTERESTS OF DOGS
and their owners!

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Duplicating Dolly:

Can You Clone Your Pet Yet?

By Heather Lindsey

Alexander Wolff, a retired schoolteacher living in Brooklyn, is considering having Lily, who died about two years ago, cloned.

Lily is a cat.

"We were the best of friends," says Wolff of his beloved cat, whom he owned for 15 years. "I found him in the street and he was my first pet." Wolff would later find out that she was actually a he. "I couldn't see his parts," he quips, but the flowery name stuck.

Because of his desire to clone Lily, Wolff is now a client of Lazon BioTechnologies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He has some of his cat's skin cells cryopreserved, or specially prepared in a laboratory and frozen to preserve their genetic material, at the company about five years ago-three years before he died. Wolff hopes to have Lily cloned one day.

"We're essentially offering the service of cell banking in the hopes of cloning, which admittedly, in many species hasn't yet proven to be a biological possibility," says Richard Denniston, an Embryologist and president and chief executive at Lazon.

How Soon Will it Be Available?

As Wolff continues to wait for pet cloning technology to become readily available to the general public, he becomes less certain of wanting to commit to caring for a pet again, even if it was "another" Lily.

"It's not possible to predict the pace of the scientific breakthroughs that will be necessary to make cloning technology accessible to pet owners." says Ben Carlson, spokesperson for Genetic Savings and Clone in Sausalito, California. Perfecting the technology and making it readily available to bereaved pet owners will depend several factors, including the animal species, the associated cost...

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Wise Words:

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue." -Anonymous

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful." -Ann Landers

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." -Will Rogers

By The Hydrant:

By Dale Kaplan

A few months ago, I noticed a flyer on 6th Avenue advertising a holistic health fair that was being sponsored by one of our neighborhood churches. Chiropractors, reflexologists, energy healers were all to be represented. However, what truly peaked my interest was the promised appearance of an animal communicator. I made a mental note to attend. However, what do you think happened? The mental never manifested into the physical, for the simple reason that I forgot to go.

A few weeks later I spoke to Misa (Flop's person) and she had mentioned that she had attended the fair and had the pleasure of meeting Roseanne Aratoon, the Animal Communicator. After our conversation, I thought that my fellow Fidoites would love to hear about this phenomenon and I decided to contact Roseanne.

Roseanne claims to have been able to communicate with animals since she was a child growing up in rural England. She not only communicates with dogs and cats but with snakes, turtles and every other living creature imaginable. She is the official animal communicator of the Mayor's Office; has appeared on cable T.V., radio and has been featured in the New York Times.

While speaking on the phone, I asked Roseanne if turtles for instance have a different perspective on life than say dogs? Roseanne's answer to this question truly astounded me. She replied that all animals like humans are incredibly unique and basically every living creature is as individual as a snowflake.

She also shared the information that dogs mirror their owners, and that they often adopt their human's ailments. Therefore, if you want a healthy canine, it helps to eat your vegetables, exercise and don't stress out. In other words take care of yourself.

Roseanne also said that the universe pairs us up with a specific animal, because we are meant to learn from each other. Our dog teaches us and we are here to teach our dog. For instance, I asked her

why my dog Harvey likes to spend so much of his time curled up in a dark corner between the bathtub and the wall - rendering him completely out of sight. She replied that Harvey is trying to teach you to relax, to retreat and in essence to get away from it all in order to recharge.

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Bowser Browser

Four Paws, Five Directions is a guide to Chinese medicine for cats & dogs by Cheryl Schwartz, DVM; 1996 paperback - Celestial Arts Publishing.

You may have to search on-line for this one, but it deserves a careful read. Theory, diagnosis, and treatment are well covered with an emphasis on acupuncture, herbal medicine, acupressure as well as suggested food therapies.

Says the author: "While western medicine can deal effectively with acute traumatic illness, it is limited in its approach to the chronic problems."

This book is well illustrated with charts and diagrams....

A Heartfelt Thank You

We appreciate the good wishes and support for our dog Yuffie, whose health and attitude improves daily with the continuous attention lavished upon her by our fellow dog walkers in the park. As Maureen Sanders so aptly sums it up:

Yuffie is a toughie.
I've even heard it said
That Bob slept floor-bound by her
Because she'd lost a ped,
But Yuffie slipped off softly
And went upstairs to bed.

Bob Ipcar & Jane Landis

Doggie Health: Chiropractic For Dogs

By Dr Andrea Auerbach

In order to understand why and when to seek a chiropractor for your pet, (and for yourself for that matter), you must have an understanding of what chiropractic is really about.

