Our Pet Guide provides you with great articles and information regarding pet care, nutrition, safety, fun and more.
Bridget DiMisa Bruno Realtor at Heritage House Sotheby's International
23 West River Rd., Rumson
BridgetBruno.HeritageHouseSothebysRealty.com

Castle of Dreams Animal Rescue
434 Cliffwood Ave., Aberdeen

Since 1991, Bridget DiMisa Bruno has been known as a prominent real estate sales executive, helping buyers and sellers with luxury, single-family homes in Monmouth County.

Animal lovers also know her for her volunteer work with Castle of Dreams Animal Rescue (CODAR) which rescues and fosters dogs from high-kill shelters all over the East Coast. It began six years ago when she and her daughter, Brooke, began volunteering with CODAR. The mother-daughter team is proud to have fostered more than 40 dogs and puppies. Two months ago, Bridget put her real estate skills to work and helped CODAR’s Board of Trustees purchase its first building which serves as the headquarters and host site for office work, group meetings, adoption events and meet-and-greets.

CODAR truly makes dreams come true for rescued animals. All dogs are matched and live with foster volunteers where they receive the proper care, love and attention they deserve, until they find the forever family they so desperately need. CODAR is an all-volunteer organization that depends solely on adoption fees and donations from the general public to operate. CODAR is an all-volunteer organization. All donations are tax deductible and are utilized strictly for the rescue and care of the animals.

Bridget Bruno is a five-star professional, award winner nine years in a row. She is in the top 7 percent of realtors in the United States, is a five-star Zillow-rated agent and a Circle of Excellence Award winner from 2011 to 2018. To see her new listings, visit BridgetBruno.HeritageHouseSothebysRealty.com.

She encourages everyone to get involved with Castle of Dreams. You can start by visiting Castle-of-Dreams.com. Bridget also invites everyone to the 13th annual Fall Gift Auction on Thursday, Oct. 24, at Addison Park 150 Rt. 35 in Aberdeen. She also invites you to a night of game show-style fun. It’s “Bark or No Bark” on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 7 to 10 pm at Cliffwood Beach Community Center in Aberdeen. Tickets are $30 per person and include an interactive game show with a chance to win fabulous prizes or duds depending on the “bark” (deal). Bring your own food and drink. Complimentary dessert and coffee will be provided.

Let your pets enjoy the great outdoors with peace of mind, knowing they are protected by a beautiful, high-quality fence from Carl’s Fencing, Decking & Home Improvements. Family-owned and operated for more than 25 years, the creative team at Carl’s uses the highest quality of fencing materials to improve your home’s value and appearance. Those at Carl’s believe their customers become part of their family.

The Carl’s team of expert craftsmen works closely with you to design a fence that fits your needs and style – from the simplest post-and-rail or chain link job, to multi-level mixed product installs, including vinyl, wood, aluminum and custom.

Regardless of which style you choose, Carl’s high-quality fencing products can be customized to virtually any color or finish you have in mind. And their Home Improvement Division has the capabilities to add other design aspects to your home, such as building a new deck, pergola or windows, roofing and more.

Visit their website to learn more about Carl’s, see lots of examples of their highly-reviewed services, or schedule a free in-home estimate for your project. Carl’s Fencing, Decking & Home Improvements has an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and dozens of positive reviews. Keep your pets safe and your home beautiful; go with Carl’s and be “Surrounded By The Best” for years to come.
New Jersey’s Largest Fencing, Decking, and Exteriors Specialists

Family Owned & Operated for Over 25 Years

We install beautiful and durable fences, decks, railing, outdoor living spaces, and other home improvement products, such as windows, roofing, and siding, all of which are among the best available in the industry and can be custom-designed to complement your aesthetic tastes.

Carl’s gives back to community through: Canine Care Givers · Field of Dreams · Hope Sheds Light · Monmouth County Sheriff · N. Ocean Habitat For Humanity · Toys for Tots · Tom’s River Schools

We treat our customers (and their pets) as members of our own family. Let us help you fence in your yard and keep your adorable pets safe!

Family Owned & Operated for Over 25 Years

We install beautiful and durable fences, decks, railing, outdoor living spaces, and other home improvement products, such as windows, roofing, and siding, all of which are among the best available in the industry and can be custom-designed to complement your aesthetic tastes.

Carl’s gives back to community through: Canine Care Givers · Field of Dreams · Hope Sheds Light · Monmouth County Sheriff · N. Ocean Habitat For Humanity · Toys for Tots · Tom’s River Schools

We treat our customers (and their pets) as members of our own family. Let us help you fence in your yard and keep your adorable pets safe!

The Dan Gentile Dog Training Center
692 Lakewood-Farmingdale Rd. (Route 547), Howell
732-938-5040
NJDog.com, email dgentile@njdog.com
Open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 5pm, closed Sunday

For more than 40 years, The Dan Gentile Dog Training Center has been working with dogs and their owners, helping them enjoy a happy lifetime together. Experts at the center ask, “You send your child to school, why not send your dog?” Don’t wait until you have a grown dog with bad habits. It’s never too late to start training at The Dan Gentile Dog Training Center. For decades, Dan Gentile has been offering his effective “Train While Boarding” program. Through patience, understanding and the skills of a professional, your dog’s full potential will be developed, helping create the type of relationship with your canine companion you want.

Under careful supervision and Dan’s time-tested methods, dogs learn proper manners and commands while having the time of their lives on the beautiful 10-acre country setting in Howell.

As of one of America’s foremost trainers of dogs and dog handlers, Dan Gentile apprenticed under some of the top dog handlers in both the United States and Europe and studied at Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine and Ontario Veterinary College in Canada.

The training center takes your dog’s safety, health and well-being seriously during their two-week stay. Each dog has access to a large, upgraded outdoor play area at no additional charge. The heated and air-conditioned facility also has air purifiers for virus-free air. The center is approved by the Board of Health, and there are no pesticides used on the property.

All of the training is guaranteed, for as long as you own your dog, meaning if you ever have a problem with your dog’s training – whether it’s three months or three years from the time you pick them up – just call, and trainers will help work with you and your dog to correct the problem.

Dogs on the Farm
790 Kings Highway East, Atlantic Highlands
732-872-7543
email DogsOnTheFarm@gmail.com, dogsonthefarm.com
Daycare hours: 7 am to 7 pm

When a dog visits Dogs On The Farm & Cats Too for a vacation stay or a day of daycare, it’s like entering doggie paradise. Suburban and urban dogs can’t help but get excited over the scents, sights and sounds of the horse farm. What a play day!

Even more exciting is seeing their friends from their last visit. It’s like “Cheers” – everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came. Staff and doggie friends greet arriving dogs happily and welcome them to play, run, climb and swim in the large yards.

continue on page 36
Pet parents have been trusting Dogs On The Farm with their dogs for 17 years because of the staff’s outstanding service and high-quality care. The modern, clean and safe facility has secure fences and well-trained staff. But, maybe most important to the dogs themselves, is the fun and loving environment. Every staff member is a dog lover who loves providing visiting dogs the best stay possible, whether that means lots of time playing with other dogs, private walks around the farm, cuddle time, training games or other activities. Enrichment activities change daily and focus on a dog’s hierarchy of needs, including physical, mental, emotional and social needs.

Pet parents can view their dogs playing and having fun from live webcams and daily photos and videos, but the real proof comes when the dog finds out they’re back at Dogs On The Farm. They pull their owners right off their feet to get in and play. It’s so exciting; owners always have to spell out “F-A-R-M” while discussing vacation plans.

