

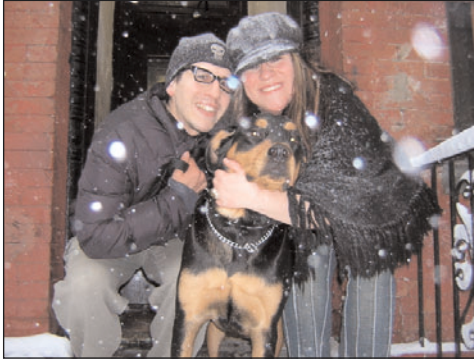
THE SCOOP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF FIRST RUN



What's The Scoop on *The Run*

By Cristina Moracho (MYA)



Erica & Jason with DALLAS

Have you ever wondered what that film crew was doing over the past year shooting everything from the building of the small dog run to your dog taking a crap in the corner?

"The Run" is a feature-length documentary directed by Erica Isaac and Siren Films that tells the story of the East Village through the lens of First Run. The film begins in the 1980s when dogs ran free on the center lawn of Tompkins Square. It chronicles the struggle spearheaded by Monay Germaine to obtain an official off-leash space in the park and continues through the recent controversy and ticketing that established the small dog run.

Ms. Isaac began the endeavor after adopting her two dogs, DETROIT and DALLAS, and became a frequent user of the run. Erica, a native New Yorker, states that her impetus for moving to the East Village was what the neighborhood had always symbolized to her. "I am new to the dog run. This made me feel weird about representing its culture. However the film is a story of the civic action and conviction that sets this neighborhood apart from others. The dogs provide a great backdrop for that story – they are humorous and human – however, the film is really about the people and legacy of the East Village."

Heather Malin, founder of the small dog run, also

served as one of the films producers. She states "a lot of what I expected to find in the east village was long gone by the time I arrived. But I found that spirit alive in the dog run. It wasn't as simple as discovering all the different types of people and their dogs. It was how tight knit the community was and how open they were with each other that brought it all home for me. We're all dog people after all."

If this all sounds too feel good, please don't get us wrong. "The Run" is rife with the stories and antics (of both dogs and people) that epitomizes the absurdity of the dog run that we all know and love.

Lucky for the Siren crew, the small dog run was born shortly after production began. The story of the East Village's critical mass of small dogs was the perfect way to talk about what the neighborhood is like today. The cameras arrived one night just as the small dog folks began a vote on a weight limit for dogs using the little run. A heated and bitter debate broke out that threatened to last all night. Finally a compromise of twenty-three pounds was eventually reached. As ridiculous as it may sound, it shows that people are as passionate about participating in this community today as they were ten years ago.

A rough cut of THE RUN was screened in October as part of the PETROPOLIS exhibit at The New-York Historical Society. If you missed it there will be plenty of chances to check out the full-length version of "The Run" when it arrives on the festival circuit in 2004.

There will also be a screening-cum-fundraiser in the neighborhood sometime in the next couple of months. Our intention is to have all ticket proceeds go to the dog run (where else?).

In the meantime you can watch the trailer and keep up to date on our website (www.the-run.com). You never know — your dog may end up on the big screen!

COLD WEATHER TIPS

What Dog Walkers Want You To Know

Here are some things you may want to consider during the winter. Never let your dog off the leash during a snowstorm -- especially in the country. Dogs frequently lose their sight and scent on snow & ice and easily become lost. Also cold weather dries out your dog's coat. Consider supplementing their diet with fish oil and Vitamin E to nourish their skin and fur. Also, if your dog is less active during winter months, increase their intake of protein and decrease their amount of carbs.

Deb Says: (917) 592-5991

Ice-melting chemicals and salts can cause severe burning to your dog's footpads. Pampers and Huggies make convenient and quick wet wipes to clean their feet.

Rick Says: (646) 283-7083

Musher's Secret, petroleum jelly, or PAM applied to your dog's footpads can reduce the pain and cracking associated with road salts. Another frequently seen foot problem is the formation of balls of ice between the pads and toes.

Greg Says: (917) 362-8272

Dogs like the sweet taste of anti-freeze but it can be lethal. If ingested -- even in small quantities -- it must be treated as a medical emergency. Call the vet immediately.