Chiropractic is a natural health care intervention that helps solve problems as well as maintain health. According to the western medicine paradigm, you go to a doctor when you are sick or to get tested to make sure you are not sick. On the contrary, people go to chiropractors to stay well long after their symptoms have resolved.

The philosophy of chiropractic is that the body has its own true healing abilities, and if interfered with, these abilities can be disrupted. Interference in the nervous system, the main control center of the body, can cause dysfunction in the entire body and its immune system. Chiropractic seeks to discover the source of the interference, which is usually a spinal bone out of alignment that puts pressure on a nerve. We call this a "subluxation".

A subluxation can compromise the nerve flow that is traveling to a particular muscle, organ or tissue. The deprived area is eventually affected which results in a health condition. Subluxations can occur from daily stress, old injuries, poor sleep postures, computer work, emotional stress etc.

It has been my experience that people who are checked regularly for subluxations get less colds, have less breathing problems, have no back and neck pain, less menstrual difficulties and digestive problems, simply because their nervous and immune systems are clear from interference. Chiropractic care is often the only way to help the most stubborn of health conditions. Children should also receive chiropractic care in order to enjoy a lifetime of nervous system health.

We discussed how a human might get a subluxation. What about a dog?? Yes, dogs also

get subluxations. Can you, why would you, when would you know to bring a dog to a chiropractor?

Here are some primary causes of subluxations:

- 1) Using an improper collar.
This is a subject of much debate.
- 2) Frustrated pet owners who have difficulty controlling their pets can pull the dog in such a manner as to cause cervical (neck) muscle tightening.
- 3) Obesity.
- 4) Improper bedding. Dogs should get used to one sleeping place - a flat surface with moderately firm padding is preferred.
- 5) Dangerous play practices. If you notice pain after play, review activities and avoid the most demanding. Also monitor the dog's playmates. More than once in the park, I have been witness to an assertive dog playing too rough with a docile or smaller dog. The dog owner is either not monitoring the dog's play or unaware that what looks cute and playful may not be a mutual agreement between the dogs. It may be causing one dog distress.
- 6) Breed limitations. Don't expect bulldogs to run as fast or as long as a greyhound.
- 7) Leash length. Avoid holding the leash too close, limiting the dog's stride.
- 8) Psychological stress. Scolding for things that come naturally, such as barking at a rabbit or chasing a cat.
- 9) Caged dogs. Allows no room to move around and relieve muscle stress. Get them to the park!!!
- 8) Fleas and mites. Scratching in awkward positions. walking.

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Dolly...

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and the progress that researchers can make in working out the remaining hurdles and problems, says Mark D. Irwin, D.V.M., instructor of biology for SUNY Jefferson Community College's Animal Management program in Watertown, NY.

"Cloning of some livestock is pretty well a reality now," he says. "Cat cloning is getting close to being commercially viable, while dogs and other species have further to go. I think that it is inevitable and just a matter of time before it becomes affordable and probably commonplace."

The Pet Cloning Process

Lazarus Technologies describes cloning as a reproductive technique that results in offspring who are genetically identical as the donor animal or "parent."

Currently, cloning a pet involves collecting a small skin sample from your pet at your veterinarian's office and properly cryopreserving it to keep the animal's cells and genetic code (DNA) alive far beyond the animal's life.

When the cloning process begins, the cryopreserved skin cells from the donor animal are thawed and allowed to grow in a Petri dish for several days. Each of these skin cells contains the identical genetic make-up or code of the donor animal.

Next, an egg cell from a different animal of the same species is placed under a microscope and its nucleus - the part that contains the genetic material - is removed. A single donor animal skin cell is removed from a growing cell colony from the pet that is to be cloned and placed next to the donor egg cell. Then, a cell fusion machine is used to fuse the donor cell with the egg cell to create an embryo.

The cloned embryo is then implanted in the reproductive tract of a surrogate mother of the same animal species. If all goes well, the surrogate mother will carry the clone to term and give birth as in a normal pregnancy.

The surrogate female does not contribute any

genetic material to the developing fetus.

Dogs Are in the Works

Genetic Savings and Clone, in conjunction with Texas A&M University, cloned a calico lab cat named Rainbow in late 2001. But the cloned kitten, Copycat (affectionately known as CC) looked very different from Rainbow and "created some confusion in public mind," says Carlson. While Rainbow has gold, black and tan splotches on a white coat, CC has gray tiger stripes on white. It was immediately apparent that Rainbow's clone was not, as her name would suggest, an exact copy.

Researchers at Genetic Savings and Clone are now working on cloning dogs through an effort called the Missiplicity project. Dogs tend to pose some additional challenges because of unique aspects of female canine reproduction, says Denniston. For example, they come into heat only about once or twice a year, he says, so the window of opportunity to successfully implant a cloned embryo in a surrogate mother is narrow.