Visit Dogs On The Farm online to read more about doggie enrichment activities you can try at home and to view a sample of Dogs On The Farm’s monthly enrichment activities calendar.

For nearly 50 years, the Palazzo family has been dedicated to pets and their owners. The two Purr’n Pooch Pet Resorts are among the most respected and well-loved premier pet hotels on the Jersey Shore and in the state. The family and the Purr’n Pooch staff have a natural connection with dogs, and they also offer some of the finest cat boarding facilities. The numerous services range from cat and dog boarding, grooming, training, daycare and aquatic exercise.

The facilities are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and are recommended by more than 100 veterinarians throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. The buildings are specifically designed and built for the care of pets. The resorts are fully equipped with a backup generators and hospital-grade ventilation systems. Paws down, Purr’n Pooch offers the best experience for your pets. From the custom-designed lodging, canine antimicrobial turf play areas, indoor and outdoor pools to award-winning groomers and certified trainers, you’ll find almost anything your pet may need. The Palazzo family and staff of Purr’n Pooch are dedicated to providing the best of the best to all their clients and guests.

Purr’n Pooch has two locations: Tinton Falls and Wall Township. For more information, visit them on the web and on their Facebook and Instagram pages.
It has been well-documented that Americans are increasingly devoted to their pets, seeking to include them in every facet of family life. Municipalities, businesses and the tourism industry have taken note, offering more and more pet-friendly options that won’t take a big bite out of one’s budget, force families to leave pets home alone for hours on end, or search for affordable and reliable kennels for longer stays. With those thoughts in mind, this month’s column takes a look at some fun places in our area that welcome Fluffy or Fido – because the furry members of the family would surely enjoy a day trip, too!

Just a stone’s throw from home, the Monmouth County Park System contains two specially designated off-leash dog areas for dog owners and their canine companions. In Lincroft, off of Newman Springs Road, the Thompson Park Off-Leash Dog Area is open daily from 8 am to dusk and combines two areas – one parcel of 1 ¼ acres for dogs more than 35 pounds and one ½ acre area for smaller pups weighing 35 or fewer pounds. Visitors may park in the Three Barns parking lot adjacent to the off-leash area. Water is available, and toilets are nearby in the Creative Arts Center. Surrounding the off-leash areas are 667 beautiful acres at Thompson Park that are perfect for strolling – with a leash, of course.

The park system’s second off-leash dog area is at the Wolf Hill Recreation Area on Crescent Place in Oceanport. Also open daily from 8 am to dusk, it offers a combined space for dogs of all sizes, plus a smaller area for those 35 or fewer pounds. Pooshees and their people will find three concrete patios, each with a sheltered picnic table. Dog waste bags and garbage cans are available, and there are portable toilets near the parking lot, but no water source. There is also plenty of parking. Beyond the off-leash area are another 92 acres to enjoy exploring together.

For both Monmouth County Park System sites, puppies must be at least 4 months old, and dogs 6 months or older must be spayed or neutered. All dogs need to be up-to-date with vaccinations and wear a collar with license. Each pet owner may bring up to two dogs and are required to stay with them and carry a leash for each pet. Children younger than 8 years old are not permitted in the off-leash areas and need to be supervised by an adult. So as to avoid the puppy parks being too packed, there is a limit of 20 dogs/25 owners at Thompson Park and 25 dogs/35 owners at Wolf Hill Recreation.

A bit further south is the area known by locals as the “dog beach.” Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area is located on Third Avenue at the Manasquan Inlet. Here, pets whose owners travel from far and wide have the opportunity to enjoy some uninhibited doggie paddling in the cool water on a hot summer day, or simply frolic along the beach for a spirited game of catch. Bear in mind that this 55-acre site, also part of the Monmouth County Park System, is not an off-leash park, so you’ll still need to keep your pet tethered on a leash while playing or doggy-paddling. A portion of the beach is designated as dog-free. Dog owners and their pets can enjoy the front (east) portion of the beach while the back (west) portion is preserved for other beach activities.

If you’d like to go a bit further afield, there are lots of other off-leash dog parks that provide room to freely roam in other communities all around the state, listings for which – not only for New Jersey, but other states, as well – can be found online. And day trips don’t just mean playing in grassy parks. For Jersey Shore residents, one of the great joys in life is living within an easy distance of the beach – and “life’s a beach” for Jersey dogs, too!

From Sandy Hook in the north all the way down the coast to Cape May in the south, there are sandy spots that welcome our canine companions. It’s worth noting, however, that most beach towns don’t allow you to walk your pet along the shore or on the boardwalk at certain hours of day or during the summer season, but the off-season months (the starting and ending dates of which may vary by town) are a doggy’s dream for romps along the beach, jumping in the surf, bird watching (or bird chasing!), and even checking out lighthouses and quaint, historic sites. Gateway National Park at Sandy Hook in Highlands is dog-friendly all year long on the inlet (or bay) side of the Hook at Plum Island and Horseshoe Cove, but dogs must be leashed at all times. From Sept. 16 through March 14, dogs can go on the oceanside beaches. For more information, visit nps.gov/gate/planyourvisit/pets.

Asbury Park also embraces doggy visitors in a special way and is considered by some to be among the most pet-friendly towns in the state. Dog owners can toast to that at the popular Wonder Bar, where – on various days and hours, and for different size dogs – four-legged friends can join their two-legged drinking buddies at Yappy Hour and play in a large fenced yard, complete with their own pooch pools to cool off.

Wherever you and man’s best friend decide to go together, remember to bear in mind the common courtesies, rules and regulations that are enforced in all public areas. This includes cleaning up after your dog, carrying a leash at all times, not bringing along aggressive or sick dogs or puppies that are too young, and making sure your pet is licensed and vaccinated (and preferably spayed or neutered). Owners are expected to supervise their dogs – and yes, their children, too, especially with pets they don’t know – and are responsible for their behavior.

If you and Fido are whimpering for a day of rest, relaxation and recreation together, there are plenty of options for some doggone fun!
Most parents count fingers and toes. One local man counts fingers, toes, claws, hooves, paws and wings. Meet Colts Neck’s Ron Iannacone.

Iannacone, a hobby farmer and board-certified otolaryngologist (surgeon of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck) originally from Hawthorne, has been practicing medicine for nearly 30 years. His practice, Atlantic ENT Associates, has expanded and grown into the New Jersey Sinus Center. Here, Iannacone specializes in balloon sinuplasty, a procedure that uses a thin, flexible, balloon catheter to open blocked sinus passageways and relieve pressure. He began in a location in Manasquan which he still has and then opened a second office in Toms River where he met his now-wife, Tami Blumenthal.

“I had an ear infection and went to his practice after being released from the hospital,” Blumenthal said. “I met him, and well, the rest is history I suppose!”

Together, the two have a blended family with six kids and one on the way.

“We have kind of a ‘Brady Bunch’ family,” Blumenthal laughed.

Two years ago, the family moved to a house on Downing Hill Lane and began their adventure into creating a little farm. With two Bernese mountain dogs already in tow, they first decided to open their home to two miniature horses.

“The house is on six acres of land and originally had a beautiful, manicured backyard,” Blumenthal said. “We kept some of that and transformed the rest of the land into our own little farm. We even redid the shed to be a barn for the ponies.”

Last year, the family added chickens to the property.

“My husband really wanted chickens,” she said. “We got day-old chicks and began raising them in the basement, which, of course, the kids loved. Now they’re outside and laying eggs. We have eggs of every color.”