Eric Says: (917) 215-4808

Sections of sidewalks can carry a strong electric charge when wet with salt and ice. Don't let your dog near lampposts with exposed wires. Notice if they are jumping off the sidewalk -- some shorts in Con Ed wires are hidden underground.

Jen Says: (917) 519-LOVE

Never leave your dog alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator.

Virginia Says: (917) 412-8050

Consider getting a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck that also covers the base of the tail and underneath the belly. A sweater is regulation wear for city dogs in cold months.



Cathy with #24601 at the NYC AC&C adoption center in Manhattan

VIEWPOINT
New York City revamps its Center for Animal Care & Control

Is it more than just a name change?

By Cathy Sharick (PIP)

Three and a half years ago my family went to the New York City Animal Care & Control shelter (formerly the Center for Animal Care and Control) and adopted a dog. The process was not perfect but we were able to come home with a Flat-Coated Retriever mix who has been the center of attention in my parent's household ever since.

Spending time at the shelter made me realize that the people and animals there needed help. Dogs were in small cages and were hardly ever walked. The adoption workers were swamped and did not have adequate time to spend with all prospective adopters. Their lack of adequate caging, staffing and supplies was hampering their ability to give the animals the care they deserved.

I have been volunteering at the AC&C ever since. I've helped out with desktop publishing projects and offsite adoption events. Recently I have been working at the Manhattan shelter entering data, greeting prospective adopters, walking, microchipping, and washing the dogs. I love seeing my work pay off when one of the animals I've spent time with walks out of the shelter with a new owner. It is a great feeling to think that they are getting a second chance to have a happy life.

It's nice when animals get adopted but there are some stark realities when working at an open admission shelter. I spend time with dogs and cats that have a chance of being put to sleep. Some will be euthanized because they are too sick or dangerous while others will be

simply put down because there isn't enough room. Whatever the reason, it's heartbreaking. I've learned to avoid thinking about that aspect of the shelter as much as possible.

However, I do have hope that shelter conditions will improve dramatically over the next few years as the AC&C campaigns to make New York the first major metropolitan "no-kill" city in the United States. I have seen a shift towards making the shelter more inviting and friendly to prospective adopters. Some of those changes include staff reorganization, a user friendly website (www.nycacc.org), shelter renovation plans and the introduction of new funds.

In order for AC&C's no kill mission to work, the community needs to cooperate by reducing the unwanted animal population. The AC&C has programs that can help. For example, they provide low cost spay/neutering for dogs and cats that would otherwise be reproducing. And they microchip pets so that they can safely be returned to their owners if lost.

What a "no kill" shelter means for the AC&C may differ from other rescue groups. Sick or very dangerous animals may still need to be euthanized at the AC&C. (Other groups refuse to put down any animals and may keep unadoptable cats and dogs in cages for years.) The new Animal Care & Control wants all adoptable animals to have a chance at finding a home. The goal is for euthanasia decisions to be a last resort in deciding what's right for the animal and the public – instead of making the decision based on lack of space and resources.

According to their website, the AC&C has 3 shelters that care for more than 57,000 animals annually. Current adoption programs are able to place approximately 12,000 of these dogs and cats into homes each year. If you'd like to adopt please call or visit one of their shelters.

New York Animal Care & Control's Manhattan shelter is located at
326 East 110th Street
(between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
New York, NY
(212) 722-3620.

For more information on adopting and volunteering, log on to
www.nycacc.org

BLIND ITEMS
Poop Scoop

Which **Italian Greyhound** continues to deny mob ties despite the mysterious disappearances of the last three dogs that mounted him uninvited? Which much-maligned **French Poodle** should have asked to see a birth certificate, didn't, and is now in hiding with **Michael Jackson in Neverland**? Which **English Bulldog's** owner has been innocently leaving conservative talk-radio shows on all day to "keep the dog company" and is now coming home to a **right-wing canine-conspiracy theorist**? Which hard-drinking **Basset Hound** swore off the sauce when he thought the moon had disappeared during a howling binge, not realizing it was actually the recent **lunar eclipse**? Which **mucho-unhappy Malamute** is suing his owner, the vet, and anyone else he can get his paws on after he woke up from a trip "just to get your nails clipped" missing a **much beloved bit of anatomy**?

