



# May 2023 Newsletter

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## May Special!

**BOXY  
BROWN'S**



COFFEE CO.

# 100% Donations.

Subscribe to any coffee in May; we'll donate 100%  
of your first order to the rescues on our home page.

(You'll get 10% of our coffee, too.)



[BoxyBrownsCoffeeCompany.com](http://BoxyBrownsCoffeeCompany.com)



# In the Spotlight

First, I want to thank all the people who make it possible for us to open our hearts and home. For without them, there would be no us. We are forever grateful for all they do.

Here is our story.

*Give me a soft  
place to land  
and I will give you  
so much more.*



Meet A.

Sometimes in life we need a gentle reminder to be soft and slow down a bit, to truly appreciate what is around us and all that we have. Sometimes we need a soft reminder of what compassion and understanding is. Our family is a busy family that sometimes needs reminders of the gentler side of things.

We, as a family, always try to make a space in our home for a senior or perfectly imperfect dog. We do not know how long we will be blessed with their presence but know it might be limited. But for the time they are with us we are forever grateful. We often do not know their history, although it does not matter anyway as it is only about the present. They may not be able to run or play like our other dogs and that is perfectly okay. They are special and unique in their own way.

What they do is teach us to be soft and slow down a bit. They teach us to appreciate what is around us and all we have. They teach us compassion and understanding. They give my children lessons they will carry for their entire lifetime.

We let them know they are so truly loved for whatever they are. But in return they give us so much more. They give more love, more compassion, more softness. We are truly the ones who are rescued when we open our home.

They bring so much joy, companionship, and a grace that seems to only come with “experienced” dogs. Their life and time on this planet make them understand us better. It is a bond that I am forever humbled to be able to experience. The look you get from them melts you to your core as they see your sole and embrace it. They love like no other. It is hard to say goodbye – it always is. But the joy and the love that has been given and received brings solace to the process. In the words of my youngest daughter, “It’s not goodbye, it’s I’ll see you later.”

But these are my words. This is truly a family experience. So I asked the rest of my household for their opinions and feelings about it. Read on to see what they said.



Storytime with Samantha and Aubrey

My husband said, *“They ground us. Humble us. We just need them here. It’s just not the same without them.”*

Charlie, age 5, went on to say, *“God needs us to love them and teach them to feel loved before they go home to Him. We all need love, Mom.”*

Samantha, age 9, continued stating, *“Taking care of them makes me feel happy. I love to sit and read to them. We are here to help those who need us, and I like doing that for them. I love the way they love me.”*

And finally, Brayden, age 14, replied, *“Sometimes we all need a little help.”* However, he *is* a 14-year-old boy so I do not know for sure if he is referring to me or the dogs.

My mother recently described our other dogs to me for the first time, saying, *“It’s uncanny, but the other three dogs seem to instinctively know that these are special dogs. The same three dogs that bark at anything walking in the street, immediately become softer when a rescue comes home. They share blankets and beds and cease racing around the house, so the newcomer does not get run over. [Pretty hard to believe, but it’s true!]. It is not an uncommon sight to see all four dogs sound asleep together in a pile.”* Well, now I know what my mother thinks of our pack. To her defense, they are a little much for Grandma.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We are truly grateful and humbled to be able to have such a blessing as these beautiful creatures. As I stated above, we are truly the ones that get rescued when we open our home.

The Block-Harmon Family



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## Pet Parent Plant Guide

With Summer coming in hot, there's always the question,  
"Is it safe to plant this in our yard with [insert pet's name here]?"

So here is a handy dandy plant guide you can screenshot and refer to the next time  
you're at the greenhouse or in the garden section at your favorite retailer!



# Plant Guide For Pet Owners



## Poisonous Plants

- Daffodil
- Castor Bean
- Easter Lily
- Sago Palm
- Star Gazer Lily
- Tiger Lily
- Cyclamen
- Azalea



## Toxic Plants

- Aloe
- Begonia
- Bird of Paradise
- Bougainvillea
- Calla Lily
- Carnation
- Chrysanthemum
- Coleus
- Cosmos
- Dumb cane
- Elephant ear
- Fleabane
- Gardenia
- Geranium
- Hibiscus
- Hydrangea
- Iris
- Mother-In-Law Tongue
- Pansy
- Peace Lily
- Pinks (Dianthus)
- Plumbago
- Poinsettia
- Primrose

## Pet-Friendly Plants

- Alyssum
- Blue Daisy
- Boston Fern
- Bottlebrush tree
- Camelia
- Canna
- Ceolsia Plumosa
- Christmas Cactus
- Coreopsis
- Echevaria Succulents
- Gerber Daisy
- Gloxinia
- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Nasturtium
- Pampas Grass
- Persian Violet
- Petunia
- Polkadot Plant/Baby Tears
- Rose
- Snap Dragons
- Spider Plant
- Start Jasmine
- Sunflower
- Sword Fern
- Viola
- Zinnia



# Cartoonize My Pet!

Charity Support  
Cartoonize My Pet

✉ [charities@cartoonizemypet.com](mailto:charities@cartoonizemypet.com)

🌐 [cartoonizemypet.com](http://cartoonizemypet.com)



Here's something *really* cool we have to share with you!