Blumenthal said she and her husband are grateful they settled in a town known for beautiful, expansive and functioning farms.

“We like the lifestyle of Colts Neck,” Blumenthal said. “It has a small-town feel, and it’s very neighborly. I think that’s rare to find now.” Our 10-year-old daughter rides at a beautiful barn in town and our little 2-year-old is already getting on the ponies for little walks herself. In Colts Neck, we have really found not just a great spot to raise our animals, but a beautiful community to raise our kids.

When the family first began caring for horses, one of them coliced, but knowledgeable neighbors came to the rescue. They came over at midnight and walked with our pony through the night to ensure she made it through the night.

This spring, having taken on the task of housing bees and harvesting their honey, the family turned to other local farmers for advice on how to build the best hives and care for the insects. Blumenthal also admits the farm may have met maximum capacity after these new, buzzing additions.

“We have just the right amount of animals,” she humorously admitted. “We’re suckers for anything that needs a home, but I don’t think we could handle any more.”

With an already full plate at home, Iannacone leaves the farm each day to serve patients of Monmouth and Ocean counties.

Iannacone is a board-certified adult and pediatric otolaryngologist and facial plastic surgeon at New Jersey Sinus Center. His clinical work includes medical and surgical diagnosis and treatment of the sinuses. He is one of the only specialists in the area who performs in-office balloon sinuplasty, ensuring people with chronic sinus problems receive the treatment they need with little to no downtime.

“It takes the pressure off people who are afraid to go to the hospital or hesitant to undergo anesthesia,” Blumenthal said.

Iannacone attends seminars to continue his education and speaks with other sinus specialists about advancements in the field. He also trains doctors from around the country on sinus surgery.

“Most people think, ‘Oh, I just have sinus issues,’” Blumenthal said, noting that reluctant acceptance comes after being symptomatic for so long. “They don’t see a resolution to it. After they’ve had this procedure, they feel almost immediately better for years to come. They’re no longer on medication or suffering every day.”

And the reviews can attest.

In February, one of Iannacone’s many satisfied patients said they “have been with the doctor for eight to 10 years and have always been treated with timely appointments, great consideration and good diagnosis.”

They added, “We know, as a family, he will always be there for us.
The practice has been treating people throughout their lives and even now sees children of former and current patients.

“He has had patients for 10, 15, 20 years,” Blumenthal said. “He saw them when they were younger and now evaluates them for hearing aids.

There’s a rarity in that – that he has maintained a solo practice for that long while most are bought out by bigger conglomerates.”

Iannacone is now looking to expand his Toms River location to accommodate the space needed to perform more in-office surgeries. But the family will remain right where they are.

“We love this town,” Blumenthal gushed. “We’re happy we settled here, and we plan to live out our lives here.”

To see more photos from the Iannacones’ life on the farm, visit TheJournalNJ.com.
Dear Cassie: I am going through a divorce. I am wondering what happens to my dog, Sandy, in the divorce. Can I seek full custody of Sandy? — J.H.

Dear J.H.: The short answer is, it depends on the facts of your case. Under the common law, pets were treated as chattel. Put another way, they were treated just like a typical piece of property to be distributed like an automobile or a piano. In today’s world, however, there is a growing consensus that pets are more like family members and less like property. New Jersey courts have mirrored this sentiment, and the leading case on this issue demonstrates that disputes over animals during divorce litigation can no longer be resolved by using basic property principles. In a case decided by the New Jersey Appellate Division, the court held that reimbursing a party for a dog’s monetary value (i.e. what you paid for the animal) is not an adequate remedy for purposes of compensating a party for the loss of the “special value” some pets hold to their owners.

This case further stands for the proposition that courts can and should determine which party has a “sincere” interest in possession of the pet and which party is merely asserting an interest in the pet “out of greed, ill-will or other sentiment, or motive similarly unworthy of protection in a court of equity.” In determining whether a party or whether both parties have a true and equal interest in their pets, the court directed that focus should be placed on establishing “the facts and circumstances which endow the chattel with special … value.”

Most commonly, the court will consider testimony and other proofs from parties demonstrating which party acts as the primary caretaker of the pet—meaning, the court can contemplate who “potty trained” the animal, takes the animal to medical and grooming appointments, feeds and bathes the animal, etc. In addition, the court can consider whether a party had possession of the animal prior to the marriage. Furthermore, the court can examine where the children of the marriage primarily reside and deem whether it is in their “best interest” to enjoy the animal’s companionship at their primary place of residence.

Less compelling factors that a court might also consider when determining possession of a pet is the party who is the title owner of the animal and if a certain party made the preliminary investigations or took the initial steps to acquire the pet. At this time in New Jersey, the test is not what is in the “best interest” of the pet. However, that may soon change based upon experiences in other jurisdictions.

If you are dealing with the issue of animal custody, you should seek the advice of matrimonial counsel.
In helping to ease the pain of animal loss, the idea of the “Rainbow Bridge,” a place where our deceased animals go, free from pain and suffering, came from several works of poetry written in the 1980s and 1990s. They speak of another place where pets go upon death, eventually to be reunited with their human companions. Memories can be healing. Look through pictures, talk about your best friends, volunteer at or visit an animal shelter. Perhaps when the time is right, another creature will creep into your heart and make its way home with you.

With animals, our lives are enriched, never to be the same. We are enlightened, gifted and grateful for the compassion and the companionship they give us freely. There is never a dull moment but always a pure moment. Living day by day, breath by breath. When we are ultimately separated from them, we pine, yearning for more time. Our hearts ache. We feel empty. We grieve. We remember, and our hearts start to heal. We reach out and begin again. Ready to love. Ready to remember.

In the desire to keep our departed best friends close to us, the second Sunday of September as well as the entire month has been designated National and World Animal Remembrance Day/Month. This is a time set aside for all of us to honor and celebrate how animals enrich our lives not only in our homes but as part of the global community. It is a time to acknowledge our emptiness through the grieving process and also celebrate what it means to have had these creatures in our lives. Grieving can take months, even years. Finding a meaningful way to honor your friend is an important part of healing. When we engage in the process of remembering, we give ourselves a chance to reminisce, relive and look back on just how amazing and cherished animals are. Remembering is part of grieving, a need to try to find closure, coming to terms with the feelings of vacancy.

Some people remember by designating a special spot in the home to display pictures, tokens, even cremains. Making memorial paw prints or stepping stones are extremely popular. Perhaps simply just a decorative hook, with your companion’s collar or leash hung affectionately, can remind you daily of the good times you had. The ideas are endless. Wearable jewelry can be made from collars, tags and cremains, in addition to lockets with a photo or a piece of fur. Many animals are remembered by planting a tree, shrub or garden. There are companies that allow you to incorporate a portion of your pet’s cremains in with product to be planted.

In this age of social media, the network of like-minded people can reach out to offer sympathy and support. Some people use journaling to express their feelings about their loss. Others make videos, chronicling a life well-lived. Write your dearly departed friend a heartfelt letter, saying how much they meant to you and why you will miss them. Put it with your other reminders. Perhaps in the future someone will read it, evoking their fond memories of a friend now gone. The simplest to do is remember. At any moment one can imagine an animal friend with a smile.

