

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Do you remember Joyce LaMure? Joyce was one of the founders of the Northwoods Humane Society. She and Sharron Probyn were the owners of Timberlawn Pet Care Center. I met Joyce and Sharron at the very first meeting about the possibility of a humane society in Hayward in 1987.

Joyce and Sharron were committed to the idea from day one. I just came across an article that Joyce wrote for the Sawyer County Record for the December 7, 1994, edition. The Sawyer County Record has been an important part of helping us meet the objective of improving the lives of animals since we began in 1989.

Before the Northwoods Humane Society Shelter was built, all dogs were cared for in foster homes and most cats were cared for at the Pet Stop (formerly part of Stove Works) on Highway B. I would pick up dogs that were at the Sawyer County Pound who had not been claimed by their owners. If there was more than one, I would put one in the front with me and shut the leash in the door, put the other in the middle and shut that leash in the door and one or two in the back and shut the leashes in the door. Amazingly this all worked and I didn't lose anyone. I would go to the Sawyer County Record which was located on Highway 63. Terrell Boetcher would meet me in the parking lot and he would take pictures of the dogs for the paper. My how things have changed!

Joyce was also an artist. Her work may be seen on some of the walls of Water's Edge in Hayward. If you have given a donation to the Northwoods Humane Society and received a thank you note, the drawings of cats and dogs were done by Joyce. She also illustrated the Northwoods Humane Society cookbook. Joyce served as our secretary for a while. Joyce's estate gave the NHS many of her watercolor paintings which are at the Thrift Shop. Sharron is still a NHS supporter.

The following is the article Joyce wrote in 1994. "How old is your dog? It is difficult to say when old age begins for a dog. The adage that one year of a dog's life equals seven years of a human's life is not quite accurate.

By the age of two, all dogs are considered full grown – the same 'age' as a 20 to 25 year-old person. However, different breeds mature at different rates. For a medium-size dog, each year past the age of two equals about five human years. For a small dog, the ration is three or four years to one. And for a large dog, the ration is six or seven to one. Using this formula, a 10-year-old Great Dane would be approximately 80 in human years, while a 10-7 year-old Ty Poodle would be only about 50.

What does this mean? Just because your 9-year-old dog is 65 in human years, does that mean it is old in the sense of declining physically and mentally? Not necessarily. Many factors determine when a dog starts to look and act old. Certain breeds have a known pre-disposition to health problems that can accelerate aging. Pedigree is also important. A dog with a family history of diabetes is more likely to develop this disease.

Early medical history contributes to a dog's general health as it matures. A dog hit by a car as a youngster may be more prone to arthritis later on. Diet and exercise play a large part in the aging

process. Obesity puts a strain on the heart, as well as on hip and shoulder joints. And it is known that diets too high in protein can lead to kidney problems. Excess weight will also stress an aging heart. Eliminate table scraps and switch to a diet specially formulated for older dogs. Ask your veterinarian to help select a diet that will be right for your aging dog.

Living with an old dog can be a challenge and requires extra work and patience, but your dog's geriatric years need not be a time of stress and struggle. If you know what to expect and learn to compensate for the old dog's frailties the final years can be rewarding for both you and your pet. (Based on an article by P. McGan.)

Thanksgiving is this weekend. Holiday cheer is plentiful at the NHS Thrift Shop and the popup Thrift at Art Beat. NHS has been blessed with a Matching Gift opportunity which we will share this coming week. Baked goods are still needed for December 3 bake sale at Hayward High School. Goods should be packaged and labeled and may be left at the NHS Shelter, Thrift Shop or Art Beat on Thursday and Friday before the sale.

Dates to Save:

December 3 – MY VILLA – Hwy 63 Cable – 10 am to 4 p.m.

December 3 – MHS Bake Sale – Hayward High School – 9 am to 3 p.m.