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GRETTA FEMALE Beautiful grey Tabico. Independent but sweet, 10 months old, fully vetted, spayed & microchipped, indoor home only. 704-487-6555, 704-472-4336.

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PETS - LIVESTOCK

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LIVESTOCK FOR SALE Pure Breed, Angus Bulls and Heifers. Jacob Fork Ranch. Call 704-538-1199 or 704-600-7847.

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PETS - LIVESTOCK

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TINY YORKIES for sale, 1.5 to 6 years old, several females. CKC registered. Call for price. 828-248-1145.

CKC TINY YORKIE PUPPIES. 1st shots, dewormed, \$450 males, \$650 females. Plants: Iris, Lily of the Valley, Lambs Ear. 828-245-5314.

MINIATURE DACHSHUND, black & tan, male, lovable, 5 years old, \$75. 828-287-3282.

CHICKS FOR SALE. Old English, BB Reds & Silkies, \$2.50 each. Call Mon.-Thurs. 828-453-1333. leave message.

Common Hamster Illnesses

Many children cannot resist the cute, furry faces of hamsters, and these lovable rodents are often the first pet a child is allowed to have. However, in some pet stores, hamsters are raised in close proximity with others and, if not properly cared for, can be susceptible to illness. It's only after the pet is brought home that symptoms may appear.

Responsible pet owners must be aware of any behavioral changes a hamster exhibits, as such changes might be indicative of illness. This can be challenging, as hamsters are largely nocturnal and only awaken after children go to bed at night.

Hamsters are susceptible to colds. A swollen nose and fluffed fur around the nose from wiping nasal discharge on bedding are some symptoms of a cold. The hamster may also be constipated or suffer from diarrhea.

Just like cats and dogs, hamsters also may host fleas and lice, which they often catch from other pets in the house. You may have to look carefully to determine if the hamster has these pests.

One of the biggest concerns of hamster owners is a condition called wet tail. Potentially fatal, wet tail is a highly contagious bacterial disease that causes extreme diarrhea. Stress is a big contributor to the onset of wet tail, which is why it is common among young hamsters getting acclimated to their new homes. Changes in diet, habitat and unsanitary living conditions also contribute to wet tail. Wet tail is best handled by a veterinarian who can offer medical advice for the best treatment possible.

Not all diarrhea is indicative of wet tail. A diet heavy in fruits and vegetables those foods might cause diarrhea. If the diarrhea disappears when these foods are removed from the hamster's diet, wet tail is likely not the culprit. (Metro)



Community Pet Center

IN MEMORY OF THERESA HARTLEY McCRAW

Fundraiser for the Community Pet Center and Humane Society of Rutherford County Pet Adoption Drive, Rabies Clinic, Raffle Sale, Bake Sale, and Pet Contests!

Saturday, April 21, 2012 • 9 AM until 12 PM
Held Rain or Shine!

Location: Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy
2527 US Highway 221-A, Mooresboro, NC 28114
Junior High/High School Campus - Caroleen Area

Sponsored by TJCA New Century Scholars Members, the Rutherford County Community Pet Center, and the Rutherford County Humane Society. All Proceeds to Benefit the Community Pet Center and Humane Society

Pets will be available for adoption! Adoption fee includes spay/neuter, shots, and other services.

Rabies Clinic - Dr. Jill Bradshaw of Tri-City Animal Clinic Cost is \$15 per Rabies Shot. \$30 Micro-chipping also available.

A portion of these proceeds will be donated to the CPC and Humane Society.

Pet Contests: Best Trick, Best Costume, Cutest Puppy, Cutest Dog, Best Kisser, Best Smile, Owner Look-Alike! Entry fee is a bag of dog or cat food! Contests will begin at 11AM!

Raffle Tickets - Lots of great prizes! Half and Half Drawing for CASH! Bake Sale! Lots of tasty treats!

Various booths and displays from area organizations and businesses!

For more information about this event contact Jennifer Powell at 828-657-9998, Ext. 7 or email jpowell@tjca.org

Shot Clinic

Rabies
Adult Yearly Shots
Puppy Shots
Cat Shots
Micro Chipping
Coggins Test for Horses

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3pm - 5pm, later if needed.
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Tips To Make Crate Training Your Puppy Easier

To those who have never crated or even owned a dog, the idea of crate training often comes off as cruel and unusual punishment. In reality, many dogs have a natural need for a den-like enclosure, and a crate satisfies that need, improving the animal's life as a result.

Crate training can also help dog owners housebreak a puppy. Dogs are reluctant to soil their sleeping places, so it can be easier to housebreak a pet that is crated than one that isn't. In addition, crating prevents destructive behavior and helps owners rest easy when they leave the home, knowing that their pet is safe in its crate and not likely to be exposed to harmful items around the house, be it household cleaning products or electrical wires.

