



# Gasterville Natural Pet Nutrition

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## Featured Breed Links

<http://www.terrier.com/>  
<http://www.russellrescue.com/>  
<http://www.thejackrussellstore.com/index.html>  
<http://www.jackrussells.com/>

## Featured Health Condition Link

<http://www.orionfoundation.com/>  
**The Orion Foundation – founded to research FIP**  
<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/resources/brochure/fip.html>  
**Cornell's FIP brochure**

## Other Links

<http://gastervillepet.tripod.com>  
**Part blog, part photo album, the site is updated at least monthly**

[www.meankitty.com](http://www.meankitty.com)  
**A fun site from the cat's point of view**

## Contact Us

<http://www.gasterville.com>  
[admin@gasterville.com](mailto:admin@gasterville.com)

## Welcome to our First E-Newsletter!

We want to stay in touch with our customers and friends. Some of you may have previously ordered our all natural pet treats, others may have been eBay customers of our store "Desdemona's Garden", and the rest of you are no doubt friends and family members. We'll use this e-newsletter format to keep ALL of you up-to-date regarding current Gasterville Natural news and what we have planned for the future.



## What's our story?

Simply put, Gasterville Natural Pet Nutrition focuses on nutrition and general care of companion animals, especially cats and dogs, with an emphasis on all natural and eco-friendly sources, products and ideas. Our focus at this time is educating pet "guardians" in the care and feeding of their pets.

This is done through consultations, either by phone, email, or, if possible, in person. In the future we hope to offer canine massage, especially for "working" dogs – K9 unit, guide and helper dogs, and those involved in detection and search and rescue – as well as pets who suffer from joint or muscular conditions.

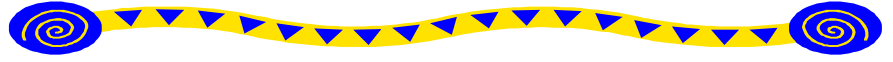
## Animals in the News



### Drug Dealer Names Police Dog in Lawsuit

An Athens, Ohio, police dog has been named as one of the parties in a suit filed by convicted drug dealer Wayne Green. Mr. Green claims his furniture business was illegally searched by the dog and others in 2003. Andi, the Athens County Sheriff's Department dog, helped searchers find 50 pounds of marijuana. Mr. Green was convicted of possession and trafficking and will be sentenced in January. Sheriff Vern Castle is quoted as saying he doesn't know what Green is thinking by suing the dog. As a good lawyer should,

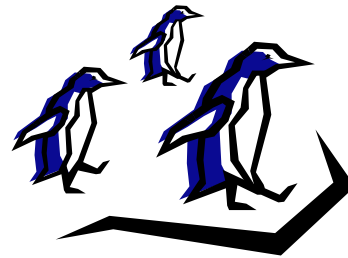
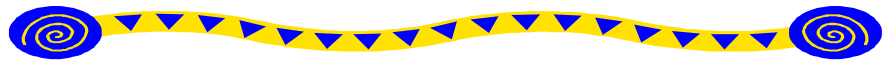
the prosecutor who served Andi with the complaint made sure to get his paw print.



## Man Gives Dog Mouth-To-Snout Resuscitation

Boston television station WCVB reported that a Salem, Massachusetts firefighter has gone above and beyond the call of duty recently when he saved a family pet – he gave a dog mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Pixie was in bad shape after a house fire. Firefighter Wayne Silva, who lives down the street and knows Pixie, saw the dog's condition. Mr. Silva didn't hesitate to perform mouth-to-snout resuscitation, breathing life through Pixie's nose. Pixie survived, although the family lost their home in the fire.



## Zoo Officials Put Plump Penguins On Exercise Regime

Zookeepers in northern Japan have come up with a solution for their chubby king penguin problems – exercise! Authorities at Asahiyama Zoo are taking the penguins on 500-yard walks around the snowy

grounds twice a day. Since the penguins have tender webbed feet and need snow to do any significant walking, the workout program can only take place during the winter. Since winter is when the birds put on weight, the workout program is perfectly suited. In order to withstand the cold, penguins have a habit of standing around very still. Just as in humans, that's when the flab accumulates. Perhaps there's a lesson here for us!



## Do you have any idea?

Is there a companion animal issue or question you'd like to see addressed in a future newsletter? Do you have a news story to share?

Send an email to [admin@gasterville.com](mailto:admin@gasterville.com) and you may see your name in an upcoming issue!

## Featured Breed

Each month we hope to feature a popular or perhaps not so well-known breed of dog. We'll also feature links to more information on the featured breed.