THE DOG DISH
Supplement with Fish Oil and Vitamin E



Fish Oils are a natural skin and coat conditioner and offer numerous health benefits

Just a teaspoon of fish oil a day will maintain your pet's healthy skin and coat throughout the dry winter months. The oil is also valuable at higher doses in fighting cancers, arthritis, immune system weakness, cardiac disease and inflammatory conditions. The benefits behind the research point to the Omega-6 and Omega-3 Fatty Acids found in deep sea fish body oil.

Dr. Ian Billinghurst (BARFWORLD.com) warns that extra vitamin E is needed when giving fish oil since the fatty acids metabolize much of the body's natural supply. Try 1 capsule (400 I.U. per teaspoon of fish oil.) In addition Whole Dog Journal informs us to always supplement with Vitamin E throughout the winter when the Vitamin E from the sun is virtually non-existent in New York and New England.



▲ **COACH DOG COLLAR WITH NOVELTY CHARM**

Update your pooch's wardrobe with a chic, colorful collar in sturdy, stylish leather. Calfskin with vachetta leather lining. Available at www.coach.com, \$42

▼ **ULTRA OMEGA-3 FISH OIL, MISSING LINK SUPPLEMENT, & SYN-FLEX LIQUID GLOCSAMINE**

Super Food Supplements that will support healthy skin, coat, cartilage, digestive health and balanced energy levels. Missing Link is available at **Alphapets**, \$20. Fish Oil at **Commodities Whole Foods**, \$10. Purchase liquid glocosamine at www.synflexonline.com, \$30



Our Kind of Gift Guide

Give them the duds and gear they deserve to survive another hateful shopping season!



▲ **K-9 FLOAT COAT™ By Ruffwear**

Rated by Whole Dog Journal as one of the best new products of the year. The Float Coat is buoyant for the sports enthusiasts and stable enough to assist therapeutic swims. Available at www.ruffwear.com, \$60



▲ **PUCHI PINK GLITTER CARRYING PURSE**

As seen in the feature film, Legally Blonde. Available at www.puchibag.com, \$405



▼ **HAVABALL By Kong**
3-IN-1 Toy: Its a chew toy, treat dispenser and a teeth cleaner. We're very impressed! Find at www.fourpawsclub.com, \$11



▲ **HOT CHILLY'S POLYTHERMALS**

Who's staying warm at the dog run? You'll be. Sold in hot soup cans at **Paragon Sports**, \$24 - \$36

► **EARTHBATH SHAMPOOS & BARS**

Earthbath® shampoos, and bars were formulated for the health of your beloved without chemicals or detergents. Fragrant with natural oils and essences. Available at **Whiskers**, \$8 - \$18



◀ **YOUR DOG, WHOLE DOG JOURNAL, & THE BARK**

For a neighborhood on the edge, these publications offer the latest in holistic feeding, healthcare and positive training techniques. Subscribe at amazon.com \$15 - \$20 / yearly



▲ **DOGMPOLITAN CUSTOM BUILT PET FURNITURE**

Now every family member has their own favorite chair. Beautifully handcrafted chairs, couches, chaises and beds. Available at www.tail-waggers.com. \$250 - \$800



Ask The Trainer

By Stacy Alldredge

Stacy is available for group or private classes. Call her at (212) 414-1551

Q: My dog is fairly well-behaved in my city apartment. However, I'll be going home for the holidays and I don't know how I'm going to keep him in control around my relatives. He jumps up when it comes to greeting them and constantly begs for food. If they aren't "dog aware" he'll actually steal food off their plates and whine like crazy if we don't allow him in the dining room. He sizes up my family and strangers and seems to know immediately what he can get away with.

-- Help, I can't take him anywhere.

