



# THE BOXER BEAT

## THANKSGIVING SAFETY FOR DOGS: STUFF THE TURKEY, NOT THE DOG

Ahhh, the aroma of a fresh, mouthwatering, roasting turkey in the oven; Mom's stuffing cooling on the counter; Sweet, spicy pumpkin pie tempting your passions... Yep, it's Thanksgiving! A time to be thankful for all we have, for those around us we love, including our canine friends.

Many people share the family feast with their dog in an offering of thanks and love. While this is an innocent and seemingly gracious and loving gesture, the truth is, it's more loving **not** to share your holiday meals with your dog. While it may seem that a little bit of turkey skin here and a little bit of stuffing there wouldn't hurt, we know how quickly the pounds can add up over the holiday season. The same rules that apply to us apply to our pets. A diet high in fat and being overweight is very unhealthy for them.

Here are some safety tips to help you and your pets through this holiday!

- ❖ Be aware of **Pancreatitis**. Pancreatitis often strikes after the family has just had a party or a big holiday meal. This is a potentially fatal condition that is caused by feeding your dog foods that are too high in fat. Some side effects include shock, blood clotting disorders, and liver or kidney damage. Symptoms include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea that may contain blood, reluctance to walk, weakness, pain, crying, restlessness, irritability, or refusing to eat. Things can turn bad quickly and with the hustle and bustle of the holidays; you may not be as alert to the first symptoms, or may pass them off as just nerves, stress or
- having a little too much turkey or all the family at the home for the holiday. If your pet exhibits ANY of these signs get him to your vet immediately! Of course with it being a holiday, many animal clinics may be closed - another VERY valid reason not to share with your pets this Thanksgiving.
- ❖ Make sure you have an emergency number for your vet or the emergency vet clinic number handy.
- ❖ Make sure your pet has no access to any food left on the counters or tables when no one is around.
- ❖ After you're done cleaning up the kitchen, make sure you take the garbage out, and dispose of it in a secure place where no pets can get into it.
- ❖ If you are serving turkey, make sure you tie up the carcass in a plastic bag and throw it in the outside dumpster. Put a heavy item on the dumpster so that stray animals cannot get into it and become sick.
- ❖ Ham and other meats may come packaged with string wrapped around them. Pets may swallow the tasty packaging, which can be disastrous. Immediately tie up the string and place it in an outdoor trash can.
- ❖ Turkey, duck and other bird bones are dangerous to your pet. They are hollow and break and splinter easily this causes sharp pieces that can choke the dog, block, or tear intestines. The symptoms may not occur for a few days, but include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- ❖ **Chocolate can be fatal to your dog!** Bowls of candy, or pieces dropped by guests or children, may go unnoticed by you for hours, but pose a real risk to your pets.

- ❖ Beware of "bloat." **Bloat is common in Boxers EVERY DAY** but the chances increase around the holidays. While the causes of bloat are varied, gulping of food and water, exercising to soon before and after eating may be a serious threat to a lot of pets. Do not allow your pet to overeat, even his own food. Many dogs will gulp down their food as a defense to keep these "strangers" out of it. Do not feed your pet at high excitability times. Do not allow vigorous exercise before or after your pet has eaten. Symptoms include abdominal distention, salivating, retching, restlessness, depression, lethargy, anorexia, weakness, or a rapid heart rate. Your dog should see a vet IMMEDIATELY if any of these symptoms, even if mild, occur.
- ❖ Remember to caution others (both kids and adults) not to give your pets anything except their normal treats.
- ❖ Increased activity and visitors at home during the holidays can upset your pet's routine. Try to keep them on their regular schedule for feeding and exercise.
- ❖ Give your pets plenty of love and attention during the holidays so they don't feel left out.
- ❖ Be absolutely certain that pets have CURRENT I.D. tags on at all times.
- ❖ Teach the **Doggie Doorknob Rule**. Explain to everyone living or visiting your home, especially children: **do not turn the doorknob until you know where the dog is, and you are sure the dog can't get loose and run out the door.**
- ❖ Be careful of candles as pets can tip them over.
- ❖ Holiday plants such as holly, mistletoe, and hibiscus **are toxic to pets.**
- ❖ Never put ribbon or yarn around your pet's neck! If they eat it, both can choke your pet or become wound around organs.

Remember these guidelines, and your ENTIRE family will have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.



## DOG-TOBER FEST 2004!

Saturday, October 9 saw 23 of our needy boxers go on an outing: these dogs and their wonderful volunteers made the hour drive from the Boxer Rescue Kennels to Dog-tober Fest 2004 – a special event that raised almost \$1600.00 and found homes for 6 dogs.