World Animal Remembrance Day takes us globally. The idea is to consider all the animals that share this planet with us and how vital they are in the delicate balance of life. We are all dependent on each other in some way. Well-run zoos do their best in caring for and increasing the survival of all species of animals, reminding us that we are not alone. This time period also allows us to recognize all animal advocates, including veterinarians, support staff, rescuers and fosters who many times take anyone in, no questions asked; the trainers who work with so many species to become service animals; and the families who go to the animal shelter looking for someone to take home.
Leptospirosis is a serious, life-threatening infectious disease seen in dogs and sometimes people. It is caused by spiral-shaped, parasitic bacteria that are transmitted through the urine of infected creatures. The bacteria can infect multiple wildlife species and be shed in the infected creature’s urine for months to years. Possible reservoirs of infection in New Jersey include deer, raccoons, squirrels, mice, rats, woodchucks and opossums. Domestic, large animals including horses and cattle may also serve as a source of infection for dogs.

Dogs contract Leptospirosis from direct contact with an infected animal’s urine. Because the bacteria die rapidly in dry environments, the incidence of infection is greater during rainy periods. Most cases are diagnosed in the late summer and early fall, but cases can occur at any time of the year. Leptospirosis used to be seen mostly in rural hunting or sporting dogs, but recently there has been a shift toward dogs living in urban environments. While we do not fully understand why this occurs, it is most likely due to more close contact with wildlife reservoirs in recently developed areas. There does not appear to be any breed predilection for this disease, and even small or toy breed dogs can be affected.

Leptospirosis causes disease by damaging the kidneys and sometimes the liver. In the most severe cases, kidney and liver failure can occur. Clinical signs include vomiting, diarhea, lethargy, fever, increased or decreased thirst and urination, and yellow discoloration of the skin (jaundice). This can be a fatal condition, and prompt medical treatment is essential for a successful outcome. Because people can also become infected with Leptospirosis, one should exhibit caution when handling a potentially infected dog and their urine.

A vaccine is available to protect dogs from this serious disease. While no vaccine is 100 percent effective, inoculating dogs against Leptospirosis can significantly reduce their risk of serious illness. For maximum efficacy, a series of two vaccinations needs to be given three weeks apart, and then a single dose should be repeated annually. Eliminating rodent infestations and contamination of pet food and minimizing a dog’s contact with standing water can also reduce their risk of infection. As with all medical conditions, you should seek the advice of your family veterinarian if you have concerns about Leptospirosis in your dog. Your veterinarian is also the best source of information regarding vaccination against this disease.

The material contained in this article is for informational purposes only and not intended to take the place of the advice of a veterinarian.
How to Understand Your Pet’s Body Language

BY JOYCE VENEZIA SUSS

S
ince we can’t interpret woofs and meows from our pet dogs and cats, it’s important to learn their body language. Our pets provide many visual cues, most often seen in their eyes, mouth, ears, tail and even their fur.

If you’ve lived with a dog or cat long enough, you can probably easily recognize their moods. But your furry best friend may have occasional reactions that trigger unusual behavior. Here are some ways to understand their body language.

Dogs’ Body Language

A dog’s tail can be a barometer of many feelings. If a dog is relaxed, its tail will likely be held straight or below his spine, and wag in wide, loose circles. An excited dog’s tail will be higher, and move faster. If the tail is held high and erect, your dog may be focusing on something – perhaps a squirrel to chase or even an intruder. If a dog is hesitant or uncertain about a situation, its tail may wag very slowly, almost like a ticking clock. A frightened dog may hold its tail between its back legs.

As for body actions, a playful dog will bounce back and forth, with lots of wiggles and jumps, and an open mouth that almost looks like a big grin. Its eyes may appear to be squinting.

A dog walking in circles or acting restless often has to relieve itself. A content, happy dog may lie on its back and look away from you, waiting for a belly rub. If the dog is kneeling in the front and has its rear up in the air, that’s a classic “I want to play” pose.

If your dog is nervous or uncomfortable, it may look away from you or down at the ground. The dog’s ears may be pressed back against its head, with a forehead furrowed with wrinkles. The dog may salivate or lick its lips, and start whining or trying to hide. A common trigger for many dogs is the sound of fireworks or thunder. A dog that is petrified may bare its teeth; its pupils may become dilated – and it may become aggressive.

Cats’ Body Language

Most cat personalities are complicated to interpret, although cat lovers acknowledge that feline quirks are part of their charm. Any cat that chooses to sleep on your open book is confident and comfortable with you.

Happy cats often will rub their heads against your legs. Ironically, they often do it while their human is preparing their meal, which some assume means “hurry up.” But the cat is actually “marking” you with its scent glands, an instinctual way to tag a safe person.

A cat’s tail offers an array of signals. A cat walking with its tail held high means it is confident and happy. If the tip of the tail is twitching, it might be annoyed. A fast tail thumping may mean the cat is agitated, while a slow swish may mean it is suspicious. A rapidly swishing tail may mean your cat is on the hunt, whether for a ball or critter.

If a cat arches its back, it might just be a languid stretch, especially if accompanied by a yawn. But if a cat arches its back with fur standing up, and it has a menacing stare, step away because it could mean an attack.

A cat that rolls over and exposes its belly appears adorable – and may be looking for a belly rub from a doting owner. But cats who show their belly with exposed claws and bared teeth probably feel trapped, so be careful.

And pay attention to a cat’s ears. Ears facing forward signal contentment; ears straight up signal alertness. But ears flattened and back against a cat’s head are likely a sign of fear or anger.

Extreme Warning Signs for Any Pet

Any pet that growls, hisses or even spits is clearly warning you to stay away. Raised fur can also be a sign of extreme stress. There may be a variety of reasons, typically pain, fear of an unknown person or place, or an imminent attack from another animal. Use extreme caution in these circumstances, and get help if it appears your pet may attack.

Information for this story was gathered from the ASPCA, American Veterinary Medicine Foundation and the Humane Society of the United States.
Celebrating its 35th year, Clean Ocean Action (COA) continues its tireless defense of the rivers, waterways and ocean. In that time, volunteers have used countless tools and joined with many partners, even canines. Several times in the past two years, COA has brought in a team of simply amazing dogs from Environmental Canine Service (ESC) Dogs of Maine. These highly trained dogs are able to identify pollution sources, and the results of their findings have been extremely important to Clean Ocean Action’s Rally for the Waterways programs. The organization’s success is evident in the newest plans to expand the Rally for the Waterways to Deal Lake and Barnegat Bay.

Clean Ocean Action Staff Scientist Swarna Muthukrishnan, using the IDEXX method thanks to the loan grant by the US EPA Citizen Science Program, selected eight feasible locations as part of the ongoing COA-DEP poo-llution track-down study in the Navesink River watershed. In addition, wet-weather sampling (after a significant rain) took place in July at more than 20 locations in five fingers of Deal Lake and Sunset Lake. This will be used to determine the impacts of storm water runoff on bacteria concentrations in this watershed. These samples were collected by COA staff, interns and COA-trained citizen scientist volunteers and were shipped to the Environmental Canine Services in Maine for ship-and-sniff testing. This innovative method is made possible by ECS canines trained to detect the presence or absence of potential bacteria sewage contamination.

This super-sniffer testing approach will be expanded to the Barnegat Bay, thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to identify sources of pathogen pollution from sewage bacteria.

There is no doubt these dogs are doing incredible things, but pet-owners also play a big role in protecting the waterways. Everyday choices and actions can make a real difference.

