

Pet events: Free eye exams for working dogs, Pawsitivity beer and more

April 22, 2017 12:00 AM





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Compiled by Linda Wilson Fuoco / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Dogs and other "working" animals can get free eye exams in May in the 10th annual American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists/StokesRX National Service Animal Eye Exam Event.

This service is available to animals that guide the blind, assist people with disabilities, work with the military or police, or do search and rescue as well as dogs that detect bombs, guns and accelerants used to start fires. Therapy animals with current certification are also eligible. They must be "active working animals" certified by a formal training program or organization.

You must register by April 30 for exams scheduled from May 1-31 with a board-certified veterinary eye specialist. In the Pittsburgh area, the exams will be done at Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center in Ohio Township.

Go to www.ACVO.org (http://www.ACVO.org) for more information and to www.acvoeyeexam.org/qualifications-expectations/ (https://www.acvoeyeexam.org/qualifications-expectations/) to register.

Ale for animals

Four North Side breweries are selling "Pawsitivity Beer" next week to benefit critters at Humane Animal Rescue.

Pawsitivity Pint Nights will be held Monday through Thursday from 5-9 p.m. Here's the schedule: Monday at Rivertowne Brewing, 337 North Shore Drive; Tuesday at Southern Tier Brewing, 316 North Shore Drive;

Wednesday at Allegheny City Brewing, 507 Foreland St.; Thursday at Spring Hill Brewing, 1958 Varley St.

Pawsitivity is a "peach wheat with white tea ale," according to the news release.

Dog safety classes

Aunt Penny's Pet Services is offering free Dog Safety Matters classes "for everyone who owns or encounters dogs," including volunteers at shelters and rescues. Teachers will address expectations of newly acquired dogs, safety protocols, transporting rescue dogs, red flags in behavior, defusing threatening dogs and how to defend yourself.

The classes are 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Courthouse Square Building, Washington, Pa.; 2-4 p.m. May 7 at Norwin Public Library in Irwin; and 6-8 p.m. May 17 at the Hampton Library.

The classes are free, but you must pre-register at www.myauntpenny.com (http://www.myauntpenny.com)or 724-515-7790.

Hello Bully gala

Hello Bully's ninth annual Lovers Not Fighters Gala is next Saturday at 7 p.m. at The Wintergarden at PPG, Downtown.

Since 2005, the nonprofit organization has been working "to rescue, rehabilitate and repair the reputation of the American pit bull terrier." Hello Bully also offers spay and neuter programs in underserved communities.

Cocktail attire is the dress code, and that means dress shirts, ties and jackets for the guys. No jeans and no dogs, either.

Go to www.hellobully.com/hello-bully-gala (http://www.hellobully.com/hello-bully-gala) for information and tickets — \$60 general admission or \$125 VIP, which includes two drinks. There will be vegetarian and vegan hors d'oeuvres and desserts, a cash bar, auctions and raffle baskets.

Wildlife art

A Scrap the Trap Wildlife Art Installation is on display through the end of the month at Biddle's Escape, 401 Biddle Ave., Wilkinsburg (15221). The coffee shop is pet-friendly and sells coffee, tea, "artifacts" and food, including vegan and gluten-free items.

Next Saturday from 6-9 p.m., the shop will have a kid-friendly party "to celebrate the progress of the Scrap the Trap campaign," according to the news release. The campaign aims to persuade Pittsburgh officials to stop handing out free traps to catch raccoons and other wild animals that are then killed.

A \$5 donation is suggested and includes snacks, beverages, bluegrass music and animal art for sale. Tables will be set up where children and adults can create "critter-themed" post cards to send to Pittsburgh City Council.

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