Some of the goals of the Missiplicity project are to improve the basic understanding of canine reproductive biology and to replicate specific, exceptional dogs of high societal value, including assistance dogs for people with disabilities, and search-and-rescue dogs. A long-term goal is to develop relatively low-cost commercial dog-cloning services for the general public.

Misconceptions About Cloning

Despite the publicity and public scrutiny that have surrounded cloning, many myths about the technology exist, say experts. A lot of the misconceptions people have about cloning come from science fiction, says Carlson. "People sometimes have the idea that clones emerge full grown from some kind of microwave oven."

Another common misconception people have is that a clone is going to actually be the exact same pet from which genetic material is taken, explains

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Carlson. "The most useful description that we can provide is that cloning is like having an identical twin born later rather than at the time of birth."

A lot of people think that if they clone their pet they will have their beloved animal back, says Dr. Irwin. "[However], just as identical twins are not exactly the same, a clone will never be exactly the same as its parent," he explains.

Pets will not be resurrected or immortalized, Carlson says. "This is not what we promise, and that's not what a clone is."

Wolff says that his decision to freeze Lily's cells was an emotional one, and that on some level, he would want a clone to be just like the original. "But I understand that this may not be the case," he says.

Most of the people who want to preserve their pet's cells in the hopes of future cloning had their animal spayed or neutered so natural reproduction is no longer possible, says Denniston. "A lot of these people [owners who want to clone their pets] have mutts or mixed breeds," he asserts, adding that it's hard to find a similar "Heinz 57" mix.

"A lot of people think it seems odd," he acknowledges. "But it doesn't seem odd to think that you would want an offspring of an animal because it was unique or interesting."

Doubting Dolly & Cloning Concerns

One of the main concerns scientists and the public seem to have about cloning is the health of the clone, say experts. The famous Dolly the sheep, cloned in 1996, was euthanized in February 2003 because of a lung infection, says Carlson. She also had arthritis. But it is widely accepted that clones can have a myriad health problems', including organ failure and obesity, " says Carlson. Complications can vary from species to species.

"We've seen poor outcomes in mice and good outcomes in pigs and goats," he explains. Overall, 25 percent of cloned animals have had serious health problems.

Concern also exists for the welfare of the animals involved, he says. The process to attain one viable clone can involve more than a hundred or more failed attempts and even then, many embryos do not survive. The Humane Society of the United States condemns the commercial cloning of companion animals. Given the current pet overpopulation problem, which the Humane Society says costs millions of animals their lives and millions in public tax dollars each year, the cloning of pets has no social value and in fact may lead to increased animal suffering.

"Some people believe that it is selfish when so many animals need homes," acknowledges Dr. Irwin.

Wolff also acknowledges this argument as well. "They may be 100 percent right," he says, adding that he's considered adopting a cat rather than having Lily cloned. "But sometimes you love a particular animal so much, you consider cloning."

Heather Lindsey is a freelance writer.
Our thanks to Diane West of NY Tails Magazine
for allowing Fido the use of this article.

Upcoming Fido Winter Events

Keep in touch with the events section of our website:
www.fidobrooklyn.org

The Memorial Tree - An Evolving Remembrance

To have your dog added to the Dedication Book, send the name and dates to Maureen Sanders at ms4153@aol.com or to FIDO at FIDO 230 Seventh Avenue, #157 Brooklyn, NY 11215

Pictures can also be submitted directly to our website see: www.fidobrooklyn.org "In Memoriam"

From The Alpha Desk:

As we enter the New Year, it's customary to look back on the old one, emitting deep sighs and getting all misty-eyed about auld acquaintance not forgot.... Mmmmm - maybe not.

We should point out some of the good stuff that happened for **FIDO** this year:

1) The organization turned 5 this fall!

Who'd a'thunk it? It seemed like such a crazy idea, and yet here we are! (Five is coming of age for a dog, and we are planning a Bark Mitzvah- originally scheduled for last fall; postponed due to scheduling conflicts).

2) Smashing success for "Bark, the Herald Angels Sing" in December and "Pupnic" 'waaaay back in June. (To the person who brought those brownies to Pupnic- please consider doing it again!)

3) A successful season for the first-ever FIDO-Sponsored Pee-Wee Softball Team (OK, so they don't actually play against other teams, but they do have a good time - a decent measure of success if ever there was one! And great tee-shirts!)

4) The Memorial Tree we planted in the Long Meadow to commemorate all our departed four-footed buddies is growing strong and tall. (We are in the process of sponsoring a bench for the same area.)