Participants and volunteers took their own dogs or kennel dogs on the 2-mile walk, helping to raise money and awareness for Boxer Rescue LA and Noah's Bark.

It was great to see past adopters bring back dogs to visit! We love to see and hear from families – especially how much they love and appreciate their new family members!

The dog contests ranged from moving to hilarious to amazing!

Dog contest winners included:

(\*donates adoptable dog)

Best Rescue Story: Gigi

Mystery Mutt: Dottie\*

Fastest Eater: Milo\*

Best Tail Wag: Nakita

Longest Tail: Jasper

Best Kisser: Dodger

Biggest Dog: Trucker\*

Littlest Dog: Lala

Best Senior: Love\*

Best Physically Challenged: PJ pup

Longest Stay: Nakita

Greatest Singer: Jeep

Finest Dressed: Amelia\*

Most Awesome Trick: Dodger

Best in Show: Amelia\*

Extra special thanks to:

**Doggie Land**, who helped sponsor this event. Visit them on the web at [www.doggieland.net](http://www.doggieland.net) or give them a call at (310) 325-1300.

**Chipotle Grill**, who provided free food to all of our volunteers! Try their excellent food at a restaurant near you. To find the nearest location to you, visit them on the web at <http://www.chipotle.com/>.

If you missed us at Dog-tober Fest this year, we're hoping to make this an annual event. So keep watching for our coming events, and we'll see you and your boxer next October!

## MILO WALKS AWAY WITH DOG-TOBER FEST HONORS!



Our adoptable dog Milo walked away with the most Dog-tober Fest honors! This amazing dog, without any home to call his own, managed to bring home ribbons for:

1. Fastest Eater (1<sup>st</sup> place)
2. Longest Tail (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)
3. Best in Show (Runner –up)

Not only is he a wonderful dog, friendly to everyone but he's also a celebrity!

## UPCOMING SILENT AUCTION!

In order to continue to provide a sanctuary to these magnificent dogs, Boxer Rescue is organizing a silent auction! 100% of the proceeds from the auction going directly to the medical needs, housing and care of these boxers.

The fundraiser and silent auction at is 5PM on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>

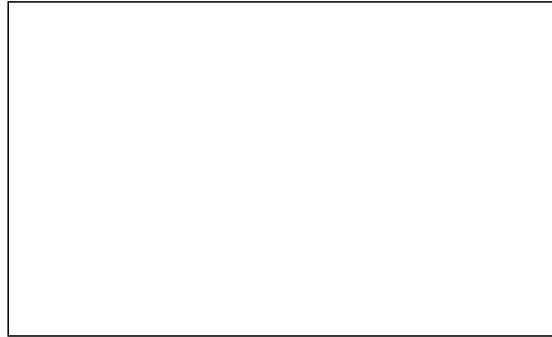
Tickets are only \$30 and it includes entry into raffles with amazing prizes (hotel getaways, plane tickets, restaurant gift certificates and more – and you don't have to attend the event to win).

The silent auction features numerous items for everyone and everything imaginable. So get your holiday shopping done early, help abandoned animals in need, AND it's even tax deductible! Oh and a buffet dinner is included too!

You can purchase tickets through Dana at (213) 532-6541 or [www.boxer-rescue-la.com](http://www.boxer-rescue-la.com)

Please feel free to pass this invitation along to all your animal-loving friends.

## HELP A NEEDY BOXER: BECOME A BOXER ANGEL!



We are proud to offer our *Angel Tags* to our supporters! These custom-designed identification cards feature photos of Boxer Rescue Dogs in need. Its a new fashion apparel... hey who needs a string of pearls when you can wear an Angel Tag? What a great way to show your support! Angel Tags also make wonderful gifts any animal lover! BRLA Angel Tags are available whenever you pick a special boxer buddy to sponsor. To get your angel tag, send a check with the name of the dog you'd like to help to:

BRLA  
17514 Ventura Blvd  
Suite #201  
Encino, CA 91316-5914  
Allow 4 – 6 weeks for tag delivery.

## STUDENT ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE



Animal Rights is the simple idea that animals deserve to be treated as the living, feeling individuals that that are. The Student Animal Right conference focuses on helping young

animal advocates find a community of peers for the inspiration and support to continue their work and care for animals.

This year, the Student Animal Rights Alliance ([www.defendanimals.org](http://www.defendanimals.org)) will be organizing "Liberation Now!" and "Demand Liberation" (<http://www.DemandLiberation.com>)

Please visit the above web sites to learn more.