**REJECTION COLLECTION BOXER RESCUE** is now partnered with [Cartoonize My Pet!](#) You can create a cartoon version of *your* pet(s), including dogs, cats, hamsters, ferrets, horses, and rabbits. You can then place the design on products such as mugs, t-shirts, pillows, tote bags, keychains, and more! You can *even* play an online shelter game with your pets.

The new site launched on April 21 after being part of Razzle for many years. Customers pick an organization from Cartoonize's network of organizations as part of the account creation process. When customers select RCBR as their chosen charity, 1% of their purchases on [Cartoonize My Pet](#) will be collected as donations and shared with RCBR. In addition, customers can add an additional donation as a percentage or a fixed dollar amount to any order placed.

Please choose **REJECTION COLLECTION BOXER RESCUE** as your preferred charity.

And once created, show us your pet on Facebook!

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## Good Dogs ... Growl?!?

Wait ...  
*Whaaaaaat?!?!?*

**Thank your dog for growling!**

That's right, you heard me!

Growling doesn't make for a bad dog.

The misconception is  
that bad dogs growl.

We should **thank** our dogs for growling.



**Growls are an important communication behavior for dogs.**

Dogs who growl aren't bad.

Dogs who growl are desperately trying



to tell us that they are stressed in that moment.

Dogs who growl are doing their best to not escalate to a bite.

The growl is a warning signal that they need more space from what's stressing them.

If growls are ignored a snap or even a bite is the next step for a dog to try to get out of a stressful situation.

**Never** punish your dog for trying to communicate what is causing them to be anxious.

Punishing a dog for growling may stop the growl, but all you've done is take away their warning signal. Now you won't know when they are stressed. Instead of warning you they are stressed, they will go right to biting.

A dog who no longer growls is like having a fire alarm in your house without batteries.

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## Six Safe and Natural Alternatives to Flea and Tick Control

**It is that time of year again – the season for fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and other insects that carry diseases! Although there are an overwhelming number of flea and tick control products on the market, most are chemical based. Read on for natural alternatives to prevention and management for your pet!**

### 1. Diatomaceous Earth (DE)

DE is a powder composed of the fossilized remains of single-celled algae. It can be sprinkled on carpets, bedding, and on your pet's body to eliminate fleas and ticks safely. DE can also be ingested to help remove internal parasites. When applying, wear a protective mask to avoid inhalation. Let the powder sit for several hours on your carpet before vacuuming. If DE is sprinkled on your pets, once the fleas and ticks are killed, please ensure you wash DE off your pet's coat as it could dry out their skin if left on for too long.

**Caution:** Never use DE that has been chemically treated for use in swimming pools. Ordinary table salt or borax can also be used on carpets and should be vacuumed up the day after use.

### 2. Nematodes

Products containing beneficial nematodes (microorganisms that eat flea larvae) can be sprayed on lawns and, unlike many toxic treatments, are perfectly safe for animals, birds, and humans, as well as "friendly" garden dwellers, such as earthworms and ladybugs. Brand names such as Interrupt can be found in pet stores and in the lawn-and-garden sections of hardware stores and supermarkets.

### 3. Black Walnut

Black walnut is a very effective flea and tick repellent for pets when given orally several times a week. It can be purchased in capsules or in liquid form. Give only the minimum effective dose because it can be toxic in higher doses. Please consult a holistic veterinarian prior to administering



this remedy.

#### 4. Natural Insect Repellent

Make an effective natural insect repellent for dogs that can be applied daily by adding five drops each of tea tree oil, citronella oil, neem oil, rosemary oil, peppermint oil, lavender oil, and eucalyptus oil to one cup of water. Shake well, and pour in a spray bottle. **Do not use on cats.**

#### 5. Herbal Shampoo

Gentle herbal shampoos, such as Oil of Oregano, are effective and can be used as often as once a week, to help rid of fleas. Beware, however, that if you bathe your pets too frequently, it can dry out your animals' skin.

