



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### Therapy, Service and Emotional Support Dogs



Many people use the terms Service Animals, Therapy Animals and Emotional Support Animals interchangeably but there are many differences between them.

A Service Animal is trained to mitigate the disability of a specific person. Service Animals are protected under the Americans with Disability Act, and as such are allowed in public places such as restaurants, grocery stores and hotels. Most people are familiar with Seeing Eye dogs, but they are just one type of Service Animal. Service Animals can be trained to alert deaf individuals of sound, diabetics to low glucose numbers, provide seizure alert to epileptics. Service Animals can also be trained to do more physically based tasks, such as pulling wheelchairs, carrying or picking up things for individuals with mobility impairments and helping with balance.

Therapy Animals are trained to provide affection, comfort and support to those in hospitals, hospice, schools or disaster areas. Therapy Animals provide comfort to groups of people, or provide one-on-one support to someone other than their handler. They have varying roles that can include providing companionship by visiting those in nursing homes, helping relieve anxiety to those who have been in a natural disaster or traumatic experience, or helping children gain confidence while reading aloud to the animal.

Emotional Support Animals provide comfort, emotional support for anxiety and depression relief to a specific individual. For an animal to qualify as an Emotional Support Animal, a psychologist, therapist, or other mental health professional must certify an individual as emotionally disabled and state that the animal provides therapeutic value to its owner. Owners MUST carry and be able to present this doctor's letter if out in public and provide the proof that the animal is an Emotional Support Animal. Emotional Support Animals are not allowed in the same public places as a

### Health Tip for the Season

All vaccines come with the possibility of side effects, and while most are mild, there is a chance of a pet having a severe reaction. The most common types of vaccines are combo vaccines, such as DHPP which is a combination of distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus. Many pet parents think combo vaccines are the better option as they are less expensive and don't require as many trips to the vet. However, if the pet does have a reaction to the combo vaccine it makes it much harder to pinpoint which vaccine caused the reaction.

### Training Tip for the Season

Offentimes pets are our best friends and we want them to be with us as much as possible. Socialization to new people, places and experiences is healthy for a pet but some pets don't want to go everywhere with their pet parent. Some pets are easily overwhelmed and overstimulated, others are more shy or sensitive to the temperature. If a pet enjoys going on adventures, by all means take them along if they are socialized, but watch for signs of distress and discomfort. There will be times when it's best for a pet to stay home and relax.

service animal but are allowed to fly on some airlines and to live in housing with a no pets allowed pet policy. Emotional Support Animals are not trained to perform a specific task and therefore aren't considered as a service dog.

Service, therapy and emotional support dogs all have different criteria and service dogs must go through years of training and pass many temperament and training requirements before being assigned to assist. If a pet is not a service animal, It's ILLEGAL to buy a vest online and say a pet is a service animal if they are not!

Pets hold many titles in our lives and the lives of others and it's crucial to know the differences, similarities and requirements in regard to assistance pets.

### Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

The health and wellness of pets is of the utmost concern to Professional Pet Care Specialists. If a pet is having a health issue, such as arthritis or gastrointestinal issues, make your Professional Pet Care Specialist aware of these issues so they can be sure to observe the pet while it's in their care. Also, if a pet is on a special diet or trying to lose weight, make your Professional Pet Care Specialist aware so they can watch giving treats and help weight loss with walks and play.

### Featured Organization of the Month



C.A.R.T

The Westmoreland/Fayette/Allegheny County Animal Response Team (CART) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals in times of disaster or emergency. Every County has a CART, which operates under the guidance of the State Animal Response Team (SART). CART Members come from all walks of life but share a love for animals, and are trained, credentialed emergency response officials. CART has two primary missions. The first is temporary sheltering for animals displaced by emergencies or disasters, such as fires, floods, extreme weather, etc. Like the Red Cross, which opens temporary shelters for people who have had to evacuate their home, CART can quickly set up a temporary animal shelter for animals displaced as a result of a disaster or emergency. It is critically important that when people must evacuate their home that they take their pets with them, and CART can give them peace of mind knowing that there is a safe place for their pets to go while they are in a temporary shelter for people. CART does not just deal with small animals like dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, etc., but can also, if need be during a disaster, arrange temporary sheltering for large animals such as horses as well as livestock. CART can also provide "Pet Care Comfort Kits" of supplies for people who may have lost everything in a disaster.