Clean Ocean Action offers some great tips on eco-friendly pet care:

1. Scoop the poop. One gram of dog waste on average can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Cat waste contains parasites and nutrients that can degrade water quality. Collecting pet waste is required by law.
2. Use bio-degradable kitty litter made of renewable products and odor-controlling baking soda.
3. Ice melting products can harm your pet and can contaminate wells and water. Use pet-friendly and salt-free products rather than salt-based, ice-melting products.
4. Bathe your pet indoors with biodegradable or sulfate- and phosphate-free grooming products.
5. Use chemical fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides carefully. Some have been shown to increase the risk of various cancers in pets.
6. Buy pet food and kitty litter in bulk and in recyclable or biodegradable packaging.
7. Upcycle household materials. Use old blankets and towels as beds; convert old socks and leashes into toys; construct old wood and carpet into scratching posts for your cat.
9. Consult with a veterinarian and/or visit GreenPaws.org for safe flea and tick treatments.
“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”

– Anatole France
August and September are two of the year’s biggest months for kittens. Sadly, many adult cats are often abandoned following summer vacations. If you can open your home to any cat, young or old, you’re in for an adventure. Cat lovers can spend hours watching them jump in and out of boxes, sleeping in shoes and kneading furniture. Just why do cats do the things they do? Here are explanations about eight of the most common cat behaviors:

**KNEADS YOU**
Kneading is a sign your cat is happy, content and marking you with his or her scent. The instinctive behavior is one of the first displayed, as kittens “milk” their mothers before they can even see.

**BUTTING HEADS**
This is not confrontational behavior; it’s your cat’s way of saying, “Greetings, I feel safe with you,” while sharing a few facial pheromones. Behaviorists actually call this curious behavior “bunting.” Not all cats are the head-butting type, so don’t panic if yours doesn’t bunt.

**LOVES BOXES AND CRAMPED QUARTERS**
With all the comfy cat beds, why do cats pick cardboard boxes or cram themselves into tiny or uncomfortable spaces? Security. Natural hunters like felines would never sleep in the wide open, so it’s a natural instinct to curl up in compact spaces. It’s also why they sleep high on top of cabinets. Cats have been found sleeping in golf bags, sinks, pool table pockets and just about anywhere you can imagine. Cute as it is, a kitty in a box thinks he’s in deep hiding, so enjoy it from arm’s distance. Remember, he doesn’t want to be hunted (or bothered).

**BRINGS YOU PRESENTS**
Did your kitty bring you a dead rodent or insect? Those items may not be on your gift list, but to your cat, it’s a sign of nurturing and accomplishment. Their mother brought them critters for dinner, and now they’re doing it for you. They consider you to be part of the family. The best way to curb the behavior is not to freak out. Thank them, quickly remove the gift and engage them in some play. Don’t scold or punish your cat for doing what comes naturally.

**CHEWS PLASTIC AND ODD THINGS**
Some chew on milk jug rings, wires, carpeting and other strange, non-tasty things. It may be nothing or it could be a symptom of a condition known as pica, which can link to gastrointestinal disorders or anxiety. Just like humans bite their nails, cats can cope with anxiety by chewing on non-food items. Younger cats will chew a little of everything as they learn, but if it becomes a habit, seek professional help as these items are hard on your cat’s gums and should not be swallowed.

**DOES NOT COVER UP THEIR POOP**
This could also be a sign of a medical condition like a urinary tract infection, or an injured paw or nail. Cats are fastidiously clean, so this is something to take note of. If the vet rules out medical issues, they may not like their litter. Try a different brand and a larger litter box, and if you have multiple cats, add an additional litter box to give everyone their space.

**STARES**
Cat eyes can burn through you like hot coals, but there’s nothing to fear. They may be hoping for treats or simply gazing with nothing but love. They’re watching your every move because you are the cat’s meow.

**IGNORES YOU**
Cats need some private time; that’s why they often disappear for hours. When your cat ignores you, just give them some space and they’ll appreciate you for it with lots of love when the mood shifts.

People have kept cats as pets for thousands of years, and no one has ever really figured them out, so don’t be disappointed if you can’t either. Just enjoy the curious and comforting antics they bring to your life.
As the rain cleared and the sun set over the Shrewsbury River, partygoers and animal lovers gathered to celebrate the work done by the Purr’n Pooch Foundation for Animals while donating to future efforts.

“Since 2010, Purr’n Pooch Foundation for Animals has awarded dozens of grants to nonprofit animal rescue and welfare organizations since its founding, ensuring that organizations helping animals in need are getting proper funding and help from outside sources,” the organization said. “The foundation awards annual grants to nonprofit, no-kill animal and marine mammal rescue, and welfare organizations.”

Lisa Saez, avid animal lover and licensed physical therapist, found a way to combine her two passions into a career that satisfies her soul while allowing her to help animals in Monmouth and Ocean counties. In 1985, Saez graduated from Downstate Medical Center, College of Allied Health Professions with a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy.

“I obtained my first dog Miria, a black lab, my initial year out of college,” she said. “She went everywhere with me, except for work. In time, I bred her and kept her daughter, Arena. I read as much as I could about dogs. I learned how to train them properly so they were welcome wherever they went.”

After opening her own practice focused on women’s health and vestibular rehabilitation, Saez realized she wanted to pursue work with animals. After working with humans for 31 years she did just that.

In January 2010, Saez enrolled in the program for certification in canine rehabilitation at the Canine Rehabilitation Institute, affiliated with the University of Colorado. She earned her CCRT in August 2010, becoming a Certified Canine Rehab Therapist. The following year, she opened Dalia’s Doggie Rehab, bearing the name of her beloved chocolate Labrador retriever who accompanied her through the Canine Rehabilitation Institute’s program. Dalia was Saez’s first rescue dog, which she adopted from Jersey Shore Animal Center in 2001.

Dalia’s Doggie Rehab offers physical therapy and canine rehabilitation for injured, recovering, overweight or otherwise weak pups.

“We treat your goofy puppy, couch potato, athletic superstar or distinguished senior,” the website states.

Canine rehabilitation can decrease a pet’s pain and discomfort, improve mobility and strength, increase circulation and promote healing, prevent disuse atrophy and contractures, enhance recovery from injury or surgery, improve activity level, and promote weight loss. Therapy provides positive psychological effects for you and your furry pal while improving the animals’ overall quality of life. Dalia’s Doggie Rehab supports local shelters and rescue groups with donations and discounted services for these animals.

The 10th annual gala featured live music by Dr. Brian & Friends and Guilty Pleasure, an open bar, Rook Coffee, a raw bar by The Lusty Lobster, raffles and games.

The evening’s event raised more than $100,000 to support the animal rescue and rehabilitation work of the Purr’n Pooch Foundation for Animals grantees.

To see more photos from the 2019 Purr’n Pooch Foundation for Animals Gala, visit TheJournalNJ.com.
Magnificent Monarchs
Learning to Care for This Beautiful, Endangered Species
BY LORI DRAZ

They are the icon of transformation and rebirth. They are the burst of color on a summer day, dancing like fairies through clusters of summer blooms. Butterflies turn us all back into children, who put the to-do list down to watch and wonder. Yet butterflies are in big trouble and none more so than the majestic monarch, which is now listed as an endangered species. Overly landscaped and manicured lawns and the loss of open space have made milkweed, the only food monarchs consume, scarce. And what a shame - milkweed is a beautiful plant, with shiny leaves and tall orange or purple flowers, that requires no care and is happy to sit in a quiet corner where it also supplies nectar for other butterflies. Fortunately, awareness of monarchs' plight is growing.

This August, the Shrewsbury Garden Club (SGC) became a Monarch Way station. SGC member Julie Brain is a special education public school teacher in East Brunswick. She is also a passionate advocate for the beautiful monarch, raising and tagging the butterflies before their release.