"Fairly well-behaved" means different things to different people. If you were in my office, I would ask you several questions to get the full definition of what you consider well-behaved. With a situation such as this, the thing that is most obvious is that clear planning ahead is crucial. Dogs are quite intelligent, and as such, they absolutely know who they can manipulate. They truly are masters at reading body language! The good news is that this is a skill to be appreciated and can be channeled into a well-mannered and great companion. Let's start with the basics:

1. The number one thing to do while you are away is make sure he has a leash on at all times. A nylon leash works perfectly for indoor training. This is to ensure that you have control over his behavior, particularly to prevent him from jumping up on guests.
2. Practice having him sit/stay before you feed him, before he goes into the dog run, on the elevator, or before greeting a dog or person on the street. The idea is to give him a foundation of how to listen when he is very excited.
3. You have a little time before the holidays. Practice "limit setting" in your apartment so that when you are in someone else's home, it is not the first time he has to cope with not doing exactly what he wants to do. If he doesn't have limit setting at home, it is very difficult to maintain limits in a new and more exciting environment.

For example, is he allowed on all the furniture? Try establishing at least one thing he can't lounge on.

4. Prior to going home for the holidays, practice tethering your dog and have him down/stay during all of your meals so that he gets time to practice. You can even increase the difficulty of this exercise by tethering him in the apartment with food placed on various tables just out of his reach.

5. Finally, give him extra exercise the day(s) of the holiday -- a tired dog is a great way to start off a good visit. Also insist that family and friends do not feed him from the table so as to discourage this behavior. Have a great holiday!

Q. My small dog was described as a mouthy puppy. I could correct his aggressive behavior when he was little by picking him up. But now he's a full grown dog and his nipping has developed in to full grown bites. He'll actually have a melt down and bite me if I try to correct him over the slightest thing. I've grown used to it and have learned how not to set him off. However I'm worried he could do this with a stranger.

-- Help, I'm living with a little nuclear reactor.

Okay, I will not mince words. You and your dog need to go on a behavior management program. Accept that what you are doing is not working -- especially since his behavior is getting worse. You need a new plan of action.

Biting is never acceptable nor is it a simple matter. It sounds as though you are down-playing your dog's behavior, which is dangerous for you, your dog and anyone who comes into contact with him. Aggression is a serious behavior problem -- serious enough that your dog could lose his life over it. Your dog deserves a chance to improve his behavior. And you, as a responsible owner, need to get him the help he needs. Seek professional training now! Make sure to work with someone who is a specialist in behavior and not just simply dog training. There is a difference.

For the record, aggression programs should be based on positive reinforcement -- not physical correction. Know that aggression is not a quick fix. Dogs are not little machines that can easily be reprogrammed.

Behavior problems don't develop overnight and they don't go away overnight. It is heart-breaking to know some of the dogs I have worked with that could have had a great life but their owners were unwilling to remain on a behavior program long enough to resolve the unwanted behavior. Many of those dogs were given up or put down. Please start a behavior modification program with a specialist now.

For more information, log online:

<http://www.whoswalkingwhodogtraining.com>

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Thank You Halloween Shouts



Nikaela Straus & JACKIE take a page from the Harry Potter books and win "Best In Show" at FIRST RUN's 13th Annual Halloween Parade.

Thanks to everyone who helped out and attended FIRST RUN'S 13th Annual Halloween Parade and made it such a success. Nearly 100 dogs registered for the official competition and we attracted a crowd of 400 strong. I think that is a record for us!

First Run would also like to thank all the retailers who donated money and prizes for the competition.

- Stacy Alldredge, \$300**
- Alpha Pets, \$150**
- Chatsii Hair Salon, \$75**
- Virginia Dogwalker, \$75**
- Commodities Whole Foods, \$50**
- Dawgz On Park, \$25**
- Whiskers, \$25**

And more thanks to the volunteer committee: Abby (QUINCY), Deb (EMMA), Erica & Jason (DETROIT & DALLAS), Garrett (JAVA & KAI), Gecko (MAHOLO), Greg (LEO & GARTH), Heather (NEO), Lauren (BERNADETTE), Lyle (LOLA) & Mark (BIGGIE). As well as our judges, Stacy Alldredge, Marie Higney, Lydia DesRoche, Mary Connelly, Justine Schuurmans, Mark Coatney and Jasmine Nielsen. -- garrett