

Pet Care Resources at the Warsaw Library
By Kathy Stutzman, WCPL Public Relations Manager

This summer my grandsons, Nathan, Benjamin and Tommy, came to visit and we took them to the fair. Benjamin decided he wanted a fish. We let him play a game and he won a fish. With bagged fish in hand, we went home to tell Mom the “good news”. A container was found and fish food was purchased. Sadly, “Silvery” only lasted a couple of days leaving behind a heartbroken little boy.

Once they returned to Florida, they purchased a replacement. It died. In the next few weeks, different containers, fish food and fish were tried. In the end, tons of money was spent and I expect to hear of yet another “death in the family” any day now.

I shared this story because most likely some of you have new pets in the house that were Christmas presents and you don’t have a clue on how to take care of it. Hopefully, these library resources will help prevent a holiday surprise from turning into become a disaster in your new family venture.

Care and feeding:

Not fit for a dog!/ Michael W. Fox. The truth about manufactured dog and cat food.

What has ten legs and eats cornflakes?/Ron Roy. The care and feeding of three small and easily maintained pets...hermit crabs, gerbils and chameleons.

The Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care / C.J. Puotinen. Natural diet for dogs, cats, birds and rabbits, Supplements for pets – Herbs, Homeopathy for pets -- Hands-on therapies: acupuncture, acupressure, massage, chiropractic and related therapies, Holistic first aid -- A to Z ailments.

Great pets! / by Sara Stein. Discusses the characteristics of various types of animals that may be kept as pets and gives instructions for their care.

Training:

Cesar's way / Cesar Millan. I have seen “Dog Whisperer” Cesar on television and what he accomplishes is amazing. Learn what goes on inside your dog's mind. Cesar is a sought-after dog-behavior expert, whose expertise lies in his ability to comprehend dog psychology.

The dog whisperer. The complete first TV season [DVD]. Cesar Millan treats problem dogs with love to rehabilitate them into lovable pets.

No bad dogs/ Barbara Woodhouse. DVD. Trained more than 17,000 dogs and their owners. Simple, effective techniques.

Training your dog for life / Sheila Webster Boneham. "A step-by-step training and troubleshooting guide for dogs of all ages"

For children:

Pet vet 3D animal hospital [Computer Game]. Children learn amazing facts about animals while they treat, care and love them.

Paws & claws. Pet resort [Video Game]. Children care for and pamper all their favorite creatures at their own Paws & Claws pet resort; including dogs, cats, horses, rabbits and others. They learn to how to take care of pets and grow a business as well.

Arthur's pet business / Marc Brown. Arthur's determination to prove he is responsible enough to have a puppy brings him a menagerie of animals to care for.

The Care and Feeding of Fish: a story with pictures / by Sarajo Frieden. Following the instructions in an old notebook her great aunt Eclair accidentally mailed to her, Loulou takes her pet fish to a tailor, to charm school, and to tea, causing him to become the toast of the town.

Princess Josie's Pets / Maryann Macdonald. Princess Josie wants a puppy for her eighth birthday, but first she must prove to the King and Queen that she can be responsible for its care.

Be Gentle!/Virginia Miller. Picture book. When Bartholomew gets a little black kitten, he must learn to take care of him and be gentle with him.

Miscellaneous:

Vet confidential / Louise Murray. Protect your pet's health. On the scent: tracking down the best veterinary practice for your pet -- Head to tail: making the most of your pet's appointment -- Give it your best shot: creating a personalized vaccination protocol -- Dog dermatologists and cat cardiologists: when your pet needs a specialist -- Cat scans and dog scans: advance technology for your pet.

Speaking for Spot: be the advocate your dog needs for a happy, healthy, longer life / Nancy Kay

Warsaw Community Public Library has additional individual pet care books on numerous animals such as mice, rabbits, gerbils, kittens, guinea pigs, parakeets, turtles, ferrets, spiders, geckos, salamanders, pot-bellied pigs, iguanas, chinchillas, reptiles, birds, hedgehogs, and pet fish.

Remember, the more you know, the more you will enjoy your new pet, not only this holiday season, but in the months and years to come.

Visit WCPL at www.warsawlibrary.org, our teens space at <http://warsawteen.blogspot.com/> or at our facebook pages. (Type in “Warsaw Community Public Library” in the search box.)