

The Critical
Senate Race
No One's Talking
About... **YET.**

by Patrick Doyle

REAL ESTATE
Mountain
Homes for
Everyone

page 90

The (Surprising)
Truth Behind
THE ROCKIES'
SUCCESS

by Luc Hatlestad

**SKI, HIKE,
RUN, BIKE**
Our Year-Round
Guide to Mt. Evans

page 68

How Dogs Are Helping
Rehabilitate
COLORADO
PRISONERS

by Joe Lindsey

5280

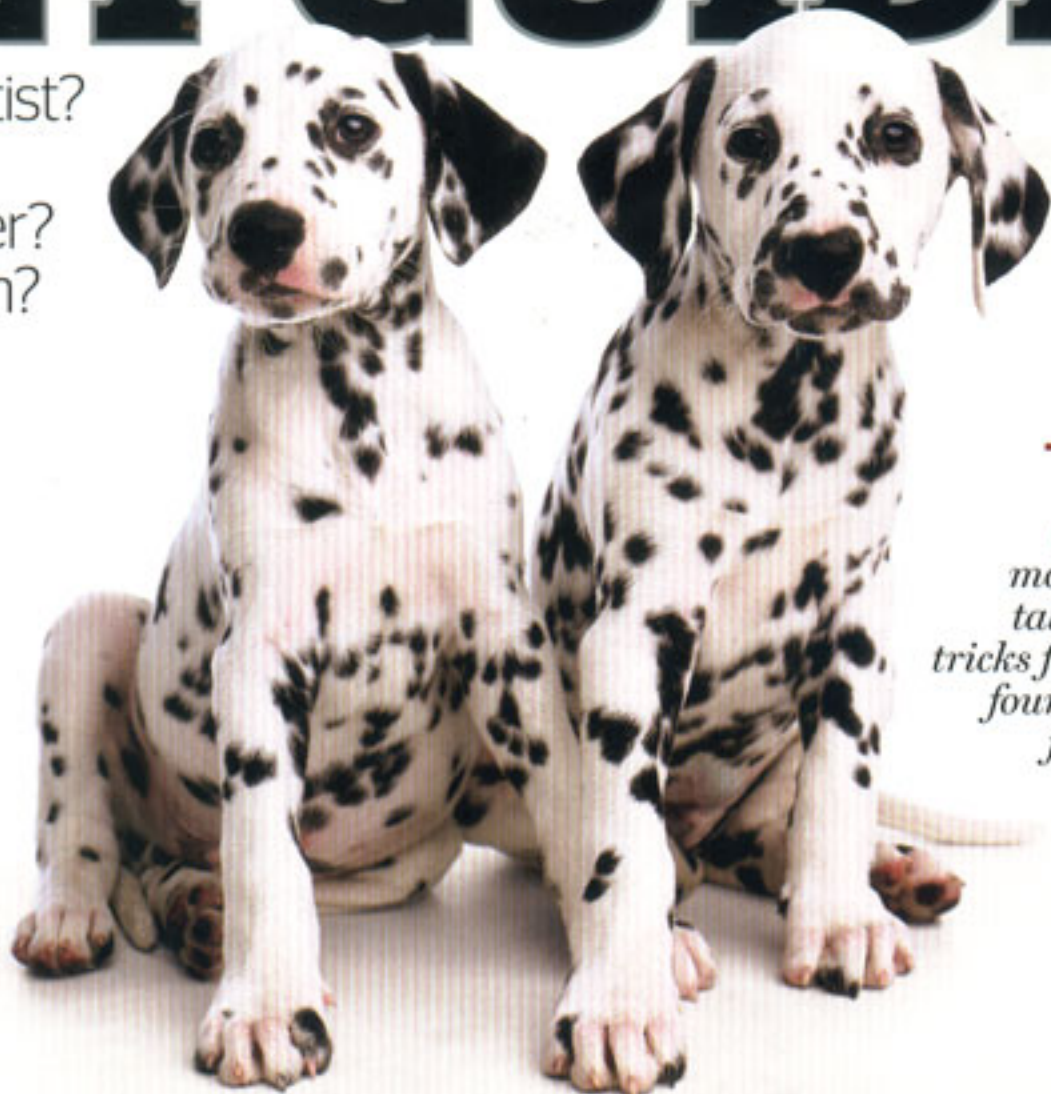
Celebrating 15 Years As Denver's Magazine

The Definitive Denver

PET GUIDE

Doggie dentist?
Cat trainer?
Bird groomer?
Fish surgeon?
We got 'em.

page 72



Plus
75
more tips,
tales, and
tricks for your
four-legged
friends.

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Pet Pleasers

Does your cat need a behavior lesson? Have a dog in need of a dentist? We dug up 20 unusual specialty services every animal-lover should know about.

BY LINDSEY B. KOEHLER



Puppy Breath

Dr. Jed Rogers, FIREHOUSE ANIMAL HEALTH CENTERS

According to Dr. Jed Rogers of the Firehouse Animal Hospital, nearly 75 percent of all dogs and cats have dental disease, a condition that can cause soreness even if your animal isn't exhibiting any signs of pain. Over the past three years, Dr. Rogers has implemented a strong dental program—which includes state-of-the-art equipment—at the five area Firehouse hospitals. He recommends cats and dogs get an annual cleaning—even if their teeth look clean to you. www.myfirehouse.com

Dog Gone It

Jennifer McCarthy, JENNIFER McCARTHY WORLD CLASS DOG TRAINING

Does your dog pull on the leash? Get aggressive with other animals? Not come when called? Jennifer McCarthy, a fourth-generation dog trainer who's been professionally involved with dogs since 1996, uses training methods that coach the human rather than the animal. McCarthy believes that owners need to learn how their behavior affects their animals. She will teach you how to communicate effectively with and manage your animal by becoming the leader of the dog pack. For McCarthy, it's all about the attitude—and it works. 720-984-5528, www.jmdog-training.com

Heart Healthy

Dr. Carroll Loyer, DVM, DACVIM (CARDIOLOGY)

After four years of vet school and four years of residency, Dr. Carroll Loyer became the first veterinary cardiologist in the state of Colorado. And after 15 years of practicing at the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado—and more than 13,000 patients—Loyer still loves what he does. "The fact that I've been able to help that many pets live better is what keeps me going," he says. "It keeps me reading the journals and staying up-to-date so I can help even more." And that's a good thing for Denverites and their pets. According to Loyer, poor heart health among pets is much more common than people think. Dogs are susceptible to mitrovalve degeneration, and cats commonly acquire "thick" or "scarred" hearts—both of which should be treated by a cardiologist. Fortunately, Fluffy doesn't need a referral to see Dr. Loyer. *Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado, 3550 S. Jason St., Englewood, 303-874-7387, www.vrcc.com*

Doggie DNA

WISDOM PANEL

Ever wonder what your mutt is made of? With the Wisdom Panel, a DNA-based mixed-breed analysis, you can find out exactly why Spot has those spots in the first place. Able to identify more than 130 AKC-recognized breeds, this test answers that all-important question: What kind of dog is that? The test, which requires a blood draw and costs about \$150, is available at a variety of Denver vet clinics, including Evans East Animal Hospital and 29th Avenue Animal Hospital. *To find out more about the test, visit www.whatsmydog.com.*

Fast Food

COLORADO PET CHEF

Lugging that 50-pound bag of food out of the big-box pet store will give you a hernia. Instead, let the nice people of Colorado Pet Chef deliver their all-natural, human-grade, no-chemical-preservative food right to your door. 303-388-2604, www.coloradopetchef.com