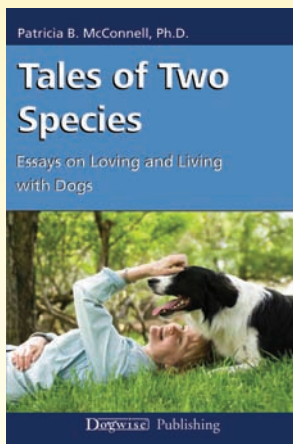


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Other chapters discuss cloning; bark translators; differences between dogs and cats; whether and why people might look like their dogs; the plight of dogs after Hurricane Katrina's backwash drowned New Orleans (which will be familiar to Bark readers—the plight, that is); whether dogs can detect cancer; ancient Egyptian dogs; and Pekinese, the putative lion, or Foo, dog of the Buddha.

The Modern Dog is long on promise but short on substance, a lite holiday concoction best consumed in transit and taken no more seriously than scheduled flight times.

Mark Derr is Bark's science editor and author of numerous books, including *Dog's Best Friend*.

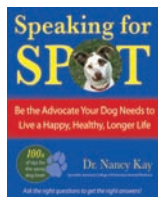
Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life

By Nancy Kay, DVM

Trafalgar Square Books, 384 pp., 2008; \$19.95

Reviewed by Susan Tasaki

THIS BOOK IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, the ultimate insider's guide to getting the most out of a trip to the vet. The first thing Dr. Kay advises us to do is to push vets off their pedestals, which makes sense, since we're less likely to question those we place on them. And when it comes to the health of our companion animals, the need for questions is a given, not an option. The trick, it seems, is to know which ones to ask, and then to ask them at the



right time. In *Speaking for Spot*, Dr. Kay pulls back the curtain that tends to separate veterinarians from their clients, and in doing so, gives us (the clients) a better understanding of how we can effectively advocate for our co-pilots (the patients).

Two sections stand out. Among the difficult situations that can arise in a vet's office is a diagnosis with multiple possible treatments and outcomes. How do we evaluate the alternatives and come to a decision that's in our pup's best interest? In chapter two, Dr. Kay takes us through a series of options that help us stay focused on our dog's needs rather than our own. And in chapter 11, she gives us a gentle yet pragmatic overview of end-of-life issues. She also addresses another unfortunately common question, one that none of us wants to ask but that crosses our minds at some point: How much is this going to cost? Insights into finding a vet specialist, coping with a cancer diagnosis, getting a second opinion and seeing things from the vet's point of view are equally well presented.

The publisher comes in for praise as well for the user-friendly arrangement of information, which makes it easy to identify the "quick references" and "secrets for success" that appear throughout the book. Finally, be sure to visit Dr. Kay's website (speakingforspot.com) and download her Advocacy Aids, forms you can fill out when things are going well to help you navigate times that are not so smooth. As Desmond Morris notes on the back cover, "Dogs deserve to have good books written about them ... and this is one."

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 12, 1970; SECTION 3685, TITLE 39, UNITED STATES COSE SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION OF: Bark, published bimonthly, at 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710 for Oct 2008. Number of issue published annually: 6. Annual subscription price: \$18. The General Business Office of the Publisher is located at: 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710. / The names and addresses of the President, Editor-in-Chief are: President, Claudia Kawczynska, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; Editor-in-Chief, Claudia Kawczynska, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; Managing Editor, Cameron Woo, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710. The names and addresses of the Publisher is, Cameron Woo, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710. / The owner is Bark, Inc., 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; Principal stockholders: Claudia Kawczynska, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710, Alameda County; and Cameron Woo, 2810 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710, Alameda County. / Extent and nature of circulation: The average number of copies during preceding 12 months: a) total number of copies: 116125; b) paid circulation: 1) mail subscriptions: 62157; 2) sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-usps paid distribution: 39502; (4) Other Classes Mailed through the USPS: 900(c) total paid distribution: 102559; (d)(1) free distribution outside the mail: 125; (d)(3) Nominal Rate copies at Other Classes: 3000; (d)(4) Nominal Rate Outside of the Mail: 3250 (e) Total Nominal Rate distribution: 6375 (f) Total distribution: 108934 g) copies not distributed: 7191; (h) Total: 116125 (i) Percent paid: 94.1 percent. / The actual number of copies of single issue published nearest filing date: a) total no. of copies: 122750; b) paid circulation: 1) Mailed outside County Paid Subscription: 65087; (3) sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-usps paid distribution: 41078(4) Other Classes Mailed through the USPS: 1500(c) total paid distribution: 107665 (d) Nominal distribution outside the mail: 220; (d)(3) Nominal Rate copies mails at other classes: 1250; (d)(4) Nominal rate distribution outside the mail: 3000 (e) Nominal rate distribution: 4470; (h) total distribution: 112135 (g) copies not distributed: 10615; (i) percent paid and/or requested circulation: 96 percent. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Claudia Kawczynska, Editor.