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER:

### Meet the "Queen of Poop Scooping!"

#### Katherine Combs



I started with BRLA about 3 years when on vacation to visit my daughter and fellow Boxer Rescue Volunteer, Jourdan--she put me right to work walking dogs. When my husband and I

moved to California. It was a no-brainer. I was hooked!

I volunteer inside the kennel, doing the everyday tasks for the dogs. I wash dishes, give sick dogs their medications, and generally take care of the orphans. I spend most of my time doing the menial labor: cleaning kennels, feeding dogs, walking them, and doing the never-ending laundry. It's not glamorous, but I like to think of myself as the "Queen of Poop Scooping".

I also try to help by scheduling adoption appointments and working weekend adoptions. I help with Boxer Bingo and other fundraisers. When I can, I also sponsor medical needs.

I am owned by a 14 year old pug, "Pugsley", who is a beautiful, tough gal who worked as a therapy dog with me with the mentally ill, and with cancer patients for years. I rescued her when she was 10 months old. We have been joined at the hip every since. We also have a calico cat, "Kitty", age 9, who Jourdan rescued when she was a sophomore at Michigan State. Kitty came to stay with us for "a short time" and we haven't been able to part with her. Pug and Kitty travel with us back and forth to Michigan and love the ride sitting up on high pillows in the back of the car so they can watch the miles go by.

I have been involved with "rescue" efforts since I was a young girl. However, I love the rescue because it keeps my faith in the goodness of life balanced--"never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world" (Margaret Mead).

I smile from the soul when I think about Boxer Rescue and feel proud to be included with such a group of caring, hard working, compassionate people.

Some memories stick with you, the happy times like seeing Beth the Beauty Queen and the other old and new timers finding their forever families...and the days of heartbreak—I will never forget MaryAnne or Tiny. Mary Anne and Tiny hurt my heart a lot---Bosco, at the kennel now, hurts my heart every time I think of him.

He has been at the kennel for over 4 years... He could go to an adult home with a strong leader--he is a love and deserves a home as much as anyone

#### **Katherine's Featured Dog:**

#### **Bosco**

Contact Boxer Rescue  
LA to see if Bosco  
could be your favorite  
too!

I volunteer because

I hold a deep admiration for the boxers and other volunteers who make such a difference--as frustrating as the rescue can be, those mushy faces make it all worth it.

## REUNIONS AT THE BRIDGE

[Author Unknown]

Posted by: Leilani Laca

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the bridge together. The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly. Get over to the path." "But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared. The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No, son." The older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue."

## SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS:

### Congratulations to the September/October Boxers that found new homes:

Adonis by Eric Granillo  
Ajax by Lindsey Garvin  
Allie by Danny Hayes  
Angus by Karen Jensen  
Annie by Stacy Sanchez  
Ashton by Jamonia Danesh  
Baby\* by Yaye Karasawa  
Bella\* by Chris & Amy Danforth  
Bogey by John Carmel  
Boy by Stacy Lee  
Cassie by Sue Tyszkiewicz  
Chance by David Stolitsky  
Cindy by Monica Alexander  
Cinnamon by Eric Weinhagen  
Cosmo by Leslie Spaggiari  
Devlin by Kevin Johnson  
Dixie by Jim & Roilyn Tyner  
Dottie/Muggins by Donna Baker  
Drake by Karen Orland  
Ginger\* by Mary Blackwell  
Guy by Jim Randall  
Helena by Carmen & Richard Metodiev  
Howard by Jason Lesage & Victoria Berris  
Iddy Bidy by Jacquelyne Mathieson  
Kona by Kelly Norton  
Lila by Kenneth McCluney  
Major Payne by Carl Haas  
Mary Kay by Gary Taylor  
Max by Melody Anderson  
Melody by Sue Cannon  
Missy by Melody Anderson  
Morgan by Sue Cannon  
Nicky by Catherine Brown-Mayfield  
Pierre by Meighan Keenan  
Piper by Stacy Donbek  
Quiz by Nicole Beaudet  
Ramsey by Lori Solomon  
Roxanne by Greg Moore  
Simba by Lena Buda  
Snickers by Nicole Ginnever  
Spanky by Steve Novitzke  
Tyson by Carl Kanny  
Zena by Margaret Kopf  
Angela by Tina Minero  
Babbs by Alberto Lopez  
Bacall by Misty Burt  
Ben by Tracy Mayhew  
Boaz by Kenyen Jenckes  
Brenda by Charles McBurney  
Buster by Bruce Lackey  
Charlie by Carol Enland  
Chopper by Misty Burt

