

Can't we get along? Which is better: dogs or cats?

CRITTER CORNER

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It seems it's all-out war between the cat

lovers and their canine counterparts, the dog people. Folks, can't we all just get along?

Over the summer the American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers' Association decided to end the debate over which pet is most beloved — your devoted dog or your cuddly cat.

During a period of eight weeks, more than 9,000 pet lovers cast their ballots in the Pet Preference poll that was hosted on www.meetthebreeds.com.

It could have been a massacre — cat owners outnumber dog owners by 13 million, according to the poll. But the canine pack ran away with the poll with 65 percent over the 35 percent who voted for cats.

But there were some interesting results. Dog were most popular in Chicago, Seattle and Detroit while cats were tops in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Houston.

Then this week, a new book called "Why Dogs are Better Than Cats" arrives.

Written by Bradley Trevor Greive, who has sold more than 18 million copies of his Blue Day Books, the book is a hoot.

Published by Andrews McMeel Publishing, the book has beautiful photos of both cats and dogs — of course the cats are usually sneering or wearing devil

horns or a black cape.

But it's the text that makes the book. Like this:

"To dogs, you are the great love of their lives. To cats, you are the courtesan of the moment.

Dogs see you as a parent, partner, best friend and soul mate. Cats see you as a source of warmth and food.

If you care for dogs long enough, they become members of the family. Cats become destructive housemates with bad breath."

It's a great gift for anyone who has a dog, er or a cat in the fight. It sells for \$19.99.

Neuter special

The Society for the Improvement of Conditions for Stray Animals will be offering a one-day special on Nov. 11 to neuter male cats and get a rabies vaccination for \$20 for those with incomes less than \$20,000. They also will neuter stray male cats for \$20. Appointments will be scheduled after you complete an application and pay for it.

For an application or more information, visit www.sicsa.org or call (937) 294-6505.

Dog fights

A couple weeks ago, I wrote about breaking up dog fights. Some helpful tips have come in since then. Christina Massie, of Club K-9 Doggy Daycare Inc., offers "I have a couple of other things that I tell my clients to have with them on walks in case loose dogs come running up. The first is to carry an umbrel-

la. It's pretty easy to carry with you and can be opened and used as a shield to distract an approaching dog. The other is a product called Spray Shield (formally Direct Stop), which looks like mace but is actually citronella. The great thing is if it blows around and gets on you or your own dog it will not harm them."

Visit www.premier.com to buy the spray, which costs about \$15.

Holiday food drive

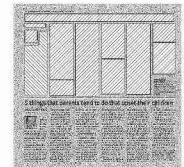
Evergreen Veterinary Hospital in Centerville is kicking off a Holiday Food Drive for Pets today, Nov. 1, through Dec. 16. Evergreen will accept donations of adult dog and cat food, to be distributed through the local pet welfare organizations. Contributors can bring small bags of food (less than 20 pounds) to Evergreen Veterinary Hospital, 6600 Centerville Business Parkway, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

For more information, call (937) 435-5622.

Accredited pet sitter

Nancy Fiorita, a Bellbrook, pet sitter who owns Familiar Surroundings Cat Sitting Service, LLC, has become a Pet Sitters International Accredited Pet Sitter, according to an announcement from Pet Sitters International.

The organization has more than 8,000 members. To become accredited, a pet sitter must conform to PSI guidelines and demonstrate proficiency and professionalism in business



skills and practices.

For more information on Familiar Surroundings Cat Sitting Service, LLC, contact Nancy at (937) 848-8347 or www.catsitr.com.

To find out more about Pet Sitters International, call (336) 983-9222, visit www.petsit.com, or e-mail info@petsit.com.

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