



# The Paw

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## In This Issue:

- 1 ~ Most Popular Dog Breeds
- 2 ~ Birthday Bonanza
- 3 ~ Top 5 Cat Injuries
- 4 ~ Five Dog Myths
- 4 ~ Memorials and Honors
- 5 ~ 10 Dog Breeds That Shouldn't Live With Cats

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# 2013 List of Most Popular Dog and Cat Breeds

Over the past few years, the top 10 most popular dog and cat breeds have remained fairly consistent. However, there have been obvious trends over the years, with certain breeds gaining popularity and others falling in the rankings. Compared to the American Kennel Club's (AKC) 2012 dog registration statistics, the Pets Best top 10 list offers several unexpected findings.



First, the No. 1 most popular dog breed enrolled with Pets Best not only in 2013 but throughout the agency's history is a mixed or designer breed. The AKC, however, only recognizes purebred dogs, without highlighting

the popularity of mixed breeds. Pets Best found mixed-breed dogs solidly hold the No. 1 spot. In 2013, mixed breeds made up nearly 30 percent of all canines enrolled with the agency. The AKC list also does not include pit bulls, and the Pets Best rankings show pit bulls as the seventh most popular dog of 2013. Based on data from Pets Best, this category includes the American pit bull terrier and the American Staffordshire terrier. The category climbed from 10th place in 2007.

In addition to these rankings, the ever-popular Labrador retriever held second place for most popular dog breeds. Among the top cat breeds, the domestic shorthair ranked first, followed by mixed-breed cats and the American shorthair.

"Several years ago, French bulldogs started popping up in television commercials and print ads," said Dr. Jack L. Stephens, President of Pets Best Insurance Services, LLC. "When a relatively unknown dog breed begins to enter the mainstream, it creates a buzz among prospective pet owners and begins to affect ownership trends."

The full lists are as follows:

### Top 10 Dog Breeds of 2013

1. Mixed breed
2. Labrador retriever
3. Yorkshire terrier
4. Golden retriever
5. Chihuahua
6. Shih Tzu
7. Pit bull
8. Dachshund
9. German shepherd
10. Maltese and English Bulldog (tie)

### Top 10 Cat Breeds of 2013

1. Domestic shorthair
2. Mixed breed
3. American shorthair
4. Domestic longhair
5. Domestic medium hair
6. Siamese
7. Maine coon
8. Ragdoll
9. Bengal
10. Persian





# Birthday Bonanza

**I**N JANUARY, PAWS ANIMAL RESCUE HOSTED ITS FIRST ever birthday party – and what a success it was. The 12-year-old birthday girl, Kylee Schwartz, asked for donations to the shelter in place of birthday gifts. Including adults, there were at least 25 people in attendance. Cake and ice cream were served then the kids played with the cats and dogs.

The rescue received at least one-and-a half to two shopping carts full of “stuff” (food, treats, toys, cat bed, paper towels, bleach, etc.).

A fun time was had by all. Within the first three minutes, birthday girl Kylee said, “This is so cool!” at least a hundred times.

**Right:** Kylee and friend pose in front of her cakes.

**Below right:** The birthday party participants enjoying their cake and ice cream.

**Below:** Participants enjoyed playing with the cat and dogs.



**Above:** This young lady had to be shown how to hold a cat as it was her first time doing so.



**Above:** Tory the Cat was not really interested in partying.







Dear Betty: staff,

Merry Christmas : a Happy New Year!  
 We wanted to show our appreciation for helping us find our "guardian angel," who brought so much joy into our life. Northern is such a sweetheart : is such a good sister to her little brother, Fisher. We are very fortunate : blessed to have her : couldn't imagine life without her! Northern sends her love : wishes you all a great new year!

-The Licchis

## Top 5 Cat Injuries and How to Avoid Them

Dr. Carol McConnell

**Cats don't have nine lives**, and no one knows this better than a veterinarian. As a practicing vet, I treated injured animals and mourned the deaths of those I could not save. And these days, as the chief veterinary officer for Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI), I see the names and the information as our claims come in, and I know that behind every claim is a story – and a much-loved animal.

Sometimes people ask me if I miss "helping animals," and I tell them I don't miss it because it's still my job: VPI gives pet owners the means to afford much-needed veterinary care. We help save pets' lives every day.

But while I take pride in working to cover the costs of veterinary care for pets who need it, I also enjoy using our claims data to educate pet owners and prevent problems before they happen.

### Protect Your Cat From These Common Injuries

Recently, I asked our researchers to find the top five accident-related claims for cats, in order to give pet owners a heads up when it comes to avoiding these feline calamities. Here's what they found, in order of the number of claims in 2013, with the average claim amount in parentheses after each item:

- Soft-tissue trauma – bruise or contusion (\$169)
- Lacerations or bite wounds (\$237)
- Scratch or wound on the eye (\$135)
- Mouth trauma or fractured tooth (\$185)
- Abrasions or superficial wounds (\$103)



In all, these five conditions accounted for more than \$281,000 in claims at VPI. As a veterinarian, I look at this list of injuries and I can see some trends. I can also see some ways to avoid these accidents – and I bet you can, too. Key among them? Keep your cat indoors.

