

# Wagging Tales

The unofficial newsletter of Barkland Dog Park's small dogs and their humans

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## Mourning the Loss of One of Our Own, Susan Mapes



Susan Mapes, doggie mom to Magnet the pug, died on February 1 from complications of diabetes. She was only 58.

Sue began bringing Magnet to the dog park during the summer of 2014. From the beginning, those who got to know her well enjoyed her goofy humor and delicious culinary creations. Her creativity showed up often, as well. Magnet the Inmate won first prize at the 2014 Halloween party.

Sue always saw the good side of a situation and was a loyal friend and devoted doggie mom to Magnet.

Magnet is now living with Sue's sister Kim, but she's missing her mom. We are, too.

## Battle of the Brands: The Best Food

Choosing the best food for your dog can be a difficult decision. You want the best for her, but what does that mean? Perusing the shelves of myriad brands can be overwhelming — just as it can be when you're shopping for yourself. First of all, consider your pup's age, breed and lifestyle. Active adult? Senior? Small breed? Allergy prone?

Whatever you do, pay careful attention to the ingredients. If the first ingredient is not meat or fish, walk away. Organic meat is best, but it should be chicken, beef, salmon, turkey, duck, buffalo or something

similar. Go down the list. If it contains meat by-products or fillers, move along. Chicken meal or fish meal are both acceptable. Also, look for other healthy ingredients, such as sweet potato, blueberries, kale, Omega 3s, antioxidants, etc.

Better brands are more expensive, but you want one that will give your dog the best nutrition possible. The ones pictured below have been rated as among the best dry foods available. Most of them also come in a variety of flavors.



## 2 Play Dates Left



North Shore Dog  
Sunday Play Dates  
February 21, March  
11am to 1pm, \$5 per dog

Winter really will be over soon. Until then, get some indoor play time in at [North Shore Dog](#) in Danvers. Bring proof of rabies vaccination and \$5 per dog.



## To Insure or Not to Insure

If your dog gets sick, has an accident or is involved in some type of fight with another dog, you will need to get veterinary assistance. In some cases, the treatment is extensive — and expensive. Having insurance is one way to offset the cost. Banfield offers a [Wellness Plan](#) that covers the cost of vaccinations, teeth cleaning, preventive exams and office visits. Many other companies provide major medical plans that help cover costs. Some of the best rated are [Healthy Paws](#), [Petplan](#), [trupanion](#) and [Embrace](#).

One big plus of insurance is the peace of mind that comes with knowing you're covered if anything should happen.

## Happy Birthday!



*Lacey Suslak, 5 years old on February 7*

Abbie Smith, Feb. 3  
Lilly Kerten, Feb. 5  
Lacey Suslak, Feb. 7  
Bella Cotter, Feb. 9  
Jo Jo Brown, Feb. 12  
Magic Tibbetts, Feb.15 (10 years old!)  
Deanna Magistrelli, Feb. 27



## Why Do Some Dogs Eat Poop?

There are some dogs (Willow, are you listening?) that just can't resist snacking on their friends' leftovers, if you know what I mean. They're well fed and healthy, but they just do it. Is it a fetish? An attempt to get some nutrient that's missing from their diets? Spite?

Stool-eating is technically known as coprophagia, and there are two main reasons some dogs engage in this pretty humanly disgusting act: behavior and

diet. Puppies often try it out of curiosity, but the desire usually fades. If not, it can become a really bad habit that is very difficult to break.

On the behavioral side, the cause may be doggie stress. Dogs often deal with stress in inappropriate ways. Some eat poop because they're getting inadequate nutrition or a particular nutrient is lacking in their diet. To solve the issue, sometimes the answer is changing your dog's food. Another option is introducing a digestive aid or a probiotic. In some cases, an illness, such as diabetes or thyroid disease, that causes excessive hunger is the culprit

Several products are available that claim to be deterrants to stool eating. One is by [Stool Eating Deterrant](#). Another is [Solid Gold S.E.P.](#) (Stop Eating Poop).

The key, of course, is determining the underlying cause of the problem.

## Jerky Anyone?

Here's a recipe for tasty homemade jerky that your dog should love:

1lb. ground beef, turkey or chicken (organic is best)  
1c beef or chicken liver

Chop the liver and mix it with the meat. You can do it by hand or pulse it in a food processor. If you have a piping bag, pipe out long strips of the mixture on a greased or parchment paper-lined baking sheet. If not, try to form it into thin rolls. Bake the jerky at 250 degrees for 4 to 6 hours. Let them cool and store in the fridge (but they won't last long!). Just don't add salt or seasoning.

### *Wagging Tales*

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