“I used to go horseback riding at the barn on Sycamore Avenue which is now a soccer field,” Brain recalled. “That old farm was covered in milkweed. We used to pull it out of our horses' paddocks because we were told it was toxic! Think of the irony. I pulled all those ‘weeds’ as a kid, and now as an adult, I am now frantically trying to plant this native flower to help the monarchs.”

The monarchs’ migration to Mexico is one of science’s unsolved mysteries. Each year, millions of them complete this epic journey to winter on the branches of oyamel fir trees, called “sacred firs” by the natives.

Brain hopes others will welcome monarchs into their lives. Plant some pesticide-free milkweed, which you can find in area nurseries, and you won’t believe how fast monarchs show up. Or adopt some into your home. It’s a great family and classroom activity and a fun hobby for retirees and even offices.

Here’s what to do and what you need:

**Supplies**
Food storage containers are a great starting place to keep track of monarch eggs and small caterpillars without the leaves drying out. You only need to lift the lid once a day to allow more than sufficient oxygen in a sealed container. You can purchase a Baby Cube Pop-up Cage in different sizes, depending on how many caterpillars you want to raise. They’re lightweight and look like a collapsible hamper.

Of course, you’ll need milkweed. If you can find some pesticide-free native milkweed, plant it in your yard. You can also buy potted milkweed plants with healthy leaves.

**Raising Monarchs**
The whole process has four stages, and each has plenty to watch. It’s a quick-moving show, taking the monarch about four weeks from hatching from an egg to becoming an adult butterfly. Weather does affect the speed, with monarchs developing faster in warmer months.

The hatched egg is called a larva. Its first meal is its eggshell, then it begins feeding almost non-stop on the milkweed. It is voracious, so be sure there’s lots of food.

During its 10 to 14 day larval stage, it will shed its skin for a larger one five times.

When the caterpillar is fully grown, it usually leaves the milkweed plant, to find a safe place to pupate. First, the caterpillar makes a silk-like mat and then attaches itself to the mat with a hook called a cremaster, found on the tail. Next, it drops upside down, hanging in a J-shape, for about one full day. This is when that fifth shed occurs (and it happens in minutes). This one reveals something magical: a jade green casing called a chrysalis. It’s a special place where the caterpillar miraculously transforms into a beautiful butterfly.

Inside the chrysalis, the monarch’s mouth parts are reconstructed. The chewing parts are replaced with a proboscis to sip nectar. Its eight caterpillar legs become three butterfly legs, and its eyes grow large. It also develops reproductive organs - all this in just 10 to 14 days.

As the butterfly develops, the chrysalis changes from an opaque green to a translucent shell, and you can see the dark colors of the butterfly’s wings folded up inside. When you notice movement, get set - it takes minutes for the butterfly to emerge. Its wings are small at first, but they fill with fluid. Most butterflies emerge in the morning and can be released at the end of the day, or kept until the following day without needing to be fed. Give the wings time enough to dry, and it is best to release them on a warm, sunny day, near flowers if possible. If it is colder than 60 degrees, they often cannot fly.

For more information or to set up a workshop with Brain, contact her at msjuliebrain@gmail.com.
A view from the front row is all about entertainment—and there are few things more entertaining than our pets and other animals! Whether it’s watching them, playing with them, shopping for them, cuddling them, caring for them or raising funds for them, animals are always a source of fun and smiles. If you have affection for animals, here is the pick of the litter among a myriad of upcoming activities events, and other entertaining pet projects in the area that may spark your interest.

SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY ANIMAL FAIR & PET BLESSING
Grace Christian Church, 1961 Wayside Rd., Tinton Falls
Saturday, Sept. 14 (rain date: Saturday, Sept. 21) 10 am to 3 pm
Parishioners, visitors, families and friends are invited to come and enjoy a day of vendors, agility courses, food, pet blessings, animal welfare agencies, photo booths and more. Friendly pets are welcome on a leash or in a crate. For more information, visit GraceChristianChurch.com.

AUSA COMEDY SHOW BENEFITING THE SERVICE DOG INITIATIVE
Saint John Vianney High School, 540A Line Rd., Holmdel
Wednesday, Sept. 18 • 7 to 9 pm
AUSA (Association of the United States Army) - Monmouth Chapter will host its first comedy show to benefit the Service Dog Initiative, helping to cover the $15,000 to $25,000 cost of one dog for a military service member. This year’s beneficiary is Sgt. William Madigan, a Monmouth County native and resident who graduated from Freehold Boro High School. The show headliner is Mike Marino, one of the most popular comedians of our times. In the fall of 2008, he was inducted into the New Jersey Comedy Hall of Fame, and in 2015, he won the USO Bob Hope Comedy Award for his many performances for the military. There is also an opening act, to be announced. Tickets are $40 each and can be purchased at USA.org/Monmouth.

TUTU & TAILS DOG WALK
Wall Municipal Complex, 2700 Allaire Rd., Manasquan
Sunday, Sept. 22 (rain date: Sunday, Oct. 13) • 9 am to 12 pm
Rescue Ridge is hosting a Tutu Walk to raise funds for the animal rescue organization while giving pet owners the chance to strut their stuff with their pets of all shapes and sizes, along with their owners. Bring your (leashed) dogs, cats, parrots, fish, turtles, hamsters and whatever pet you choose to the church, rain or shine. All faiths, breeds, and species are welcome at the church’s pet-friendly services. For more information, call 732-842-0596.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE
St. George’s by-the-River Church, 7 Lincoln Ave., Rumson
Monday, Oct. 7 • 2 pm
The parish of St. George’s by-the-River will observe the Feast of Saint Francis, patron saint of animals, with a special church service that welcomes pets of all shapes and sizes, along with their owners. Bring your (leashed) dogs, cats, parrots, fish, turtles, hamsters and whatever pet you choose to the church, rain or shine. All faiths, breeds, and species are welcome at the church’s pet-friendly services. For more information, call 732-842-0596.

HALLOWEEN & PET FESTIVAL
Leonardo State Marina, 102 Concord Ave., Leonardo
Saturday, Oct. 26 • 10 am to 3 pm
Join the New Jersey State Park Service and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey for their annual Halloween event, featuring their first-ever pet festival. This is a free event for the whole family, including pets, with free giveaways.

BARKTOBERFEST PET ADOPTION EVENT & MARKETPLACE
Turtle Back Zoo, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange
Saturday, Oct. 26 • 11 am to 3 pm
Come out for a fun-filled day at this popular zoo to celebrate and support local animal rescue groups. Shop local vendors, taste the offering from the food trucks, and enjoy entertainment while you find your forever friend. For more information, visit NorthStarPets.org.

THIRD ANNUAL SANTA PICTURES WITH YOUR PETS
Associated Humane Tinton Falls, 2960 Shafto Rd., Tinton Falls
Saturday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 24 • 12 to 5 pm
They’ve already gotten a date on Santa’s calendar, and he is set to visit the shelter on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Santa’s private room will be decorated for personalized, one-on-one holiday photo sessions with no other animal distractions—allowing for awesome portraits of pets with their owners. If you don’t have a pet, feel free to bring the kids instead! Donation is $20 per photo session, which includes a printed 5×7” picture and a link to download an electronic copy.