### How Roaming Leads to Accidents

Of the top five accident claims for cats, being outdoors is arguably an increased risk factor for them all. Cats who roam freely are more likely to be hit by cars, attacked by other animals (such as dogs or coyotes) or get into fights with other cats.

Being hit by a car can account for many of our patients' soft-tissue traumas, as well as abrasions and possibly fractured teeth. And those cats who end up in our claims data are the lucky ones who survive being hit and make it home – many do not.

While lacerations can also result from being hit by a car, bite wounds are from other animals. A scratch or wound on the eye can also often be the result of an encounter with another animal. And while some of these accidents may involve altercations between indoor pets living in the same household, many do not.

Keeping cats inside significantly reduces the risk of these five types of injuries. I know that some people believe cats cannot be happy inside, but there are many resources that can help you make your cat's indoor home a happy one. The data suggest a longer, healthier life for your cat if she's on the inside of your screen door, rather than on the outside.



Ben chillin' at the Farm, Home and Sport Show held at the Ramkota Hotel in February.





## Memorials and Honors

### January

Donation in memory of Brianne Bechtold by Monty and Peggy Bechtold and friends of Brianne.

Donation by Mary Lynn Collins in honor of Judy Hiatt, Joyce Westphal and Jeannne Schnidtgen.

In memory of Maggie Oliva and Delma Newling by Ann Fingerson.

### February

Donation in memory of Bert Neiber by Linda Dykstra.

You have no idea how long I've waited for you...



Don't Shop... **ADOPT!**



## Upcoming Events

April 5-6  
Zonta at the Pierre Mall

April 8  
Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

May 5  
Fiesta Supper at the Legion Cabin

Watch for more information to come on these events

# 5 Dog Myths:

## What You Think You Know May Be Wrong

**In the more than 30 years** I've been a practicing veterinarian, I've heard every misconception about pets there is. Many of these may have been considered accurate at one time but current thinking has a different take. That means I do a lot of myth-busting as I try to help educate people about their pets.

Here are the five most common misconceptions dog-lovers hold – and the truth everyone should know.



**Myth 1: Dogs should be bathed a couple of times a year. Frequent bathing is bad for the coat and skin.**

**Fact:** It's an old idea that frequent baths strip the skin and coat of moisture. A weekly bath not only makes your pet easier to live with (less shedding, less smell) but also can help prevent some skin diseases. There are all kinds of gentle shampoos for dogs, so ask your vet what might be best for your pet.

**Myth 2: Short-haired dogs shed less.**

**Fact:** Actually, long-haired dogs shed less because genetics dictate that they keep their fur longer. The practical way to end up with a dog who sheds only a little is to get a small dog with long hair. The less dog, the less fur. Even more effective is keeping a long-haired dog's coat trimmed short.

**Myth 3: A dog needs to get all his shots every year.**

**Fact:** Vaccinations are no longer one size fits all. Tailored to each dog's individual lifestyle, vaccinations now consist of core vaccines for certain diseases, some of which can be given at three-year-intervals, and optional vaccines for diseases for which some dogs may be exposed or are at higher risk for.

**Myth 4: Anesthesia is too dangerous for older pets.**

**Fact:** Pet owners need not be overly concerned about older pets undergoing anesthesia. Veterinary medicine has followed the course of human medicine when it comes to anesthetic safety, and that has dramatically lowered the risk for pets. If your senior pet suffers a condition (such as tooth decay or gum disease) that can be treated but requires anesthesia, by all means explore the option.

**Myth 5: Pain-management isn't important for pets and can even be bad for animals recovering from surgery.**

**Fact:** At one time common wisdom dictated that denying an animal pain medicine after surgery would keep him from moving around. But a crates and leash are far better for confining and restraining a dog after surgery. Pain medication should be given before, during, and after any procedure to ease suffering and support recovery. For pets with chronic pain, such as from arthritis, new medications, nutraceuticals, and what's called complementary medicine (such as acupuncture) can help put the bounce back in their step.





# 10 Dog Breeds that Shouldn't Live with Cats

While many dogs and cats can live harmoniously together, there are certain dog breeds with hunting instincts that may be too strong to handle daily life with a feline friend.

"Typically, sight hounds, which were originally bred to hunt rabbits, are most likely to have trouble with cats because their hunting instincts are triggered by their sense of sight," said American Kennel Club spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "When small animals move quickly, sight hounds react immediately."

Here are 10 dog breeds that, historically, don't do well with cats:

## Saluki

Though the Saluki appears to be graceful and fragile, it was bred to be an avid hunter and possesses the strength and endurance to chase quarry over long distances and difficult terrain, Peterson said. Originally used in Egypt to track and take down gazelle, the breed will instinctively run after anything that moves, including cats.

