

# pet connection



Gift ideas for South Puget Sound pets & animals



**Feature Story:**

**SOUTH SOUND PET NANNY,  
have peace of mind during  
your holiday travels**

**Also this issue:**

**Help Lewis the Service Dog  
Feeding Wildlife - Do's & Don'ts**



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resources here!

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Holiday Issue 2007

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Make your reservations now,  
and have peace of mind during  
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## Feature Story

# South Sound Pet Nanny

Hello, I am Michelle Matthews, founder and owner of South Sound Pet Nanny, a small company with a big heart for animals. We offer pet sitting, dog training, and animal massage.

I started South Sound Pet Nanny from my passion for animals, and my own personal experiences of having others care for my precious animals. Some pets are more comfortable in familiar surroundings when their parents are away, so we come to your home and take care of your pets' needs. After some soul-searching, and research on the booming pet industry, South Sound Pet Nanny was born.



South Sound Pet Nanny (SSPN) is a team of pet and livestock professionals offering cutting edge care for Thurston and Southern Pierce counties. Everyone at South Sound Pet Nanny is skilled in pet first aid and CPR, as well as bonded and insured.

For our pet sitting clients, we offer online reservations, and free initial consultations. We believe in taking care of your pets as our own. To help our clients keep in touch with their pets while away we offer the following:

-Pet Nanny Cam: A camera is hooked up to your computer in an area where your pet is most likely to spend time. We then give you a website and login so you can look and see what Fido is doing.

-Pet Blogs: For those away for several days, the pet blog is a good way to gain reassurance about their pets' well being in real time.

-The Pampered Pet Program: For ease and convenience when making last minute reservations. (Con't)



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Pet sitting is only one aspect of SSPN's pet care. South Sound Pet Nanny also provides dog walking, pet taxi service and overnight stays.

South Sound Pet Nanny provides canine behavior modification training. We work with difficult dogs other people have given up on. In addition, we work with pet owners so they know how to relate to their dogs in canine language. South Sound Pet Nanny is a huge believer of Cesar Milan's methods, also known as "The Dog Whisperer." People can read about success stories on our website [www.southsoundpetnanny.com](http://www.southsoundpetnanny.com)

Small Animal Massage will become available the beginning of 2008. Just as with humans, alternative therapies are proving beneficial for animals. Massage can ease old age, help athletic dogs perform better, or simply ease the anxiety of an uptight cat.

South Sound Pet Nanny is committed to providing our clients all around, first-class service. Our goal is happy pets and ecstatic owners.

For rate information, testimonials and reservations please go to [www.southsoundpetnanny.com](http://www.southsoundpetnanny.com) or call 360-350-8202.



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**Help Lewis!**  
**The Story of a Service Dog**

Lewis came to our family when we needed him most. He has made all the difference in the life of a twelve-year-old girl struggling to make her way in this world. Since he arrived as a puppy he always had a wizened way about him. You could say he was an old soul destined to become her service dog. More than a companion, he's become her angel with furry wings able to carry her to soaring heights over her obstacles in a way that nobody else can.



Adelle has been diagnosed with "Nonverbal Learning Disorder" or NLD which resides on the autism spectrum, yet she is high functioning. That perhaps is what fooled her parents into thinking that nothing could possibly be wrong with this bright, articulate and happy child. All that disappeared once she was placed in a classroom. Since first grade it's been a long hard road through therapist and doctors in search for answers. Children with NLD struggle in social situations because they are constantly trying to figure out their surroundings. This in turn causes stress leading to anxiety and paralyzing fear.

Since Lewis arrived over two years ago the little yellow bundle made an immediate impact. At the time Adelle could only endure an hour of school each day. Now she can go full time, all day and thrive. Lewis has made it all possible. He senses Adelle's emotions. When she's upset, he alerts to her and comes to her aid. She once woke from a nightmare to find that Lewis had crawled onto her bed and pressed his warm, soft body onto hers before slowly retreating back down to the side of the bed as she calmed and fell back asleep.

He's also a wonderful icebreaker in social situations when usually Adelle would be teased or ignored. Lewis's lovable mug attracts positive attention to her and makes for a great conversation piece. Adelle is quite knowledgeable about Lewis and his care and loves to share that information with others. It lets Adelle be herself - she is calm and relaxed without the usual stress and anxiety. It's a work in progress but also very gratifying to see how far she has come.

Adelle started sixth grade this year with Lewis finally able to be with her all day. During the second week of school he produced a noticeable limp. Tragically after a trip to the vet we learned that Lewis needed surgery on both knees. This nearly devastated Adelle because she knew her best friend was in pain and wouldn't be able to go with her to school anymore this year.

(Con't.)

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The procedure is known as TPLO and has a cost of \$8,000 for both knees, not including after care.

Without surgery he would be crippled within a year. The prognosis for his recovery is excellent and since he is only 2 1/2 years old this will give him his life back.

