

A Cautionary Tale

(that will make you laugh)

Member Ilene Nelson told us this story about what happened one day in April when she momentarily stopped paying attention ... Enjoy!

Jasper and I were at McKay Dee Hospital for our monthly visit. We had visited all his favorite places and finished an hour in the NICU, and decided that we had time to quickly pop into the gift shop to do some holiday trinket-browsing before we went home.

Jasper is always so happy to see everyone—each person is a new opportunity to make a friend, so he of course loves when people stop him in the hallway or the gift shop. Which on that day was happening quite a lot. One lady visited with him every opportunity she could as we wandered around the gift shop. He would sit nicely for her and let her cuddle him and coo about him being on his best behavior. This was happening around every turn, and I was so used to it I mistakenly allowed myself to get complacent and turned to continue my browsing instead of focusing on my partner. (*Lesson to be learned here: you are never off duty.*)

Suddenly I noticed Jasper wasn't with me. I felt a distinct pressure on the leash—apparently he wasn't going to move. So I turned to find out why, thinking he was still enjoying the nice lady. His face was glued to the ground, very interested in something on the carpet. When I asked him, "What do you have, Jasper?" he hurried and snarfed up something to avoid me noticing. That's what he does, telling me, "I have something I know I'm not supposed to have, and I don't want you to take it away."

"Oh no," I thought, he must have gotten one of the decorative sticks or a wood sculpture and thought it was a chew toy. So I opened his mouth, hoping to rescue whatever it was from his mouth before too much damage had been done. When I swiped my fingers through his mouth, I found he had gotten *chocolate* somewhere. Part of it was still on the floor and some was still in the wrapper, which he was trying to swallow really quickly. I looked around to see where he could have possibly gotten chocolate with a pink foil wrapper on it; it was a chocolate cigar from the box of celebratory cigars that were on the bottom shelf of a display right next to the counter. I couldn't believe my eyes—the little sneak thief had stolen from the gift shop! I brought the remnants up to the counter, feeling very abashed, and told the lady what I had found in Jasper's mouth. She was watching the whole caper go down—I had already told the wonderful ladies at the gift shop that he is exceptionally fond of the smell of chocolate. The sweet counter lady would not even let me pay for the chocolate cigar, even after I told her it was going to come out of his allowance. She simply said, "Oh no, it's ok. He just couldn't help himself, especially when they put it right on the bottom shelf where he could reach it."

Thank goodness, Jasper is okay—not too much chocolate. And shame on me for letting my attention wander away from him.

By the way, "It's a Girl"—LOL!

- Ilene & Jasper



How Did Wolves Become Dogs?

Research into how wolves evolved into dogs: Ancient fossils provide intriguing clues

Our relationship with dogs goes back tens of thousands of years. The oldest confirmed dog fossil is believed to be over 14,000 years old. At right, a man leads his dog in a picture on an Egyptian sarcophagus.

The evolution of the domestic dog took place over a long period of time, during which wolves and dogs continued to interbreed—muddying the waters when it comes to analyzing canid fossils and even DNA.

Fossil Research

In considering canine fossils, researchers examine their morphological features, such as size and arrangement of the teeth, size and length of the snout and mandibles, and the shape of the skull. The researchers then compare them to modern dogs, modern wolves, confirmed early dog fossils, and prehistoric wolf fossils.

Some features of ancient dog fossils include short skulls and snouts, crowded and smaller teeth (due to the shortened snouts), and wide palates and craniums. Additionally, scientists can use an advanced bone-measuring technique called geometric morphometrics to analyze the curves of a skull so individual specimens can be more easily compared to each other.

It's not always easy to determine exactly what these bones are. Some Ice Age wolf-dog fossils are classified as “incipient dogs,” meaning they



are in the early, transitional stages of development—not quite wolf, not quite domesticated dog, but somewhere in between.

These incipient dog fossils are more like wolf-dog hybrids, the earliest ancestors of domestic dogs. The oldest of these on record, a large skull, was unearthed in a cave in Goyet, Belgium, in the 1860s. According to radiocarbon dating, the ancient fossil is nearly 36,000 years old.