Daphne by Dennis Davison  
Delilah by Carol England  
Dino by Kimberly Toes  
Eddie by Michael Childs  
Eva by Lorena & Marcelo Altamirano  
Gordon by Jordan Conrad  
Hazel by Erica Rey  
Hopper/Oscar by Jack Elander Allan S. Partlow  
Howard by Gary Jue  
Koa by Courtney Abercrombie  
Kobe II by Jerry & Elenore Hierro  
Lancelot by Terry & Becky White  
Lucious by Linda Luyben  
Mackintosh by Michael A Jackson  
Malibu by David & Theresa Delotta  
Max by Jean Cipolla  
Mike\* by Joseph Chan  
Milo by Ulysses & Karlie Gomez  
Nell by Allison & Matt Lugar  
Phantom/Oliver by Deidre Grisco  
Reggie by Michelle & Joe Astone  
Rockee by David Kalai  
Sarah by Elena Orlova  
Sean by Danielle Kulick  
Selma by James & Christine Rhoads  
Twinkle/Chloe by Renee Gunter  
Yoki\* by Raymond & Peggy Manor  
Zamboni by Alex Fleming

Also a special thanks to:

### **Bay Area Boxer Rescue**

[\(http://www.boxer-rescue.org/\)](http://www.boxer-rescue.org/)

for finding loving homes for:

Marsha, Robert, Norman, Chaz, Axel, Morgan,  
Ginger, Billy, Eli, Shiksa/Brandy, Deeg, Kasin,  
Daisy, CeeCee, Shakinda, Dingo, Winona, Juicy,  
Luv, Dynamo, Max, Boy, Beverly, Carla, Rocky,  
Justine, Rudy, Brandy and Nele

## **BOXER LOVERS WORD-WIDE COME TO THE RESCUE!**

Last month many of you read the heart wrenching stories of our many losses. August and September were not kind months to our loving Boxers and in addition to the 12 dogs now waiting for us at the rainbow bridge, boxers requiring medical care literally poured into the rescue. Here are some who donated what they could to help save lives:

**Jeanne & Eric Ruehl - California**

**Maureen Bond - California**

**Connie Andrews - California**

**Joan Kirshenbaum - Colorado**

**Yvonne Weisbarth - Germany**

**Margaret Schmidt-Brueninghaus - Germany**

## BOXER QUESTION CORNER:

### Prey Drive:

I adopted a great boxer last year who has quickly become a huge part of our family. He loves being at home and is really mellow and sweet. We have found though that he has a hard time being around small dogs. I have taken him on lots of walks and even tried the dog park, and each time it's the same thing. If he sees a smaller dog, he goes crazy. He never barks at home, but when he sees a small dog - he starts barking like crazy and tries to pull me over to the dog. He's okay with dogs about his same size, but any small dog he goes nuts over. We've been kicked out of the dog park. He's such a good boy at home, but I kind of dread taking him out because he becomes so unpredictable if anyone with a small dog comes by. When he gets to them, he seems to stare them down. He doesn't bite or try to hurt them.

You know how everyone is completely captivated by boxers, so people all want to come up and pet him. He loves people and seems to like big dogs. He has even jumped the backyard fence because he saw a small dog out the window. I've tried private training and even doggie day care, but no one seems to be able to address the issue. Is there anything I can do?

**Jason Austin**

### **Boxer Rescue:**

It sounds as if your dog may have an enhanced "prey drive", or the motivation to chase, catch and kill small furry or feathered creatures. All dogs have some level of prey drive because hunting and killing was a way of life for their ancestors and the means for their survival.

Many natural drives of dogs, including prey drive, have been modified by selective breeding practices. The level of prey drive varies between breed groups. In fact, four of the seven breed groups of dogs recognized by the American Kennel Club (sporting, herding, hound and terrier groups) have an enhanced prey drive. For example, terriers have been bred for a pure, unadulterated prey drive - honing their chasing and killing skills. Luckily for us, boxers, being bred as a "working" breed, haven't been bred with the "killing" instinct of terriers.

Many dogs chase cats, and are allowed (if not encouraged) to do so. It may be that your large dog perceives the small dog to be a cat or squirrel until

he gets a chance to get up close and personal with the dog. When trying to prevent aggression or prey drive towards small dogs, it is important not to encourage prey drive AT ALL.