SUPER PET EXPO
New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison
Friday through Sunday, Feb. 7-9
Friday: 3 to 8 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 7 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm
The East Coast’s largest consumer pet event brings in thousands of pet lovers each year and offers a fun-filled family extravaganza for discriminating pet guardians. Shop more than 150 local and national exhibitors and vendors for the best and coolest pet products and services. Watch amazing animal entertainment such as luring courses, rabbit agility, dog training sessions, best-dressed pet contests, new cat exhibitors, Repticon and more. Meet adoptable pets and speak with representatives from local rescue organizations to learn about the adoption process. Talk with pet experts about a variety of specialties, including training, nutrition and health. Leashed pets (no retractable or flexi-leashed allowed) are welcome to attend at no charge. One-day tickets are $13 for adults and $8 for children age 4 to 11. Weekend passes are $20 for adults and $10 for children age 4 to 11. Kids age 3 and under are free (one per adult). For more information, visit SuperPetExpo.com/Edison.
How to Save When Caring for Pets

Pet owners know pets are part of the family. You’d do anything for them. However, caring for pets can become quite expensive, though it doesn’t have to be.

Here are some great ways to save money on your furry and even non-furry friends:

Saving on Toys

While we love our pets and want to shower them with toys, there are ways we can save so it doesn’t break the bank.

1. Skip the Pet Store – Toys at the pet store are super expensive. Opt for tennis balls or even racquet balls you can get from a sporting goods store or big box store for so much less. Racquet balls are my dog’s favorite toy because they are so bouncy.

2. Buy Cheap Toys for Pets that Always Destroy Theirs – If your dog is a one-and-done type of chewer with toys, opt for less expensive toys at the dollar store. If it’s going to be destroyed, why not get it cheaper to begin with?

3. Make your Own Toys – Get creative here. There are so many things you can do with items around your house. For instance, place treats in a muffin tin and cover them with tennis balls. Or, re-stuff toys they already destroyed by stuffing them with an old T-shirt or other, smaller toys. You can even wrap treats in small rags and stuff them in an old toy or in a non-destructible, rubber toy.

Saving on Pet Supplies

1. Buy Used if Possible – Check garage sales, Facebook Marketplace and even thrift stores for things like crates, fish tanks, hamster cages, etc.

2. Skip the Fashion Aisle – While it’s adorable to dress your pet up in a cute costume, they can be expensive. Skip the fashion aisle at the pet store to avoid the temptation. Those costumes will most likely wind up in a pile in some closet, never to be used again.

3. Visit Dollar Stores – It’s amazing what you can find at dollar stores. They have collars, leashes, food bowls and more. Be sure to take a walk down the pet aisle the next time you visit the dollar store.

Saving on Pet Care

From grooming to vet trips, there are so many ways to save!

1. Brush Your Pet’s Teeth – Brushing their teeth a few times each week can keep your pet healthier overall and ultimately save you so much money in the long run.

2. Trim Your Pet’s Nails – There are so many great tools available that make this task much easier and safer. Investing in a good tool will save you a lot long-term.

3. Groom Your Pet – This may not be possible for all dogs, but if your dog requires a simple grooming, learn how to do it yourself. There are so many YouTube videos that show you how to do it.

Saving on Food

Food is probably the most expensive part of owning a pet, especially if you have a bigger dog that eats a ton. There are so many ways you can cut costs on your pet’s food.

1. Use Coupons and Price Match – Most of the big-name pet stores will price match with online competitors. Plus, you can even use competitor coupons at the same time. Pro Tip: Sign up for emails from an expensive pet store that gives out coupons once a month and use those competitor coupons at the less expensive store. Plus, price match on top of that for even more savings. Check your local stores to be sure they allow the use of competitor coupons and price matching.

2. Save on Treats – A great way to save on treats is to use food rolls. These rolls are dense enough that you can slice them and chop them into treat size servings for your pet. Keep them in a container or bag in your fridge to prolong freshness.

One last point: If you are going on vacation or just taking a weekend trip, having someone watch your pet can get expensive. One way to save on pet sitting, other than relying on family, is to swap services with your friend. If your friends already have a pet, then it’s an easy swap. However, even if your friends don’t have a pet, you can swap services with them like painting a room in their home, power washing their fence, etc. in exchange of them watching your pet.

Saving on your pets is easier than you think. Just think a little outside the box.
New Jersey is the Garden State, and with gardens come farms and, of course, animals. So as The Journal celebrates pets and animals this month, Historic Havens will take you to some historic places where animals are the center of attention.

These special places are called “living history farms.” They are fully staffed and functioning farms that operate using the authentic methods that farms did in the 1890s, hence the name “living history.” There are only a few in the state, but we are lucky to have Longstreet Farm right here in Holmdel.

Spending a day there is like taking a walk back in time as interpreters in period dress regularly lead tours and demonstrations to transport you back to farm life from more than a century ago. On any given day, visitors can see cows being milked, watch chickens, pigs and geese, hear sheep and donkeys bray, see horses pull hay wagons, as well as get a glimpse into life on the farm with cooking and animal care demonstrations. Expert craftsmen also use their skills at blacksmithing and woodworking using the tools of the time.

Longstreet Farm is located in Holmdel Park which offers lots of other recreational activities as well as nearby historic sites. Across Longstreet Road is Tenant House, and equally near is the Holmes-Hendrickson House, which is another historic museum operated by the Monmouth County Historical Association. Together, their combined amenities make for many full days of family fun, but it is Longstreet Farm and their animals we are visiting for this column.

Longstreet Farm’s mission is “to promote an appreciation for Monmouth County farm life at the end of the 19th century, preserving historic structures and practices through interpretive programs and tours. Livestock are an important component of this mission. The farm’s livestock are raised and cared for just as they were in the past – to meet the labor, food and material needs of the farm.”

According to the Monmouth County Park System, the animals are bred to ensure the health of the historic breeds and to provide visitors with a realistic window into the life cycle of working farm animals.

When the animals can no longer work, they are retired and replaced with animals that can. The park system welcomes placement offers for retired Longstreet Farm livestock. Inquiries may be made to Park Manager Philip Andras at 732-946-3758.

In addition to the daily chores of farm life, Longstreet Farm hosts many special events. Here are some coming up in the next few months:

- **Cookstove Demonstration** – from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturdays, Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26, and Nov. 9 and 23.
- **Accordion Melodies of the 1890s** – from 1 to 3 pm on Saturdays, Sept. 14, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16
- **Rug Hooking Demonstration** – 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, Sept. 21
- **19th Century Woodworking Demonstration** – 12 to 3 pm on Saturday, Oct. 26

The big event this month is the Harvest Home Festival on Sunday, Sept. 29 from 11 am to 5 pm.

This is country fair fun the way they did it in the 1890s, and you can join in the old-timey activities with wagon rides, pie-eating and corn-husk-contests, live music and dancing, crafts and crafting demonstrations, needlework, baked goods and homegrown vegetables.

Admission to the park and parking are free.

You can find another living history farm in Morristown: the 200-acre Fosterfields Living Historical Farm.

Cape May is home to Historic Cold Spring Village, which is similar to Allaire State Park. It features more than 25 restored buildings, including a bakery, craft center, stables and even its own brewery. Historic Cold Spring Village offers a lot of programs including a Civil War Weekend from 10 am to 4:30 pm on Sept. 14 and 15. The weekend includes a live battle at 2 pm each day. Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 am to 4 pm it’s the 28th annual Pumpkin Festival & Share the Harvest Food Drive with free admission with a non-perishable food donation. Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26 from 7 to 10 pm, things get chilly during their Ghoul Spring Village haunted walk. Just around an hour from here, and just about 10 minutes north of Trenton is Howell Living History Farm in Lambertville.