“Lemon-Aid for Lewis” all started with Adelle asking her Mom if she had any lemonade. She felt so hopeless that she wanted to do something for Lewis. That afternoon she had her little stand set up at the end of the driveway, holding her “Please Help” signs waving at every car that passed. People stopped and gave from their hearts and Adelle stood up and faced them when she would normally lie down and hide at a strange face. Lewis is still helping her like no one else can even in his time of need. His giving knows no bounds. It’s a perfect bond that encircles both. As Adelle says, “I want to take away his pain, because he took away mine”.

Recently our story has been featured on King 5 News and Lewis’s plight was well received. A “**Help Lewis**” fund has been set up via the Reading With Rover program. Adelle initially started out as a Reading With Rover kid and Lewis a Reading With Rover dog. Reading With Rover is a program that helps children with reading difficulties read stories to a dog. The dog will never judge the reader and helps the reader build confidence.

Lewis is a registered therapy dog as well as a service dog and has volunteered at local hospitals ... he has done so much for Adelle and the community. If you would like to help Adelle help Lewis, donations can be made via Reading With Rover. Please visit their website [www.readingwithrover.org](http://www.readingwithrover.org) and click on “donations to Reading With Rover”. Please specify **Lewis Surgery**. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!

Bill & Eve Pickard of Woodinville- Parents of Adelle & Owners of Lewis

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### Feeding Wildlife "Do's & Don'ts" by Jack Thompson Wildlife Biologist - A All Animal Control

Wild animals are fully capable of surviving on the natural foods available in their habitat. However, many people are interested in attracting animals for viewing pleasure. While this is a common past time, there are many dangers associated with it. So, lets begin with which animals should not be fed under any circumstances and why, and finish with how to avoid feeding them while attracting desirable animals.

**THE INVASIVE SPECIES:** Eurasian Rats and Mice, Opossums, Cliff Pigeons, Starlings, Nutria, English Sparrows, Feral Cats, Eastern Gray Squirrels and Red Foxes. These animals should never be encouraged because they are introduced non-native species that are taking over habitat of native species, and/or preying upon our native fauna. Many of these also carry diseases that devastate native animals.

**THE NATIVE PESTS:** Bears, Cougars, Raccoons, Coyotes, and Skunks should never be fed for three reasons. 1) They carry diseases that can transfer to people and pets. 2) Feeding causes their populations to grow beyond the carrying capacity of the habitat. 3) They lose their fear of people and can become aggressive. While they may be pretty, they are very dangerous wild animals known for attacks on people of all ages. Raccoon, Coyote, and Cougar are especially known for child and pet attacks in Western Washington.

So, how do you only feed the native, non-dangerous wildlife? It is almost impossible to avoid feeding the undesirables if you are feeding any wildlife. However, here are two things you can do to reduce that exposure.

First, avoid leaving food out all the time. If you are leaving a feed bin, or a bird feeder out 24/7, you are inviting the pest species. Non-native birds will often dominate these full time feeders during the day, keeping the more colorful and better-behaved native species away. Eastern Squirrels will leap onto feeders from branches, at night rats, mice, raccoons, skunks, and opossum will steal the scraps left behind by messy eaters.

Second, put food out only when you have identified some desirable species, learned their habits, and can feed when you know they are in the area. Then sit and watch ... they will come to you.

Keep in mind that fed animals are more likely to invade your living area by nesting in your home.

Learn more at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/index.htm>

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## Calendar of Events

### November

- 3rd Concern For Animals 1st Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction, 12:00 to 8 pm.  
Scatter Creek Winery. [www.concernforanimals.org](http://www.concernforanimals.org) &  
[www.scattercreekwinery.com](http://www.scattercreekwinery.com)
- 14 Sound Hounds meeting (2nd Wed), 5:30-7pm, Animal Services, 3120 Martin  
Way East in Olympia. See [www.soundhounds.org](http://www.soundhounds.org) for more information.
- 17th Photos with Santa Paws at County Inn Pet Resort & Spa. No appt needed.  
Profits benefit Feline Friends & the No Kill Shelter. 100 Foreman Rd, McCleary.  
360-495-4800

### December

- 1st Get your pet pictured with Santa Paws from 10-3 pm at Thurston County  
Animal Services, 3120 Marvin Rd NE, Olympia
  - 1st Alpha Pet Supply, Pictures with Santa Paws, 224 E Sussex Ave, Tenino.  
360-264-7211
  - 8th Get your pet pictured with Santa Paws from 10-3 pm at Thurston County  
Animal Services, 3120 Marvin Rd NE, Olympia
  - 15th Pictures with Santa Paws & Holiday Raffle from 9 to 1 pm--Angela's Pet Spa,  
1302 Fones Rd, Olympia. 360-438-8693
  - 22nd Alpha Pet Supply retakes with Santa Paws, 224 E Sussex Ave, Tenino.  
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- Each Saturday & Sunday in December, Pictures with Santa Paws at Petsmart, 719  
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