5) The construction in the Nethermead seems to be about done- and that ramp in the renovated pool will be a dog beach in a couple of years, when the new plantings have had time to establish.

6) Best of all, complements from many influential people- from the Borough President on down- about the great dog people we have in Prospect Park.

It's the spirit of cooperation that makes all this work; we respect each other and we respect the

Park and all its users. What we have in the Park is only possible because people - you, me, us- want it to happen. The picnics and so forth are fun, but we all know what matters is seeing the dogs running full-tilt-boogie across the open meadow. The concept of off-leash recreation is spreading across the country and Prospect Park is very often cited as the model to which all other dog parks should aspire. Thanks, everyone.

So raise a glass this holiday season to a great year past and another fast upon us! (Before you know it, it will be light after 5pm!)

– Mary McInerney

By The Hydrant:

Continued from page 2

When asked why he dislikes spending time with me in my studio in Dumbo (I always thought it was the noise) she replied that Harvey had communicated that he did not like my energy at work; that I was much too frenetic and doing too many things at once. Definitely true!

Since Harvey was a rescue from Hearts and Homes, I of course had to ask about his mom. When Roseanne posed this question to my sweet dog, he answered that he knew I was going to ask this question and rolled his eyes. Not knowing what Harvey's mix is (Shepard and Collie) Roseanne communicated that his mom was a beautiful dog - a Lassie look alike.

Roseanne recommends Rescue Remedy for anxious dogs, and vitamin and mineral supplements from Belfield.com. Another good source for dogs with occasional bellyaches is Dr. Goodset's acidophilous.

Roseanne will do a seminar at Essence of Life on 6th Ave between 9th and 10th Street on Feb. 15th from 2:00-6:00. Call her for reservations: 718 - 657-5305. Come meet this wonderful lady.

Doggie Health:

Chiropractic For Dogs

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9) Harmful training practices. Some training practices tug hard on the dog's neck or have the dog looking up and to the right at its owner while walking.

Okay, so how do you know if your dog is suffering from a "subluxation"? Subluxations usually cannot be diagnosed on an x-ray. A chiropractor, however, is trained in the detection and correction of them.

Here are a few hints to help you recognize possible signs of "subluxation". Now keep in mind that these are symptoms coming from an underlying problem.

- 1) The hind legs cross during walking.
- 2) Tight muscles.
- 3) The dog weaves during walking or running, or is limping.
- 4) Constantly shifting legs while standing on all fours.
- 5) Taking a short step on one leg, then reaching with the other leg.
- 6) On large breed dogs, the head comes up as the bad leg reaches the ground.
- 7) When three legs act as support for the fourth leg, the dog is in pain. A painful leg may be bent while standing.
- 8) A painful leg's paw may appear smaller than the opposite paw, since less pressure is put on it.
- 9) A dog will lie on the painful side to support it.
- 10) An unusual head position is a sign of neck pain.
- 11) Shallow breathing is a sign of midback pain.
- 12) Diarrhea, incontinence, ear infections, digestive problems etc.

What can you do at home? Here is a simple maneuver you can do to stretch your dog's spine and alleviate nerve pressure. Apply traction to the spine by grasping the tail firmly at its base. Hold the "rump" still with the other hand and gradually "pull" the tail. Do not yank!"

What about cats? Why not? Chiropractic is performed on horses, giraffes and tigers. The prerequisite is a spine!

Animal chiropractic is a powerful healthcare practice that can help animals achieve a higher level of well being which is not always available through traditional allopathic methods. While you can't monitor your dog's every move, you can get him/her checked for subluxations whenever you detect a problem or simply as preventative care.

Dr. Andrea Auerbach practices Chiropractic Medicine here in Park slope.

Write Something For Us!

Book reviews, poems, and cartoons – I know there's a world of talent out there beyond the ability to scoop up dog poop. For those of you who wish to contend for the Pulitzer Prize, we have 400 – 800 words of space in our center section.

E-mail your material directly to bob@exitfive. com and we will drop them into the newsletter queue for the upcoming issue. There's a good chance we can post your work in the Features Section of Fido's website as well.

Fido Speaks - Staff...

Editor – Bob Ipcar
 Art Direction & Design – Debbie Caponera
 Art Illustration – Paul Belliveau
 By The Hydrant – Dale Kaplan
 Alpha Desk – Mary McInerney
 Our Poet Lauriat – Maureen Sanders

KEEP OUR PARK OFF-LEASH FRIENDLY

YES, I WANT PROSPECT PARK TO BE MORE DOG FRIENDLY

Here is my Membership contribution of:

___ \$15.... ___ \$25.... ___ \$50\$_____ Other

Name _____ Dog's Name

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