

# PETROPOLIS

## Briefs

**'Go Orange for animals'**  
The ASPCA will hold its annual "Go Orange for Animals" celebration in Union Square Park on April 7 from 4-8 p.m. The event will feature adoptable animals, music, food and activities for pets. The ASPCA Human Law Enforcement Officers featured on the Animal Planet's show "Animal Precinct" will be available to talk to along with various experts from the ASPCA.

**Pet nutrition seminar**  
6:30 p.m., Wednesday; Bideawee, 410 East 38th Street, Manhattan  
Feeding your pet a proper diet can prevent many diseases. Dr. Donna Spector, who works for Halo Foods, will be speaking about pet nutrition and obesity, at Bideawee Learning Center. For more information, visit [www.bideawee.org](http://www.bideawee.org).

**New training method**  
10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday; Ciao Bow Wow, 16 Beaver Street, Manhattan  
TTouch is a healthcare system and method of training all animals that can enhance the immune system and eliminate bad behavior. Now, New York City animal lovers can learn about it at Ciao Bow Wow in Manhattan. The cost is \$45 per person. To register, visit [www.mitalis.com](http://www.mitalis.com).

**Pins for pets**  
9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday; JIB Lanes, 67-19 Parsons Boulevard, Flushing  
JIB Lanes in Queens is hosting its third Paws 'N Pins fundraiser on Saturday. Individuals and groups are welcome. The cost is \$15 per person or \$50 per lane. Part of the proceeds will go to the Rescue Ink animal shelter. (AMNY)

## The agony of losing a pet

### NYers find ways to cope with their grief

BY SEAN JOSEPH  
sjoeph@am-ny.com

Many pets are treated like members of the family when they are alive — and after they die.

"Pet loss is very similar to every other kind of loss," said Joan Fromewick, a social worker who leads a pet-loss support group at Bideawee Learning Center in Manhattan. "Whether it's a family member, a 4-ounce bird or 150-pound dog, people go through the same stages of grief."

Fromewick said people who attend her support group, have rituals to mourn their pets — such as writing a letter, drawing a picture and holding ceremonies — but sometimes it takes just talking to someone to make things better.

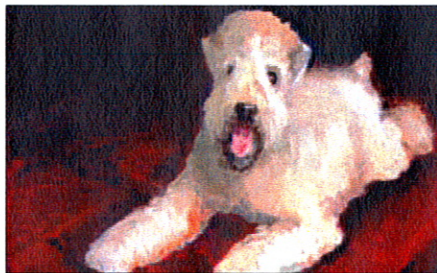
"Our society isn't very responsive to pet loss," Fromewick said. "People say 'go get another cat.' Well, if you lose a child, you can't just go out and have another."

Debi Wolford, 50, of Manhattan, recently had to have her Pomeranian, Huley, put to sleep. She chose to have Huley's remains cremated.

"Eventually I may decide to buy a small plot and a head stone to bury the



Carol Tambor painted a portrait of her Yorkie after he died. She has painted several pet memorial portraits since, including the one of a Wheaten Terrier below. (RJ MICKELSON/AMNY)



ashes, but for now I want to keep them with me," Wolford said.

Wolford used the cremation services at the Hartsdale Pet Cemetery in Westchester. There are also two Bideawee pet memorial parks on Long Island.

The Bideawee cemeter-

ies let people memorialize their pets any way they wish, said Tom O'Donnell, the director of Bideawee's pet memorial parks.

They sell a variety of caskets and urns, have a viewing room and several acres of cemetery plots, where people can hold any kind

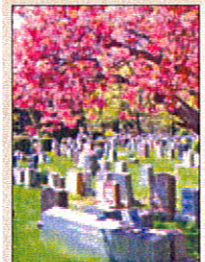
of service for their pet. Another common way to memorialize a pet is by having their portrait drawn.

"It's healthy to have a painting around to remember your animal at its best," said Carol Tambor, an artist in Manhattan who has done several memorial pet portraits. "Seeing your animal healthy makes you feel like they're still there."

Losing a pet can be even harder than losing a member of the family, Fromewick said.

"If your great aunt dies in California, you can get time off work," Fromewick said. "But if your furry companion of 15 years dies, a lot of bosses won't give you a few days off just because you're sad."

## WHAT IT COSTS



Many New York City pet owners chose to leave the city to bury or cremate their animal. Bideawee runs two pet memorial parks on Long Island. Here is a list of their services:

- **Burial plot:** \$200-\$425 (depending on size)
- **Burial fee:** \$150-\$285
- **Metal burial container:** \$130-\$190 (required)
- **Caskets:** \$295-\$895 (optional)
- **Perpetual maintenance:** \$160 one-time fee, or \$40 annually (required)
- **Granite grave markers:** \$160 and up, includes four lines of text and a picture (optional).
- **Individual cremations:** (remains returned to owner) \$110-\$360, (depending on animal's weight)
- **Communal cremations:** (A few animals at a time, remains scattered on park grounds) \$60-\$285
- **Urn:** \$50 and up
- **Pick up fee (for remains):** Starting at \$25

**HydroControl™:**  
a traditional harness



**SPRING SALE**  
15% OFF ONE WEEK ONLY!  
with benefits...

[www.doggiesonthego.biz](http://www.doggiesonthego.biz)



**Q&A**

WITH PHILLIP RACLYN, VETERINARIAN

**My 7-year-old daughter is dying for a pet, but our building doesn't permit dogs and I'm allergic to cats. Some of**

**her friends have gerbils — are they safe, acceptable pets?**  
Gerbils tend to be friendly, clean, quiet and curious pets. They rarely bite and can be easily handled. They produce minimal odor and only small amounts of waste. Their size means that space requirements are not excessive and only need a tank cleaning about every two weeks.

**Before adopting one, keep in mind: You can't pick up a gerbil by the tail, because they're delicate and can break off.**

**My dog has a cut on her paw and has made it worse by licking and chewing on it. I have it bandaged with Neosporin or animax. I've also cleaned it with pet RX solution. Will it heal if it stays bandaged?**

I know you probably don't want me to tell you this, but you should go to your vet and stop trying to fix this problem by yourself. Some lacerations need sutures, or they won't heal. Some are infected and unless treated appropriately won't heal.

Some dogs need to have access to the area restricted or they'll never let it heal, even if it would naturally. But the bottom line is that you're doing your dog a disservice by making him suffer through this while you're trying to play doctor.

One example of the mistakes you're making is using Animax to try to help heal the cut. Animax contains an antibiotic, and anti-fungal, and an anti-inflammatory. That all sounds great, until one realizes that the anti-inflammatory, a steroid, will actually slow the healing down, or even prevent it completely. So do your pal a favor, bite the bullet and go see your vet.