Belonging to what is considered to be a Paleolithic dog, the Goyet dog skull more closely resembles prehistoric dogs than modern wolves. Radiocarbon dating and an anatomical analysis of another fossil skull, one discovered in a cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia in 1975, places it at approximately 33,000 years old.

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How Did Wolves Become Dogs? (cont.)

Researchers concluded that this doglike skull found in Siberia came from an incipient dog in the early, transitional stages of development.

This is a modern dog skull.



The Goyet dog skull, found in Belgium in the 1860s and radiocarbon dated to nearly 36,000 years old—the oldest doglike skull ever discovered—more closely resembles a wolf-dog hybrid.

Part of the family

We can learn a lot about the relationship between ancient humans and dogs from analyzing dog fossils. For instance, the oldest

confirmed dog fossil, known as the Bonn-Oberkassel dog, is believed to be a little over 14,000 years old. The dog's remains, along with those of a man and a woman, were found in 1914 in an ancient grave in Oberkassel, Germany.

The Bonn-Oberkassel dog was, in fact, a puppy, about seven months old. A recent examination of this fossil concluded that the dog suffered from distemper, and that humans provided care and nursed it through bouts of illness before it died.

This fossil is also the oldest confirmed evidence of a domestic dog burial with humans. Whether buried alone, with other dogs, or with humans, dog burials indicate a closeness between dogs and humans that goes beyond keeping an animal for its functional uses. It signifies a high level of regard and hints at the dog's eventual transition from wild animal to pampered pet. ❤️

Dental Care for Our Animals ~ Part 2 (cont from page 10)

like to attempt to replace brushing your own teeth with eating crunchy foods, and it is easy to see how ineffective this method would be. When it comes to pet foods, much of the kibble is swallowed whole and not chewed at all. Canine dental diets work primarily through a combination of mechanical cleaning and, in some cases, added ingredients that reduce plaque and tartar buildup. The unique shape, size, and texture of dental kibble are designed

to encourage chewing.

The following link will take you to the VOHC list of approved products:

[VOHC Accepted Products](#)

Keeping up with your dog's dental hygiene helps prevent painful conditions and serious health issues—just a few minutes a day makes a huge difference!



RECOGNITION

Hospital Corner: Paws for health

By Riley Polumbus
April 30, 2025 1:00 AM

Dog owners reap a bounty of physical and mental health benefits. They are more likely to get regular exercise by walking their dog or playing in the yard. Getting out for walks or even going to the vet promotes social connection, which improves mood and overall sense of well-being.

When Yvonne Nanasi learned she needed open-heart surgery, she knew getting out and about with her dog Shelby was going to be part of her rehabilitation. What she did not know was that she would share this therapy with many others.

Following heart surgery, Yvonne enrolled in the cardiac rehabilitation program at Logan Health - Whitefish, which is where Yvonne learned firsthand about the hospital's volunteer dog therapy teams and how beneficial they can be for patients. After finishing her rehabilitation, she and Shelby started training to be on the team.

This special team of volunteers creates a very personal bond with every person they meet. Each encounter immediately reduces stress and anxiety for all involved. Shelby, along with Evi, Soli, Rusty, Karra and Dagny make up the current four-legged half of the hospital's volunteer Dog Visit Teams, and they deliver a whole different breed of person-centered care.

Yvonne and Shelby have been volunteering for seven years, and at 13 years old, Shelby is still making the rounds every other week. She's eager to meet everyone she comes across. Often, she and Yvonne



Logan Health Whitefish respiratory therapist Erin Reed stops to say hello to Shelby and Yvonne Nanasi. (Photo provided)

encounter more staff than patients, but the impact is the same.

The healing power of animals, and the dog-human bond in particular, has been observed for ages. In the late 1800s, British nurse Florence Nightingale noted the therapeutic potential of dogs having observed dogs reducing anxiety of children. In the early 1900s, Sigmund Freud often used his dog in therapy sessions because it helped put his patients at ease.

Considered supportive therapy, dogs have been recruited into health care settings as part of the care team.

When a patient encounters a dog, the connection can lower their blood pressure and decrease anxiety. Pet teams also help patient families and

caregivers in the same way. When the dog walks into the room, he or she shifts the focus.

Or as Yvonne would say, "The person loses themselves in the dog."

Although dog visits tend to be brief, Yvonne feels that Shelby makes a difference in each person's day.

