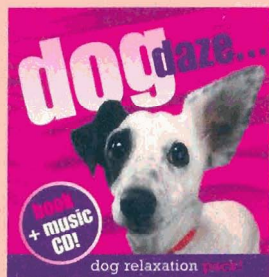


NEWSTUFF



■ **Surprise a Pet!** gift club will send your dog unique gifts throughout the year. Each order ships in an attractive gift box containing pet boutique items not available from mass retailers, including a grooming product, size-specific toy, and treat. Exactly what's in each gift is a surprise to pet and owner. All items include a money-back guarantee. ■ \$25.95 to \$35.95, from Surprise a Pet!; (888) 702-2227; www.surpriseapet.com

PAWTURNER



■ **Dog Daze: Dog Relaxation Pack** (The Music Sales Group, \$14.95) contains an illustrated hardcover book with adorable dog photos and memorable quotes, along with an accompanying CD, "Relaxation Music For Your Dog." Composed by the Japan School of Music Therapy, the CD features exclusive pet-friendly frequencies designed to calm your dog.

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MONOPOLY GETS A NEW DOGGIE >>



COURTESY HASBRO GAMES

With this popular board game, plenty of folks reach for the doggie token, rather than the thimble or shoe. But what the pooch looks like depends on which Monopoly version you play.

While the Scottish Terrier holds its place in the traditional game, a Labradoodle is featured in Monopoly: Here & Now, a fresh edition with a modern twist. Game designers selected the curly-haired Poodle and Labrador Retriever mix, along with a laptop, cell phone, and other modern items that weren't available in 1935 when Monopoly was created, says game spokesman Mark Newman.

The American Kennel Club doesn't acknowledge Labradoodles as a breed and sent a letter to Hasbro, which owns the game, expressing disappointment, says Lisa Peterson, director of AKC club communications.

Labradoodle lovers are delighted, however, and eager to buy the game. Scottie fans, and probably much of the public, are likely sticking with the familiar version because it's a classic, says Karen Hansen of Elberon, president of the Scottish Terrier Club of America.

— Patti Roth

THE PINK RIBBON DOG >>

Margie is a breast cancer survivor. The perky 10-year-old Boston Terrier mix now lifts the spirits of women who face the same life-altering disease at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

"People can't believe that Margie had a mastectomy — they've never heard of that," says Barbara Cowen, a volunteer coordinator for the hospital's Pets Offer Ongoing Care and Healing program. "When patients see Margie, they say, 'Look at the little dog's scars, and look how well she's doing!'"

Owner Jennifer Gendron began volunteering last year with her people-loving pooch, and the two spend every other Wednesday at the hospital. The moment they arrive, Gendron says her rescued mutt perks up.

"Margie seems to know that she's needed, like it's her job," says the proud owner. "When she comes home, she's exhausted and conks out. She gives the patients all she has."

— Maryann Mott



COURTESY CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

GROUP URGES PET OWNERS TO PLAN AHEAD

What would happen to your dog if you suddenly died or became incapacitated? Most people don't think about making formal arrangements, assuming they'll outlive their dogs or that friends and family will take care of them.

Consequently, more than 500,000 pets are euthanized in shelters and veterinary offices each year after their owners die, according to Amy Shever, founder of 2nd Chance 4 Pets, a nonprofit organization in Los Gatos, Calif.

"It's a huge problem that is hardly recognized," Shever says. "We're determined to make a difference in this area through awareness and education."

Shever recently kicked off the Orphaned Pet Awareness campaign.

Through workshops nationwide, she plans to educate animal welfare groups, veterinarians, and pet owners about lifetime care planning options, which include establishing emergency plans and selecting committed caregivers.

Planning ahead ensures that pets are guaranteed life no matter what happens to their human companions, Shever says. For more information, visit www.2ndchance4pets.org — M.M.