While the benefits of crating are numerous for owner and dog alike, that doesn't mean the process will be easy. In fact, many dog owners struggle to get their best friends acclimated to their crates. When starting a dog's crate training, owners should consider the following tips.

- Crate the dog from the get-go. The earlier crate training begins, the more successful it is likely to be. Dogs who are crate trained when young often see their crates as a respite or a place to relax and hangout throughout the rest of their lives. So the earlier owners get started the more likely pets are to enjoy their crates.

- Never use the crate as punishment. A dog will likely never grow accustomed to or comfortable with its crate if the crate is used as a punishment for bad behavior. Owners are not buying the crate to act as a jail cell, but rather a comfortable and safe place for dogs to spend time during the day or sleep in at night. Using a crate as punishment, even if it's only done once, could make it impossible for owners to ever acclimate their pets to a crate.

- Make the crate a place the dog will want to be. A crate doesn't have to include just a bed and some bowls. A crate can be furnished with some of the dog's favorite toys and treats so the crate is a place the dog loves. When placing such items, place on the opposite side of the door opening. Because dogs will spend most of their time in the crate when their owners are away, it's best to only place larger toys that cannot be swallowed to prevent choking and illness. Inspect the crate daily to ensure no items have been chipped or broken and become choking hazards as a result.

- Don't isolate the crate. A crate should not be isolated from everyone in the home. When home, move the crate so the dog and crate are near you. If watching television in the living room, carry the crate into the room with you. This makes the crate more attractive and won't instill feelings of isolation in the dog when it's in the crate. In addition, the dog won't associate the crate with feelings of isolation when you're not home. At night, place the crate near your bed to further ensure the dog does not feel isolated when in its crate.

- Don't place the dog in the crate unless absolutely necessary. A dog should want to enter the crate. Owners who push or pull their dogs into the crate may find their dog will always be reluctant to enter the crate. If bed time arrives and the dog is genuinely reluctant to enter the crate, then owners might want to gently place the dog inside the crate. In such instances, make sure the crate is close to your own bed so the dog does not mistake being placed in the crate as punishment.

When crate training a dog, owners can easily grow frustrated. However, the more a dog associates the crate with positivity, the easier the process becomes. (Metro)

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Controlling Aquarium Algae

Budding aquarium enthusiasts crop up every day. They're anxious to head to the pet store and pick out a tank, accessories and the fish they hope will thrive in a new environment.

While it's important to know which fish can cohabitate and the proper pH and temperature to keep the tank, one important lesson all people who have an aquarium should know is how to keep algae in check.

Algae is a naturally occurring plant life that creates a green film on the inside of tank walls and on plants and decorations inside the aquarium. Just like any other plant, algae requires a few things to thrive, including light, water and food.

Although a certain amount of algae in the water can be a beneficial food source for some species of fish, an overabundance can be unsightly and take over the aquarium.

There are a few reasons why algae can grow unchecked.

- * Algae needs light to survive. Leaving a fluorescent aquarium light on too long or placing the tank in the path of direct sunlight can cause algae to bloom.

- * Introducing new live plants to a tank, which already may have algae spores hitching a ride on them, can introduce more algae to the tank.

- * Overfeeding fish can provide extra food sources for algae, as can failing to frequently clean the filter.

- * Water with a high level of nutrients will provide a lot of food for algae.

Understanding why algae forms will help you control it effectively. To start, get in the habit of cleaning the tank frequently. Once a week may be acceptable, depending on size. Scrape the walls of the aquarium down and remove the artificial plants and other accessories and routinely wash in clean water. Change the filter cartridge when it has become overly soiled.

Perform water changes. Change 10 to 15 percent of the water in the aquarium every week, which will remove toxins and algae spores. When you change the water, use a suction tube

to "vacuum" out debris lodged in the gravel.

Limiting the food sources for algae can also keep it in check. Feed a scant amount of food to fish, only enough that they can eat in 5 minutes or so. If there is extra food floating around, remove it. The food contains phosphates and other nutrients that can be a delicious meal for algae. Keeping live plants in the tank is another way to limit nutrients. Live plants will use many of the nutrients that algae thrive on. Having less present means less algae and healthy aquarium plants.

Routinely test the levels in the water and know what the proper levels should be. In addition, know what your water levels are right out of the tap. Test for phosphates and nitrates. Use phosphate removers or another water source, if necessary.

Make sure to include algae-eating fish in the aquarium. Those like the Plecostomus (Pleco) will scour the tank for algae.

Position the tank out of direct sunlight, which will just fuel algae growth. Also, go sparingly on the use of an aquarium light in the tank.

Algae often grow in warm temperatures, as is common with tropical aquariums. Keep the temperature of the water at the minimum level allowed for the breed of fish, and be sure the tank is not by a radiator or additional heat source.

Keeping aquarium fish can be an enjoyable hobby and a nice focal point for a room. To ensure the health of the tank, be sure to manage the amount of algae in the aquarium. (Metro)



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