Just like humans, dogs benefit from staying active and engaged. Working animals, such as service dogs, police dogs and livestock dogs to name a few, play vital roles in their duties. Logan Health - Whitefish's pet therapy teams heal and bring joy to everyone. It is a win-win-win because all parties involved reap the benefits. The dog teams at Logan Health - Whitefish are trained, tested and registered with Intermountain Therapy Animals.



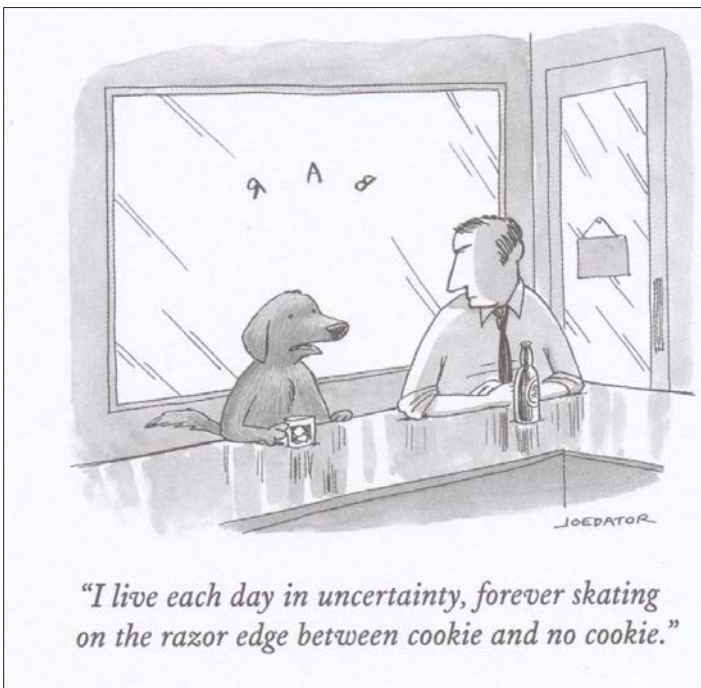
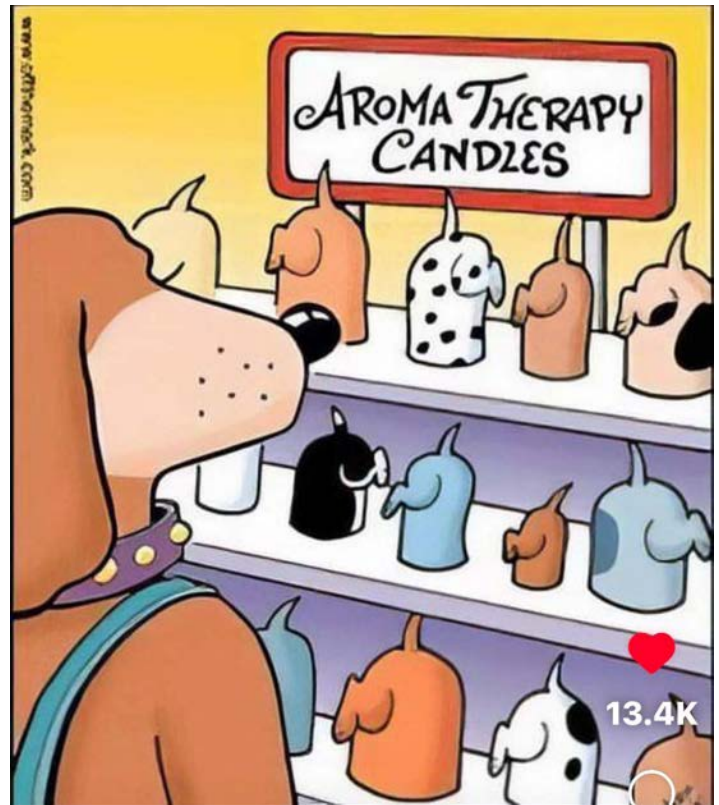
Paintings with Dogs

(definitely tilting toward the bizarre)



The Lighter Side

off the mark .com by Mark Parisi



At last i got dachshund car sun shade ! It makes me smile ❤️ But nobody appreciates it on my timeline so I'm hoping my level of cool will be admired here) ❤️❤️

