

# BOW-WOW!



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September 2009 Celebrating Nine Years of DOG NEWS FOR DOG LOVERS



INSIDE

A photograph of a brown dog with floppy ears, wearing a pink collar, looking slightly to the side.

She's All Heart

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Are we having fun



yet?

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**Speaking for SPOT**  
Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to  
Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life  
100% of profits go to the ASPCA  
Dr. Nancy Kay  
Ask the right questions to get the right answers!



## THE READING DEN

### Just what the doctor ordered

Over the years, I have collected a variety of books designed to help me make sense of the common and not-so-common ailments that many dogs encounter during their lives. But even with subjects ranging from home remedies, holistic pet care, first aid and simple diagnoses for general symptoms, the one thing all these reference books seem to have in common is that they just aren't all that helpful. So when I came across a copy of veterinarian Dr. Nancy Kay's new book *Speaking for Spot, Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life*, to be honest, I was expecting more of the same.

Boy, was I wrong! Little did I know that this one book would quickly become the go-to pet medical reference book on my shelf.

Way more than just a pet health book, *Speaking for Spot* is a comprehensive guide full of information you need to know and questions you need to ask the veterinarian to ensure that you, your dog and your vet are working together toward your pet's good health.

Easy to understand with clear descriptions and illustrations, *Speaking for Spot* gives dog owners the tools and information they need to make a lifetime of medical

decisions for their dogs. But it is also written by a real person who understands the emotional attachments we have with our pets. In fact, one of the best features of the book is Dr. Kay's obvious compassion for owners trying to make the best medical choices for their dogs. It is that compassion that encourages readers to step up and become their pet's medical advocate, while the nuts and bolts content empowers readers with the resources and confidence to make those medical choices for their dogs.

*Speaking for Spot* covers topics from controversial basics such as vaccinations and spay/neuter to life threatening conditions (including a full chapter on cancer in dogs) and end of life decisions. It is also full of invaluable advice for communicating effectively with your veterinarian, including clarifying vet-speak, requesting a second opinion and addressing financial concerns.

Whether you have just brought home your first dog ever, or have shared your home with dogs for years, this book will be the one you reach for whenever you have a question about your dog's general health, a procedure that you're uncertain about, life or death decisions, or just some reassurance that you and your vet are making the right health care choices for you and your pet.

Bottom line: if you love your dog, you need this book.

—Trish Nevan

*Speaking for Spot; Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy Longer Life by Dr. Nancy Kay, published by Trafalger Square Books. \$19.95.*

### AKC opens competitions to mixed breeds dogs

The purebred dog registration organization, American Kennel Club® (AKC) will be starting a program for mixed breed dogs to participate in competitive dog sports.

The mixed breeds program will be implemented in three phases. As of October 1, 2009 owners can begin enrolling their pets and receive an AKC ID number. Then beginning April 1, 2010, enrolled dogs will be eligible to compete in mixed breed classes at stand-alone AKC Agility, Obedience and Rally events. Soon after they will have access to benefits such as discounted AKC Companion Animal Recovery Lost and Found service, a free AKC Canine Good Citizen® certificate for dogs passing the CGC test, a free initial veterinary visit, a trial offer of pet health insurance and discounted coupons for dog supplies. The third phase will be a dedicated website.

For more information about the AKC's mixed breeds program, visit [www.akc.org/mixedbreeds](http://www.akc.org/mixedbreeds).

**Think your house is smelling a little "doggie?" Instead of sprays and room deoderizers, experts suggest the best solution is to open the doors and windows for an hour or so.**

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### Is your dog a canine EINSTEIN?

Have you always suspected your dog was smarter than the average mutt? Now you can prove it with the Pooch IQ Kit.

The Pooch IQ Kit is a first-of-its-kind tool that lets you test your dog's intelligence level while having loads of fun with your pup.

Inside the Pooch IQ Kit, you'll find a booklet with 15 mentally-stimulating exercises for your dog and a scoring key you'll use to calculate your pup's IQ. Plus, the IQ Kit includes all the toys and props you'll need to do the exercises with your pet.

Kits cost \$49.99 and are available through local pet supply stores or at [poochIQ.com](http://poochIQ.com). For budget minded brainiacs, there is also a Mini Pooch IQ Kit that retails for \$24.99.

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