Added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 2, 1977, this 130-acre farm is far from dormant. In addition to an ice house and fishing pond, you’ll see firsthand what farm life was like circa 1900 when you visit the sheep barn, chicken house, hog pasture, and watch the horses and oxen work the fields. Kids and adults alike are encouraged to get their hands dirty and participate in chores like collecting eggs, shelling corn for geese, watering horses, putting hay in the sheep manger, or putting straw in the calf pen. During the corn harvest, visitors pick and shuck the corn, then grind it and make cornbread. Some of their upcoming Saturday events are Sept. 21 ox-drawn fall plowing and manure spreading, Oct. 5 wheat planting, Oct. 12 fall hayrides, Oct. 26 corn harvest, Nov. 9 cider making and Nov. 30 Thanksgiving hayrides, wreath and sleigh bell sale.

Food is available for purchase on Saturdays only, but visitors are welcome to bring a picnic anytime. Admission is free.

Taking care of any pet requires work and planning, but imagine taking care of herds of animals that can determine the success of your farm. You’ll see just what real work is when you visit any one of these living history farms.
Tens of thousands of people visited the animals, reptiles, livestock and agriculture tents at this year’s Monmouth County Fair. For many, that is the only time they connect with the 4-H. But the 4-H story is so much bigger than just agriculture. It’s an important and free resource with diverse programs open to all Monmouth County students. You don’t have to live on a farm or even have a green thumb to join.

The four Hs that make up 4-H stand for head, hands, heart and health. At each meeting, members state these principles and recite the pledge, “To clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living.”

The 4-H youth development program works to instill important life skills that improve members’ quality of life and the quality of life for all those around them. While 4-H’s 100-year-old roots may have been in agriculture, the organization has evolved to meet the interests of today’s youth. Did you know 4-H has a rocketry club? A Marine Sciences Club? A History Club? A Stem Club? The nonprofit also offers arts clubs, and the state offers acting and performing arts opportunities and many more exciting topics. There are even foreign exchange programs. Today’s Monmouth County 4-H youth members are participating in cutting-edge programs such as robotics, environmental education and forestry along with the time-tested and always-relevant animal science programs.

The 4-H youth development programs and their members learn the valuable life skills of teamwork, civic responsibility and leadership as they look to ways to solve tomorrow’s problems and improve the quality of life for the next generations.

Delivering such outstanding programs for interested youth depends on the caring adult volunteers, who share their expertise with the children as an appointed 4-H volunteer. To maintain the safety of all children who come to 4-H to learn and grow, appointed 4-H volunteers undergo an intensive screening process, including (but not limited to) an application, reference checks, an interview, background checks and a series of trainings. Though the desire to grow 4-H programs in Monmouth County is real, the organization takes great care and scrutiny selecting individuals to serve as volunteers.

The Monmouth County 4-H is run as an extension program of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and membership is free, though some courses may have some materials fees. It is run with the full support and pride of the Monmouth County Freeholders.

Monmouth County Liaison to the Monmouth County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office/4-H Freeholder Lillian Burry said, “I look at the kids that go through this program, and I am amazed. They not only do such incredible things through 4-H; they then go on and take the things they learned and do even more incredible things as adults. 4-H has the enthusiastic support of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. We hope many students take advantage of their diverse offerings.”

The time to act is now. If you are interested in becoming a member, annual enrollment begins this month. County 4-H Agent Matthew Newman said, “Just as important as yesterday will be tomorrow. Agriculture will continue to impact the lives of the communities we call home. So, too, will our 4-H youth development programs. Improving the quality of life in Monmouth County is something all of us can be a part of.”

For more information on how you can become involved in 4-H, either as a youth 4-H member or an adult 4-H volunteer, contact the Monmouth 4-H Office, part of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office, at 4h@co.monmouth.nj.us.
Welcome to Teen Scene. Each month our young authors write, in their own voice, stories that will educate and inform fellow students and parents. If you are a teen who would like to write your story, contact The Journal. We’ll help you polish it up, so don’t worry. Let’s just get to sharing.

This month’s author is 15-year-old Olive Scaff, a rising sophomore, passionate pet parent and proud member of the 4-H of Monmouth County. 4-H is not just animals and agriculture. Their rich programs offer students experiences in everything from rocketry, culinary, performing arts and so much more. Olive is the Monmouth County Fair Ambassador, eager to share her animals and more importantly the great friendships and opportunities that 4-H can afford any Monmouth County student. You won’t believe all that’s available. Here is Olive’s story:

A pet store! I was driving home from a visit to our favorite Bermuda beach where we swim with sea turtles, and I saw a pet store. I always notice them because I’m obsessed with animals. I go to Bermuda every summer to visit my 90-year-old Bermudian grandparents and everything in my life, even those trips, revolves around animals. On one visit, I brought home a horse. Can you imagine? Some of my dad’s friends asked, “Would you take a horse back to New Jersey?” Of course, we agreed. Soon, Atlantic Dancer was flying across the ocean in an airplane. She was a wonderful horse and partner.

Can you imagine? Some of my dad’s friends asked, “Would you take a horse back to New Jersey?” Of course, we agreed. Soon, Atlantic Dancer was flying across the ocean in an airplane. She was a wonderful horse and partner.

I made a commitment to enter the competition, and now I have to follow through and make sure my Ace is ready. Ace may challenge me, but you know what? Because of these little difficulties, Ace and I spend a lot of time together. We share quiet moments when I brush him and care for his little wounds and his feet, and I feel a deep sense of love and companionship. It is spiritual. My horses are a big responsibility, but it has taught me a lot. Each of my horses trust I will keep them safe and provide all that they need, and I trust that Ace and Cover Girl will keep me safe while I ride them. I truly love them with all my heart, and I wouldn’t trade them in for anything.

4-H has impacted my life in a positive way. I take my animals to a lot of 4-H activities. And even though horses are my main passion, I absolutely love other animals too. I’m the Livestock Ambassador. I am lucky enough to live on our 6-acre family farm that is also home to Nigerian dwarf goat mothers, each with a new baby; all four are a big part of my livestock project. Our 4-H friend helped us so much when we were breeding our goats for the first time. She acted as our goat friend/mom. Just one example of her kindness and dedication happened when we called to say, “Our goat is in labor!” She was in the grocery store, and she left all her groceries behind and raced right over to deliver our baby boy goat. That’s what the 4-H family is like – there when needed. I also enjoy showing a 4-H friend’s sheep. I’m still learning how to show livestock, but I enjoy it.

I’m the Monmouth County Fair Ambassador, so every year, I bring my horses and goats to the fair to show them off and to promote 4-H. When the fair’s livestock show came up, I needed lots of help. I wanted to show my mother goats, but they would not leave their babies. I didn’t want to upset my goats, and I didn’t know what to do. Ultimately, a friend each held a baby goat at the show to keep the mom goats calm. What a big help! My animals and 4-H have brought me best friends and lifelong friendships.

My animals have taught me so much. I have learned to communicate with people as well as animals and how to be a team player. The hours spent at the barn, caring for Ace, Cover Girl and Chocolate Kiss, as well as the goats and their babies, have been hours filled with animal and human contact. Animals speak their own language. Horses move and react as if you are dancing with them. You better learn the steps or you might get stepped on or knocked over. The goat mothers and babies talk to each other with bleats and cries. The babies need their moms just like all of the animals in my care need me. It’s a mutual relationship, and the love and care I give them comes back to me in spades!