



# Petroglyphs

 New Mexico's Resource Publication for Animal Lovers 

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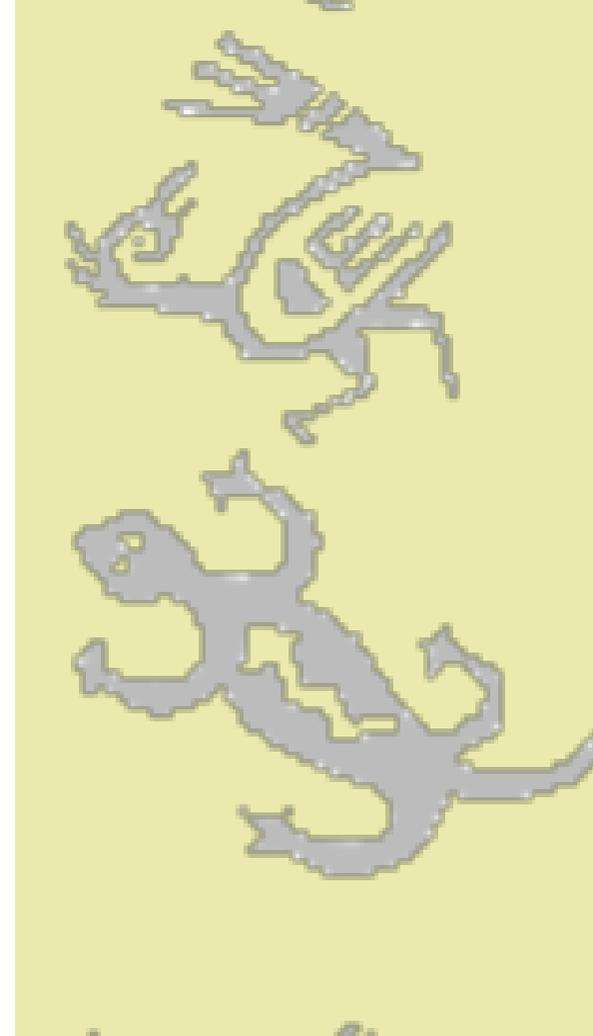
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## DOGS: CARE AND HEALTH

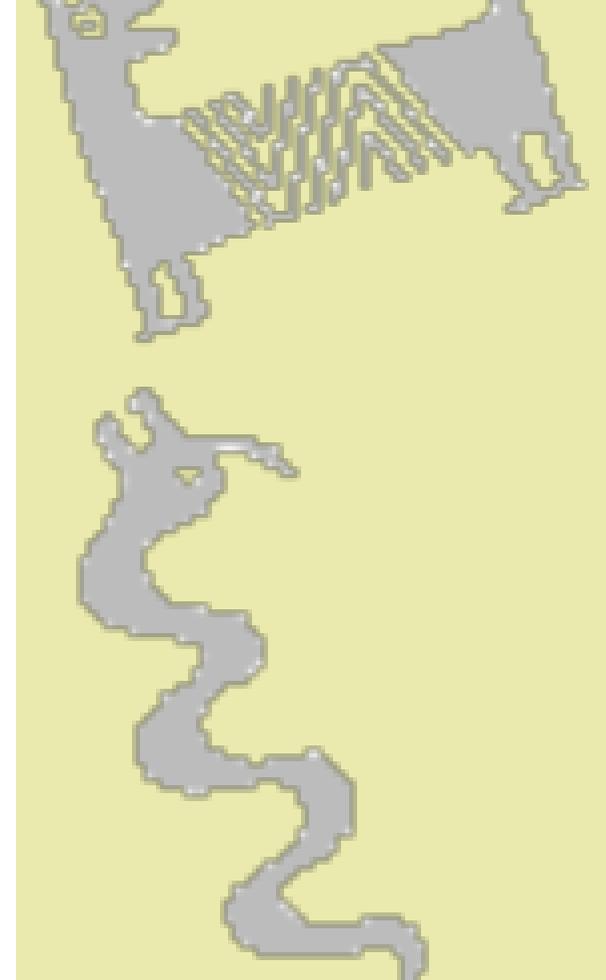
[The Bump on Lucy's Nose](#)

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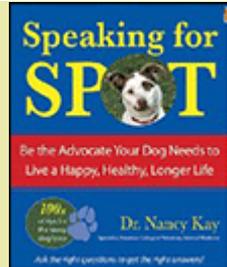


Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog  
Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life **NEW!**

By Dr. Nancy Kay

Trafalger Square, 2008, 388 pp., \$19.95

If you live with a dog, you need this book. It's as simple as that. If possible, read this before you



even get a dog. Dr. Kay uses her 20+ years of experience as a veterinarian to help you be the perfect advocate for your dog when you speak to a veterinarian and her staff. This how-to book leads you through the confusing world of veterinary medicine with expertise, humor and warmth. She writes in a conversational style that draws you in

and makes you wish you lived near her clinic.

The relationship you establish with your veterinarian is as important to your dog as your own relationship with your doctor is to you. This book gives you the questions to ask of a veterinarian and her staff, tells you what to look for in a veterinary clinic and what you need to tell the vet about your life and your dog's. Dr. Kay explains which tests and vaccinations your dog needs at different stages of his life. She gives you a guided tour through a modern veterinary clinic illustrating various high-tech diagnostic equipment, scanners, advanced surgical techniques and rehabilitation options available to help your dog. She discusses costs for various procedures and treatments and whether there are more economical options.

She answers the questions a dog owner has about when to see the veterinarian. Should you see the veterinarian immediately or can you wait a day to see whether your dog improves? When should you get a second opinion and where can you get one? How do you know when your dog is ready to say good-bye? You will feel much more comfortable dealing with these questions after you hear her common sense advice.

Dr. Kay has a whole chapter on cancer, the treatments, the options and when you should let your dog go. A diagnosis of cancer will be given to one in three of our dogs as they live longer and veterinarians have better diagnostic methods. It is important to understand the options you and your dog have and what is involved in various forms of treatment. She explains this in great detail by discussing canine cancers, the medical terminology that goes with any cancer treatment, symptoms and what outcomes to expect.

Her appendix, sidebar charts, tips and "secrets for success" alone are good reasons to have this book. She presents common symptoms and questions you should ask your vet when your dog shows symptoms. She gives lists of common diseases and the questions that you should ask about them. Her quick reference information is excellent.

Dr. Kay is a board certified specialist in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She is an owner and staff internist at the Animal Care Center, a 24-hour emergency/specialty care center in Rohnert Park, CA. Recently she was awarded the American Animal Hospital Association 2009 Hill's Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award.

I can't recommend this book highly enough. It should be on the shelf of every dog lover to help you be the best advocate your dog could ever want or need. Four paws up for Dr. Nancy Kay. I hope we see many more books from her. -N. Marano

[Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life](#)