### Breed: Jack Russell Terrier

You've probably seen at least *one* of these

famous pooches:

- Wishbone, star of PBS children's television series
- Eddy on NBC's "Frasier" (pictured here)
- Milo, in "The Mask" with Jim Carey
- Gene Hackman's loyal companion in "Crimson Tide"
- The famous RCA dogs, Nipper and Chipper

These Jack Russell Terriers, for all their cuteness and appeal on TV and in the movies, are professionally trained and handled, and are very obedient only for VERY short periods of time. A "real life" Jack Russell will NOT be the same as portrayed in the movies, on TV, or other forms of media. This is an important consideration for anyone wishing to adopt a Jack Russell.



### **Background and Ancestry**

Some facts to consider about these high-energy, too-smart-for-their-own-good, pups:

This "big dog in a little body" is first and foremost a hunting dog. A Jack Russell is answering the instinctive call to go underground. If they don't have an outlet for this natural instinct, they'll invent all sorts of fun ways to fill that need, including chasing cars, hunting birds, bugs or leaves, endlessly digging in the soil and acting as the protector of their universe. And with their exaggerated self-image, they are fearless, and can often be aggressive with other dogs.

With their extreme intelligence, they require firm, consistent discipline. Much like children, they will test their limits – and often will train their owners before the owner knows what has happened! Because of their assertive nature, a Jack Russell must be understood and handled properly!

Speaking of discipline and training – they require at least basic obedience training. Their life may depend on it! Even a well trained dog will be tempted to chase something interesting, or disappear into a hole while you're not looking. When not on a lead, a Jack Russell is in a dangerous situation unless in a safe environment with an experienced owner.

Most behavioral problems are due to a lack of companionship, discipline, activity and exercise – this goes for any breed, but especially for a Jack Russell. All that energy has to go somewhere, and they can be destructive if not exercised, socialized, and trained. Of course, obtaining your puppy from a reliable breeder, who breeds more for personality than hunting (the "Parsons Jack Russell" is bred for hunting), will make raising a Jack Russell a more pleasurable experience!

A Jack Russell will remain active well into its 15-year-plus life span; the need for activity and a desire to hunt continues for their entire lifetime. Another reason to make sure your Jack Russell is trained!

All in all, a Jack Russell requires a long-term commitment to firm and proper discipline, training, activity and exercise. Their unique character, intelligence and high energy level can bring

great joy, but with more effort on the owners part that most other breeds. If this type of relationship does not appeal to you, then you may want to consider another breed. Jack Russell Terriers aren't for the faint-hearted!



Our thanks to Rachel and Norm for pictures of Otto, their Jack Russell (at left and above). Otto is a recent graduate of obedience school, and Norm and Rachel are commended for being responsible pet owners – they did their homework before welcoming this little guy into their home.

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## Featured Health Issue: FIP

### **Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) – a Mystery Which Needs to be Solved**

Imagine a disease that has only one diagnostic test, and it's so inaccurate it's useless. A disease which can incubate for weeks or even years before manifesting itself. A disease which is, according to almost every veterinary reference, fatal.

FIP is that disease.

Recent research has shown that this mutant coronavirus (a group of viruses that also cause disease in pigs, dogs and humans) arises within an individual cat. Thus, we now know that the vast majority of cats do not "catch" FIP, but they develop it themselves from their own mutation of the virus. Transmission of FIP from cat to cat is considered to be rare, which is the only saving grace of the virus. The virus incubates anywhere from a few weeks to several years before symptoms appear.

Blood work will show that the cat has developed anemia, other than that, most testing is done to rule out other conditions. Since the diagnostic test to see if a cat is carrying the virus is extremely inaccurate, many veterinarians no longer even test for this virus.

Outward signs include gradual loss of appetite, and, subsequently, weight. A cat will become inactive and subdued, almost seeming depressed. Other common symptoms are fever, rough hair coat and, possibly, accumulation of fluid in the chest or abdomen. Other physical symptoms will manifest as the virus progresses.

Because each cat can display different symptoms that are similar to those of many other diseases, FIP is often one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose. And with an almost 100% mortality rate, most vets can only recommend making the cat comfortable, and trying to keep the appetite sharpened enough to keep the pet from losing any more weight.

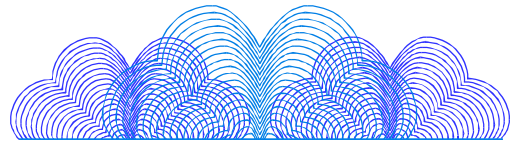
It's reported that there have been some satisfactory results in cases where the cats were treated with homeopathy and nutrition. Much like humans who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, turning to alternative medicine is a personal decision.



We have a very sad reason to highlight FIP this month – our four year old domestic medium hair, Jasmine, was recently diagnosed with what appears to be FIP. We'll be adding Jasmine's story to the Tripod site soon, along with a diary of the care and treatment she's receiving.

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Thanks for reading our first issue...we'll "see" you next month.



# Gasterville Natural Pet Nutrition

**Helping companion animals live a  
happy, healthy natural life**