## Smooth Fox Terrier

Originally owned by farmers needing help to eradicate vermin and drive foxes from their underground dens, Smooth Fox Terriers are seldom used for hunting today but continue to maintain their drive and determination, Peterson explained. A bright, brave breed, the Smooth Fox Terrier loves games and requires regular exercise to harness its active nature. A protective breed prone to barking at strangers, Smooth Fox Terriers make excellent watchdogs and are not suggested to live in a feline household due to their high prey drive.



## Manchester Terrier

Bred to hunt rats and other small vermin, the Manchester Terrier can quickly turn into an efficient working dog in the backyard or field when he detects the presence of a rodent, according to Peterson. A clean, independent and sensitive breed, the Manchester Terrier makes a well-mannered and devoted pet. Active and alert, Manchester Terriers require moderate daily walks or a good off-leash romp in a safe area. Due to this breed's inquisitive terrier nature it thrives in households without cats.



## Schipperke

An extremely active dog bred to be a watchdog and vermin hunter, the Schipperke loves to be involved in what's going on around it, Peterson shared. Because of their watchdog tendencies, Schipperkes can turn into barkers if not taught otherwise and should be brought to obedience classes at a young age. Adaptable to both city and country living, the Schipperke enthusiastically participates in conformation and agility activities and requires minimal grooming aside from a weekly brushing and occasional bath. The Schipperke does best in a cat-free household due to its hunting instincts.

## Bluetick Coonhound

Used for trailing and treeing raccoons and other small animals, Bluetick Coonhounds are known for their ability to stay on even the most intricate of tracks, Peterson said. With droopy ears and a dark blue, mottled coat, Blueticks are hardy, athletic working dogs that excel in hunting, obedience and agility training. A lovable breed that gets along well with other dogs and children; however, they usually do not do well with cats. Blueticks require plenty of exercise and may be stubborn at times, requiring a strong hand in training.



## Whippet

A medium-sized sight hound, Whippets are known for being the fastest domesticated animals of their weight, capable of speeds up to 35 mph, according to Peterson. This breed was developed as a race dog and rabbit courser in England, the instinct to chase anything small and furry, including cats. While they're natural athletes when racing or coursing, Whippets are quiet and dignified in the home and make excellent housedogs.

## Afghan Hound

Originally used to hunt hare, wolves and even snow leopards, Afghan Hounds have the strength and speed to bring down prey in addition to the stamina needed to maintain a strenuous chase for a sustained period of time, Peterson explained. This dog breed is known to have a strong interest in chasing cats, which is why

*Continued on Page 6*





Be with those that  
bring out the best in you,  
not the stress in you.

## 10 Dog Breeds that Shouldn't Live with Cats, cont.

the Afghan Hound makes the not cat-friendly list.

Covered with thick, silky hair, Afghan Hounds can come in all colors and, in addition to hunting, they make excellent show dogs. While prized by their owners as companion dogs, the Afghan Hound does require regular grooming to maintain its coat and regular daily exercise.

### Bedlington Terrier

With a graceful appearance and lovable nature, the Bedlington Terrier was developed in England in the 1800's to hunt a variety of vermin. Known for its curly, woolly coat, the Bedlington has a mild and gentle personality and makes an energetic-but not too rambunctious-playmate for children, according to the AKC Bedlington Terriers tend to be unwelcoming to cats and love to chase other small animals as well.

### Australian Cattle Dog

A high-energy, extremely intelligent breed, Australian Cattle Dogs are ready and willing to work all day, Peterson shared. Their agility, strength and courageousness allow them to easily control and move cattle, even the most stubborn of cows! An exceptional problem solver and popular show breed, Australian Cattle Dogs need a job at home to keep them out of trouble, Peterson also explained.



The Australian Cattle Dog may tolerate cats if raised with them; however, due to their strong prey drive they tend to thrive in a cat-free household.

### Standard Schnauzer

Originated in Germany to guard the family and livestock and rid farmyards of vermin, Standard Schnauzers are sociable and affectionate, particularly with children. Intelligent but strong willed, Schnauzers require daily exercise and regular obedience training. Due to the Standard Schnauzer's fearless nature and high prey instinct it shouldn't live with small pets, including cats.

It's important to remember that a dog's ability to get along with cats will depend on the individual dog and extent of its prey drive. Dog owners should use a systematic approach to introducing a cat to its new home to ensure a smooth transition.

Peterson recommends keeping the dog and cat separated from each other for the first few days to let both parties become comfortable with each other's scents without thrusting them directly into play. After a few days, allow your dog to be in the same room in the cat after they've been exercised (and are calm) and provide plenty of positive reinforcements for appropriate behavior as an incentive to get your dog to continue to behave well in the cat's presence.

"Until the cat and dog are comfortable with each other, supervise their interactions and provide a way for the cat to escape," Peterson said. "A good example is a chair she can jump on to get to a space the dog can't reach."