If your larger dog has a problem with smaller dogs, be vigilant, and stay aware of the dogs around you. If your dog is out of control on a leash or fixates on smaller dogs you need to correct him.

Suggestions for minimizing problems between small and large dogs:

- Control your dog on a leash. Your dog should walk close to you, not lead you. If your dog is a "puller", consider a Gentle Leader, Halti, or prong collar.
- Do not let your dog bark uncontrollably, lunge or even stare at other dogs. If he does, correct him by carrying a squirt bottle and giving your dog a couple of squirts on the nose, while telling him 'No' or 'Leave it'.
- If your dog barks or growls at another dog do not pet or hold your dog and tell him that it is okay. This is actually positive reinforcement for an unacceptable behavior. Correct your dog firmly.
- Walk your dog. Exposure to the problem is the only way to work on corrections. Avoidance doesn't help.
- Never allow someone holding a small dog in their arms to lean over a big dog. This may terrify the small dog and may automatically trigger prey drive in the larger dog.
- Do not let your dog practice his aggression by barking at a window or fence. This can make a dog more aggressive over time. Put him in another area or block your dog's view.
- Trust your instincts and believe in your dog. Keep an eye on the other dog as you walk your dog away.

Dogs are pack animals and crave the structure provided by a strong leader. By being a responsible dog owner, using some common sense and teaching your dog manners, your dog will respect and love you more. And you will make the world a happier and more harmonious place for all of us -- people and dogs together.

For more information on prey drive, please visit our website [www.boxer-rescue-la.com](http://www.boxer-rescue-la.com) and click on "Ask The Trainer"

**If you have a question for "Question Corner", please e-mail [newsletter@boxer-rescue-la.com](mailto:newsletter@boxer-rescue-la.com)**

## VAREKAI UPDATE:



Varekai was brought to BRLA in May of 2004.

Varekai means "wanderer" in the Romany language of the gypsies. He is just that, a wanderer found in the

streets of south central Los Angeles. He had severe Demodectic mange covering over a third of his body. His protective coat was gone, exposing his sensitive pink skin to the elements. In the heat of the sun, his skin burnt, blistered, and burnt again.



Soft skin became broken and bloody.

Varekai's feet were swollen and scabby – so sore he could barely walk.

The top photo to the left shows what Varekai looked like in his first

days with us (after a medicated bath).

With much support and love from Boxer Rescue volunteers and supporters, now, 5 months later, Varekai is now looking for his forever home. He is still a little pink, but he is recovering! The sick boy that could hardly walk when he came to us is now a bundle of energy, jumping and playing to make up for lost time.

Thank you to everyone that helped this boy.

Please enjoy his new pictures and know that he's almost there!

**Would you like to add Varekai to your family?**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Boxer Rescue LA is a non-profit 501 3(c) organization. Your generosity is what keeps BRLA able to rescue abandoned Boxers and provide them with a second chance at life. We are funded solely by private donation. Please give what you can to save a Boxers life. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

### Make a donation

Checks made payable to and mailed to:

Boxer Rescue LA  
17514 Ventura Blvd. Suite 201  
Encino, CA 91316

Visit our donation page: <http://www.boxer-rescue-la.com/pages/donations.htm>

### Donate Your Time

Become a BRLA volunteer. We have numerous opportunities for volunteer work. You can come to the kennel and work hands on with our orphans: walking, bathing and socializing. There are even ways for you to help from the comfort of your home, with email follow up, database work, etc. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Jourdan Conrad ([jourdanc@mac.com](mailto:jourdanc@mac.com)).

### Foster a dog

You can open your heart and home to help a needy orphan regain their strength. For more information visit: <http://www.boxer-rescue-la.com/Adoption/fostering.htm>

## BOXER RESCUE WISH LIST!

Boxer Rescue is always in need of the following items.

- Wire Crates size 36x24x28 or larger
- Nutra Nuggets Lamb & Rice (Costco)
- 21"-22" choke chains
- Leashes
- Nylabones
- Towels
- Blankets
- Laundry soap
- Bleach
- Window cleaner
- Disinfectant
- Spray bottles
- Paper towels
- Polaroid film (600)
- Xerox paper
- Natural treats
- Any service like printing, etc.

For more info, contact Joni [jcproline@comcast.net](mailto:jcproline@comcast.net)

# Winter White Sale



Fawn and Brindle Boxers also available

**Boxer Rescue Los Angeles**

[www.boxer-rescue-la.com](http://www.boxer-rescue-la.com)

(213) 532-6541 (voice mail only)

Non-profit organization for the welfare and care of homeless boxers