

News From OurDogHouse

November Issue

November 13, 2007

In This Issue:

1. News At The DogHouse
2. Doctor McFurry
3. Fido Can Catch More Than You Think

1. News At The DogHouse

Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving approaches, the staff at OurDogHouse would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

As you start thinking of the holidays and shopping, remember that OurDogHouse has great gifts for everyone on your list! We also have wonderful holiday cards in our Christmas 2007 section for your pooches to send.

Jack Russell Terriers



The Jack Russell Terriers are the latest breed to be added to the new mini sections within our custom zone.

We are still adding daily to all the mini sections so drop by often and as always if you do not see what you want just contact us at [OurDogHouse](#)

[Click here to drop by OurDogHouse Today](#)

2. Doctor McFurry

Doctor McFurry Making the Rounds © Copyright OurDogHouse

When thinking of a hospital setting, one's thoughts might wander off to the popular TV show, Gray's Anatomy, where doctors in scrubs rush down the sterile hallways in and out of patients' rooms. However, what if Doctor McDreamy was replaced with Doctor McFurry? Today, Therapy Dogs make their weekly rounds in hospitals and nursing homes around the country. The reasons why are quite simple—studies show animal interaction can promote healing and emotional well being. In addition, they help release stress, reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, improve an individual's overall quality of life and prolong life after heart surgery.

Therapy Dogs are even enlisted to help the elderly and people suffering from cancer and AIDS.

To become a Therapy Dog, a pet must go through a screening and training program, be able to follow basic commands, be well groomed and have great socialization skills. Elaine Smith, a registered nurse, founded Therapy Dogs International, Inc. (TDI) in 1976. While based in England, she saw first-hand how interaction with pets helped with her patients. Once she returned home to the US, her goal was to establish a pet therapy program. Today there are more than 15,000 dogs and approximately 13,000 handlers registered with [TDI](#).

[List of Therapy Dog groups by state](#)

3. Fido Can Catch More Than You Think

Fido Can Catch More Than You Think © Copyright OurDogHouse

If you have ever wondered if Fido can catch more than a Frisbee or that tennis ball you like to toss across the yard, the answer is yes. A group of veterinarians in the Philadelphia area reported that 38 dogs, cats and other pets caught a drug-resistant staph infection over a span of 36 months. The gathered data leans strongly toward humans transmitting the infection to their furry companions.

It is estimated that 1 out of every 100 people carry this bacteria in their nose, which can be transmitted by close contact such as kissing the pet on the face or letting the pet lick us. The pet then licks its skin. The treated pets developed skin and ear infections. Although the infection is hard to treat, all the pets recovered.

Looking at infections in animals and their owners is a new endeavor. Researchers are expanding studies of the health of pets and their owners in an effort to learn more.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy day to visit with us. We welcome you to forward this issue of our newsletter to anyone else who might also enjoy it. If you have suggestions for future stories, we'd love to hear them! Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to [OurDogHouse](#)