CART's other main mission is technical rescue, and that generally involves the use of specialized equipment to rescue animals that have somehow gotten themselves "stuck." Just a few of the technical rescues CART has conducted include the rescue of horses stuck in mud or cast in a trailer or stall, the extrication of a calf that had fallen into an abandoned mine shaft, a cat in a wall, and a dog in a sewer line. While all CART Members have completed extensive training, those serving on the Large Animal Team are required to complete specialized large animal technical rescue training due to the dangers involved when dealing with large animals such as horses or livestock, as well as the need to be proficient in the use of specialized rescue equipment.

CART is generally called out through 911 or by other First Responders or the Red Cross. While CART is not authorized to enforce animal cruelty laws, it can be called out to assist Humane Officers or Police for such things as animal hoarding situations. Also, while CART does not normally deal with wildlife, it can provide assistance to the Game Commission or Wildlife Centers by transporting injured wildlife.

CART is especially proud of its Pet Oxygen Mask Program. Program Sponsors provide funding for the purchase of special pet oxygen masks, and CART then distributes the masks to fire departments and other first responders, and also provides them with training on the masks as well as pet first aid and CPR. To date CART has been able to provide over 370 sets of pet oxygen masks to over 125 fire departments or other emergency response organizations.

More information about CART, including how to become a CART Member, sponsor pet oxygen masks, make a monetary donation, or donate items for our Pet Care Comfort Kits, can be found on CART's website:  
<http://westmorelandcart.weebly.com/>

You can also find information about recent incidents, activities, etc. on CART's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WFACART.PA/>



### August Birthdays

Phil Kienholz  
Dinah Cortez  
Trico Escalante  
Pia Moreau  
Skye Hommel  
Sansa Hommel  
Phineas Yates  
Fiona Yates  
Lea Massarelli  
Knox Ingram  
Butters Coleman  
Gabriella Borrasso  
Barkley Paredes

Zeke Diorio  
Aida Diorio  
Za Sisco  
Jax Cieslak  
Rainey Nigro  
Mo Mo Kimes  
James Burkett  
Sidney Poitier Beatty  
Tootsie Durham  
Mallie Scheffler  
Cinder Swarts  
Lafayette Fisher  
Jaxon Standard  
Morty Ellis

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

## Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

### Apple Cinnamon Delights

Ingredients:

4 cups unbleached white flour  
1/2 cup all natural applesauce (no sugar)  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 cup water  
2 eggs  
1/4 cup wheat germ  
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon  
1 tsp baking soda

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients.

Knead the dough on a floured surface.

Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1 inch apart.

Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden.



### Bacon and Apple Cat Treats

Ingredients

1/2 cup bacon grease  
1 grated apple with peel  
2 cups flour\* plus extra for dusting the dough

Preheat your oven to 350°F (180°C).

Soften the bacon grease in the microwave for about 30 seconds.

Fold in the apple and flour, forming the





mixture into a dough.

Mix as little as possible to get an even consistency – or use a pastry dough cutter – this ensures that the cookies have a flaky, delicate texture.

Roll dough onto a well-floured work surface and roll with a rolling pin, sprinkling some flour on top as you go to avoid sticking.

Roll into a sheet approx. 5mm (1/8") thick and use cookie cutters or small object to cut into shapes.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper, add the pre-cut cookies, and bake at 350°F (180°C) for 20-25 minutes, until golden.

## Barking Truth



Clients, followers and friends have voiced their appreciation of our educational blogs and monthly newsletters and have urged us to release a pet care podcast. We are excited to announce that we have answered the call with Barking Truth, a podcast exposing the truth in the pet industry to keep all pets safe, healthy and well.

We will be releasing a new podcast every Wednesday and hope you can tune in and support pets everywhere by uncovering the truth of pet care.

Be sure to follow us on Anchor, Spotify or your favorite podcast service.



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner strives to provide educational, informative and fun content to our readers! We love hearing your feedback on our newsletters and blogs and want to know what you, dear reader, would like to see in future newsletters and blogs. Are there topics you are interested in that we haven't covered or you would like more specific information? Please feel free to let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

Please email suggestions

to [Jen@comforhomepetservices.com](mailto:Jen@comforhomepetservices.com)

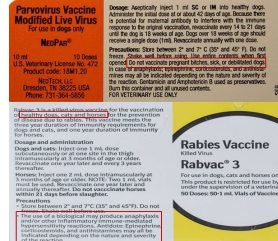
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## Over vaccination