**Caution:** Flea-pesticide shampoos and dips are dangerous and toxic!

#### 6. Maintain a Clean-Living Environment

When your pet returns from being outdoors, comb your animal thoroughly with a fine-toothed flea comb to check for potential fleas. If you *do* find any fleas or ticks, either dip your comb (if the critters are on it) or drop the critters directly into a bowl of rubbing alcohol and they will die instantly.

Be proactive in vacuuming your rugs and furniture frequently and launder your pet's bedding weekly. Flea eggs can be picked up by the vacuum but may still hatch inside so please ensure you clean your vacuum thoroughly after vacuuming.

#### The Bottom Line

Fleas, like any parasite, are more attracted to animals with weaker health. This is especially prominent in multi-animal households where the older dogs seem to attract fleas but the younger ones seem to be clear of them. Therefore, it is very important to have your animal as healthy as possible, not only for fleas and ticks, but also for parasites, heartworm, disease resistance, stamina, and long life.

**References:** (1) Kathleen Dudley, "Are 'Spot-On' Flea Killers Safe?" *The Whole Dog Journal* Feb. 2002. (2) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Pesticides: Health and Safety," 9 May 2012. (3) Dr. Karen Becker, "Advanced, Non-Toxic Pet Pest Repellent System That Works"

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# Upcoming Dates

## May Meet & Greet

May 20, 2023

11 am - 2 pm

Petsmart

(Click address below for map)

[1100 W. 78th St.](#)  
[Richfield, MN 55423](#)

## June Meet & Greet

**June 24, 2023**

**11 am - 2 pm**

Luther Westside Volkswagen

(Click address below for map)

[2370 Highway 100](#)

[St. Louis Park, MN](#)

*Come join us and visit with our Boxers  
available for adoption.*

*Are you an alumnus?  
Stop by with your Boxer and say, "Hi!"  
Or just want to hear more about RCBR?  
We look forward to talking to you!*

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## [2023 National Pet Days](#)

### **May**

[Chip Your Pet Month](#)

[National Pet Month](#)

Be Kind to Animals Month

Responsible Animal Guardian Month

May 20 – [National Rescue Dog Day](#)

### **June**

[National Pet Preparedness Month](#)

June 4 – 10: Pet Appreciation Week

June 4 - National Animals Rights Day

June 9 - World Pet Memorial Day

June 19 – 23: [Take Your Pet to Work Week®](#)

June 23: [Take Your Dog to Work Day®](#)

## RCBR Event Calendar

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**Thank you to our Partners**



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## Links to help:

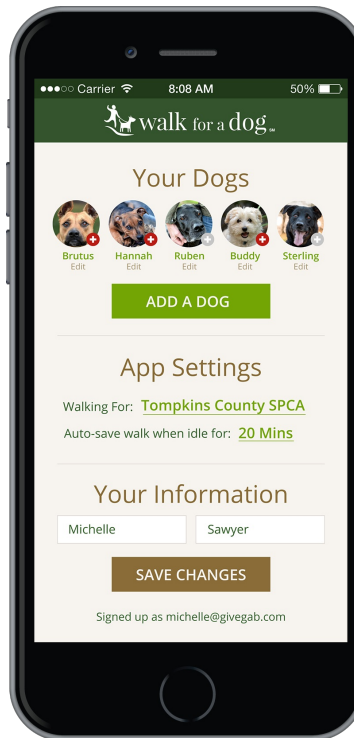
[Walk for a Dog / Wooftrax](#) - walk your dog and earn points that translate to donations for RCBR.

[Amazon Wishlist](#) - purchase from our wishlist and have it sent directly to us.

[PayPal Donate](#) or [PayPal Giving Fund](#) - if you prefer to just donate cash, we're set up through this fund.

[Chewy Gives Back](#) - purchase from our wishlist and have it sent directly to us.

[eBay for Charity](#) - support us by donating at least 10% of the proceeds from the sale of your item on eBay.



## iGive.com

iGive automatically helps your favorite cause, every time you shop. Please consider adding the iGive button to your browser to help us earn donations when you shop. It's easy and free to use. Also available in your app stores for shopping on the go!

[More Info](#)

## Mission Statement

Rejection Collection Boxer Rescue (RCBR) is a non-profit, all-volunteer, foster-based organization dedicated to providing loving homes for Boxer dogs - especially seniors, medically challenged, and those needing to start over again in an unfamiliar world.

We offer quality care for whatever time is left; it is not about the quantity of days, but rather the quality and amount of love that can be shared during those days.

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## Board of Directors

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