

Speaking for Spot will speak to you!

By Kathie Meier

There's a new paw on the shelf in the dog book world – Dr. Nancy Kay's *Speaking for Spot*, which begins shipping on October 1, 2008.

Dr. Kay's mission in writing the book is to teach dog owners how to be effective advocates for their four-legged friends as they traverse the world of both routine veterinary care and veterinary care during an illness. It covers the entire spectrum of caring for our pets with topics that include finding the right veterinarian, the vaccination debate, questions to ask the vet and questions the vet will ask us, understanding surgery and other options, explanation of the myriad of diagnostic tests and new technology currently available to our pets, knowing when to see a specialist, dealing with a cancer diagnosis, and ending with a very compassionate and thought provoking discussion on the end of life process and euthanasia.

Dr. Kay took care of Gretl for four years, most recently during her final illness with malignant histiocytosis earlier this year. I was privileged to be able to read a prerelease copy of the book and couldn't help but wish, as I read it, that it had been available throughout my 29 years with Berners, as she addresses so many of the questions and issues that I, and I'm sure many Berner owners, struggle with in seeking veterinary care.

There are many books available on dog health care. Some are in the category of veterinary textbooks of medicine. Good

when we need to look up something specific. Others focus on a single area or a few areas of dog health care. I don't think you will find a more thorough, understandable and go-to-it-often reference than *Speaking for Spot*.

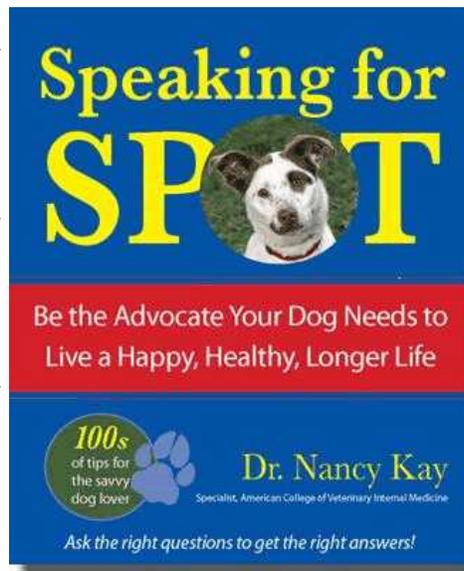
The book was featured in an article in the September/October edition of *The Bark* magazine, and will have a formal book review in *The Bark*'s November/December issue.

You can read several excerpts from the book on the Web site, www.speakingforspot.com, as well as a number of reviews including one from Amy Tan: "This is the book I wish I had when dogs first entered my life. . . . It's the other best friend you need when making routine veterinary decisions for your dog or potentially heart-breaking ones." – Amy Tan, author, *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Kitchen God's Wife*

In addition, take a look at the section entitled "Advocacy Aids". There is a terrific selection of health forms and health templates to download and print

that will help you organize your dog's health care and medications.

It isn't all that often that I read a book where I want to tell the world about it – but this is definitely one in that category. It is that good! And for me – the timing is perfect. After all, it is time to be thinking about holiday shopping!



Canine Health Foundation Podcasts Available

American Kennel Club and AKC Canine Health Foundation Release Podcast on Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium

The American Kennel Club and the AKC Canine Health Foundation are pleased to debut the next podcast in the Genome Barks series.

This podcast is a follow up to a recent interview with Dr. Matthew Breen. Dr. Breen, while a world renowned cancer researcher, is also the Treasurer of the Canine Comparative Oncology & Genomics Consortium (CCOGC). Jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation and Morris Animal Foundation, the CCOGC is a collaboration of veterinary and medical oncologists, pathologists, surgeons, geneticists, and molecular and cellular biologists. This group determined that a well-described repository of tissues (tumor and normal) from tumor bearing dogs was an essential resource needed for

advancing our understanding of canine cancer. The biospecimen repository, sponsored by Pfizer, houses tumor tissue, normal tissues, serum, plasma, peripheral blood mononuclear cell preparations, genomic DNA, RNA and urine samples. The goal is to obtain 3,000 samples of lymphoma, osteosarcoma, melanoma, hemangiosarcoma, soft tissue sarcoma/histiocytic sarcoma, mast cell tumors, and lung cancer.

New podcasts are released every two weeks and can be accessed from either the American Kennel Club website at www.akc.org or the AKC Canine Health Foundation website at www.akcchf.org - click on "Podcasts." They are also available on Apple's iTunes® or directly at www.akc-akcchf.libsyn.com.