

# Pooper Monthly

## Rescued and Sheltered Pets

With a new year starting and extremely cold weather outside, I wanted to start the year off by talking about pet rescue and adoption. This is something I feel very strongly about and want to pass on the message that there are so many great places to get a new pet from other than a pet store.

Choosing a pet can be exciting, but one needs to consider a number of factors. Size, energy level, compatibility with children, grooming and maintenance needs. Picking a pet that is cute, but doesn't fit you or your family's lifestyle can lead to problems and difficult decisions down the road.

There are a number of options when adopting. Cats in particular, tend to be available from a myriad of sources. Friends, neighbours, and family often know someone whose cat got out and accidentally ended up with kittens. If purchasing a puppy from a breeder

it is important to choose a reputable breeder, as your puppy will have a better chance of being healthy for both the short and long term.



Pet stores are another source of new pets. I *never* recommend adopting from a pet store! Most pet stores (especially the large chain stores) obtain their animals from disreputable sources that most any animal-lover would hate to support. These sources also

tend to provide pets that are more prone to having medical issues. They are usually short-staffed and the pets suffer with filthy cages and little or no food/fresh water. Pets purchased from pet stores are often impulse purchases and the pets eventually end up being surrendered when the buyers realize the amount of responsibility and work that goes into caring for a pet.

So please support our local adoption and rescue agencies! Pooh Busters proudly supports the Calgary Humane Society and the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF).

## POOOH BUSTERS

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### Did you know:

- ☺ After birth, puppies do not open their eyes until they're about 12 days old?
- ☺ The Chihuahua was named after the state in Mexico where they were discovered?
- ☺ Many foot disorders in dogs are simply an issue of overgrown toenails?
- ☺ Boxers are so named because of their manner of playing with their front paws?

### Pooper of the Month

Pooh Busters is proud to present **Kilo and Dozer** as January's Poopers of the Month!



Get your dog featured as Pooper of the Month in 2009!

Email your dog's pictures and bios to Big Nate at [poohbusters@shaw.ca](mailto:poohbusters@shaw.ca)

## New Year's Resolutions

The number one thing most people make a resolution for at the beginning of every new year is to lose weight. Not only is being overweight unhealthy for us but it is unhealthy for any pet. As in humans, dogs that are overweight have a

shorter life span and experience more medical problems. Dogs haven't figured out how to open the refrigerator, so the reason he's too fat may be because we've fed him too much or didn't give him enough exercise. Or both.

So the best way to deal with this issue is of course, eating less and eating better (not too many treats) as well as more activity. The same goes for us. So getting out there will be good for both you and your pets. Happy New Year everyone!