

# News From OurDogHouse

October 2008

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## In This Issue:

1. News From the DogHouse
2. PUPS Against Puppy Mills
3. A Walk in the Park
4. Five-Step Process Toward Healing

### 1. News From the DogHouse

#### News From the DogHouse



The time to "fall back" is just around the corner. For most of us, Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2. A new clock from OurDogHouse is a great way to mark the time change! With the exception of a few designs made for bumper stickers only, you can find your favorite sayings and breeds on a clock. Our clocks feature easy to read numbers and run on one AA battery, which is included. With the holidays quickly approaching, they also make great gifts for everyone on your list.

[Click here](#) to go to OurDogHouse online store.

### 2. PUPS Against Puppy Mills

#### PUPS Against Puppy Mills Copyright © 2008 OurDogHouse

Recent coverage on national television and several large-scale cruelty investigations and rescues from puppy mills by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other rescue groups have raised public concern about the inhumane conditions in puppy mills to an all-time high.

Thanks to this heightened awareness, legislation to close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act was introduced by federal lawmakers last month. Currently, there is no licensing or regulation for large commercial breeders who sell puppies online and directly to the public. The "Puppy Uniform Protection Statute" (PUPS), or "Baby's Bill" in honor of rescued puppy mill survivor, Baby, was introduced to the House of Representatives as H.R. 6949 by Rep. Sam Farr (D-

California). A companion bill, S. 3519, was also introduced in the Senate by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Illinois).

The bills are aimed at cracking down on abusive puppy mills in the United States. Facilities that breed dogs for resale through pet stores are required to be licensed and inspected under the federal Animal Welfare Act. Unfortunately, a gaping exception in the law exempts puppy mills that sell directly to the public from any oversight whatsoever. The breeding dogs in puppy mills are often forced to spend their entire lives in constant confinement in wire cages without proper medical care or socialization. Unsuspecting customers buy thousands of puppies each year from unregulated Internet sellers and other direct sales facilities. Their puppies are often sick due to improper care, leaving angry consumers with frail, sometimes dying puppies and expensive vet bills.

According to Sen. Durbin, the bill sets forth reasonable standards of care for commercial breeders. He hopes the legislation will put puppy mills out of business. The following changes to the Animal Welfare Act will close the loophole that currently allows thousands of commercial breeders to go unregulated:

- All dog breeders who sell more than 50 dogs in a 12-month period directly to the public will be licensed by the USDA and inspected.
- Dogs at commercial breeding facilities must be given the opportunity to exercise for 60 minutes a day.
- The bill will not affect small breeders and hobby breeders who sell fewer than 50 dogs per year to the public, but is crafted to cover only the largest commercial breeding facilities.

If you would like to see this legislation become law, you may want to consider contacting your congressional representatives and asking them to support H.R. 6949 and S. 3519. You can find all of your federal and state officials, along with their contact information including email addresses, by entering your zip code [here](#).

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### 3. A Walk in the Park

**Strolling Along - Part II**  
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Last month we talked about pet strollers, and how helpful they can be for dogs with shorter legs and dogs with ailments such as arthritis and hip dysplasia. We also gave some suggestions about safety and comfort features to look for when buying a pet stroller.

Once you've purchased your pet stroller, these easy tips will help your pet adjust and learn to love his/her new stroller. Before you go for a stroll, leave the stroller in an area where your pet is comfortable and can examine it. Be certain to lock the wheels so it doesn't roll away!

Reward your dog with a treat and praise the first few times you use the pet stroller. If your pet associates the stroller with something he loves, he will be excited to get back in it. In addition, the first few times you use your new pet stroller, go to quiet and calm locations. This will allow your dog to adjust to the stroller without a lot of distractions.

Pet strollers are designed to be used outside, so make sure you only use your stroller for going outside. Your dog should associate the pet stroller with the enjoyment of being outside rather than being confined indoors. If your dog enjoys being outside, the pet stroller will soon become a signal that the two of you are going out.

Most pets adjust quickly. However, if yours doesn't, be patient. As with anything new, it may take a few times for a pet to adjust. If you get frustrated or angry, your pet will feel it. He will associate that with the new stroller, making it even more difficult for him to enjoy it. Be patient and understanding and before long, your pet will realize the pet stroller is fun!

If you missed Part I of this article, you can find it in the September 2008 issue in our [newsletter archives](#).

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#### 4. Five-Step Process Toward Healing

##### **Five-Step Process Toward Healing** **Timothy Glass, Author of *Just This Side of Heaven*** **Copyright © 2008 Glass**

Dealing with the loss of our furry companions is never easy. This Five-Step Process Toward Healing can be helpful to anyone who has lost a beloved pet.

1. **Knowledge:** Knowing what to expect if your pet is ill. Don't be afraid to ask question of the professionals. Get all the facts that you can. You cannot make any decisions unless you know what your options are. If your pet has already died, ask about

services that may be available. This is all a part of the healing process. Finding the perfect way for you and your family to put closure in this stage is of the utmost importance.

2. **Internal dialog:** A) If your pet is very ill, the what if's can drain vital energy that you need to help the pet. Keep the what if's at bay while keeping an informed, clear head.  
B) After the passing of a pet, it can be expected that one's own internal dialog may kick in. The key here is to not allow it to hamper the healing process for you or a family member. The dialog can become negative and damaging. I think for the most part, each of us will experience some amount of this. However, learning to turn the negative dialog into positive needs to be done as soon as possible. Example, when we lost our beagle, Penny, I felt extremely bad about her death. When I felt this way, I would remind myself that she was no longer in pain and that we gave her a wonderful life while here on earth.
3. **Support system:** A true pet lover faced with an illness or death of a pet needs a good support system. There are many breed-specific and general dog groups on the Internet, which are free and members can help one another via discussion. There are also professional counselors that deal with this as well. To vent your feelings, find a friend or family member who understands.
4. **Take steps toward healing:** Find some way that is comfortable for you and your family to remember your pet. It can be something as small as planting a rose bush in honor of the pet in an area of the yard your pet loved to lay. There are places on the web to light a virtual candle in honor of your pet. Most importantly, when talking about your pet, try to remember the good times. It is all too easy to remember the last moments. Think about how you would want people to remember you. Apply this same theory to your pet.
5. **Time:** each and every one of us will heal in our own time. Again, knowledge is key here. Understand that if you are finally able to find closure, but a spouse or a child cannot, give them the space and time they need. However, express to them that you are here if they want to talk about it. This is very important.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Timothy Glass and his book, *Just This Side of Heaven*, a journey that celebrates life through loss.

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We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter and we welcome you to forward this issue 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](#)