

# dallasvoice

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2020  
**PET**issue

## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

### ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

### HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) for program information.



Get HIV support by downloading a free app at  
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**Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.**

See Hugo's story at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).

Featured patient compensated by Gilead.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).



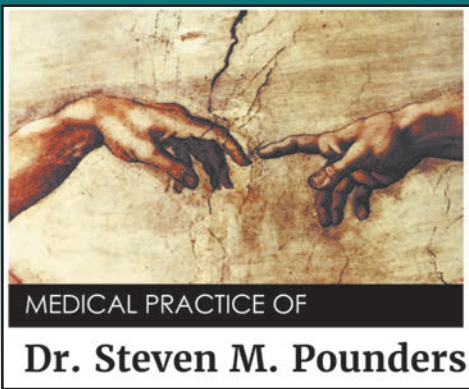


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Cover design by Kevin Thomas



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The Fair Housing and Mixed Income Housing Ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in regards to:

Race | Color | Religion | Sex | National Origin | Handicap (Mental or Physical) | Familial Status (Children Under 18) | Source of Income (social security, spousal support, child support or veterans with housing assistance vouchers) | Sexual Orientation | Gender Identity

The actions that are covered by the City Ordinance are:

**RENTAL**, including leasing, using and keeping a unit, and property management;

**SALES**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;

**ADVERTISEMENT**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;

**EMPLOYMENT**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;

**PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION**, service in restaurants, theaters, retail store, and non-governmental public services (relative to sexual orientation only).

If you suspect discrimination in these areas and wish to file a complaint call:  
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## Creating Change 2021 going virtual only

The Creating Change Conference, for the first time in its 33-year history, will be “a completely virtual event” in 2021, due to the ongoing public health crisis and current safety regulations, Director Andy Garcia announced via press release on Thursday, July 16.

Creating Change 2021 had been scheduled to take place as an in-person convening next January in Washington, D.C. The annual conference is a program of the National LGBTQ Task Force.

“We are disappointed we will be unable to gather in person, one of the most powerful elements of Creating Change, but the Task Force is committed to planning a virtual experience that is diverse, accessible and addresses the many issues facing LGBTQ+ communities,” Garcia said.

He continued, “We are reaching out to the Creating Change family and convening a virtual host committee. We will do our best to provide an experience that closely resembles what we’ve all come to expect from Creating Change.”

Plans for the next Creating Change currently include an online pre-event in the fall, followed by a multi-day online experience Jan. 27-31. “The goal of the Task Force staff and partner organizations is to create an exceptionally engaging, accessible and relevant conference experience that promotes the values of the Task Force, as well as the work of our staff and partner organizations across the movement,” according to the statement released this morning.

Also tentatively planned is a Queering Racial Justice Institute on Oct. 10. For more information go to [CreatingChange.org](http://CreatingChange.org).

— Tammye Nash

## Local photographers join nationwide effort to help America get back to work

The following information was sent to us by Bob McCranie about a project his husband Terry is participating in:

Nothing says “I’m ready to work” more than

a freshly pressed suit, an updated resume, and of course, a professional headshot. Regardless of profession, COVID-19 sent millions of Americans to the unemployment line without warning. That is why local photographers Emily McClure, Judy Babinski, Marcus Kaiser, Peter Szpakowski, Terry McCranie and Traci Showmeyer are participating with Headshot Booker and Brookfield Properties in the largest, single-day photo initiative that will provide 10,000 unemployed Americans nationwide with a complimentary, professional headshot to include with their resumes and post to job sites such as LinkedIn.

The photographers will be producing the complimentary headshots on Wednesday, July 22 from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. at the following metroplex locations:

- Frisco: Stonebriar Centre, 2601 Preston Rd., Frisco.
- Dallas: Marcus Kaiser Photography Studio, 400 N. Saint Paul St., Dallas.
- Fort Worth: Hulen Mall, 4800 S Hulen Street, Fort Worth.
- Southlake: Metroplex Headshots, 280 Commerce Street, Southlake.

Complimentary headshots are open to anyone currently unemployed, but participants are asked to visit [HeadshotBooker.com](http://HeadshotBooker.com) for details and schedule a time to be photographed. More than 200 photographers will participate across all 50 states, creating pop-up studios at nearly every Brookfield retail location nationwide. Headshots will be provided to participants on site through event photo sharing platform SpotMyPhotos.

— David Taffet

## BLM activist organize vigil for Merci Mack

Local Black Lives Matter activists and organizers held a vigil Sunday, July 12, in memory of Merci Mack, the Black trans woman murdered June 30 in Dallas and other Black trans lives lost to violence. The vigil, held outside of the apartment complex where Mack was found wounded and unconscious in her car, was the second vigil held for Mack since her death.

The event was organized and supported by a number of local organizations, including the Dallas chapter of BYP100, a national Black youth organizing project; the House of Rebirth,



Black Lives Matter activists this week held a vigil for murdered trans woman Merci Mack. (Photo by Steven Monacelli)

a housing initiative and community safe space led by Black trans women to assist Black trans women affected by oppression, and In Defense of Black Lives Dallas, the largest coalition of activist groups organizing protests over the past weeks, of which the former two organizations are a part.

The vigil included a memorial featuring dozens of photos of murdered Black trans women, speeches, rituals and live music. At one point, Merci Mack’s family joined and were comforted by their community.

The event was opened up by Niecee X, a nonbinary member of the House of Rebirth leadership team, as well as founder of Black Women’s Defense League and Revolution Cafe and Bookstore, a queer start-up.

“We gathered here today to show that Black folks do care when things happen to other Black people, regardless of if it is with the cops or inter-communally, and that matters. Black trans lives matter,” Niecee said.

Chanise Condren, one of the founding leaders of the Dallas BYP100 chapter, spoke with Dallas Voice about the message they hoped to send with this event and their other ongoing actions: “I think people tend to put killings like these under the umbrella of Black-on-Black crime, but it doesn’t identify the point of pain. ... Right now what we are experiencing is the intersection of a lot of harm that has been done to our community. ...

“Most of our leadership identify as Black queer people,” Condren continued. “We don’t just believe in stopping the harm. We believe in healing the people who have been most affected by it. ... A lot of the Black trans people in Dallas still face danger ...”

Indeed, only six-and-a-half months into 2020, there have been nearly as many murders of trans people as there were in all of 2019. In

the eyes of organizers like Condren, lending vocal support to the trans community is not enough.

“We must show ourselves as defenders of Black trans people. so that people don’t feel that it is okay to murder one of our siblings or that it won’t be amplified as much as the death of a Black cis man,” Condren said.

— Steven Monacelli

## U.N. calls for global conversion therapy ban

The U.N. on Wednesday, July 8, formally called for a ban on so-called conversion therapy. Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the independent U.N. expert on LGBTQ issues, compiled 130 submissions on practices and testimonies of victims who have experienced conversion therapy from civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, medical practitioners and individuals.

These practices, which have been widely denounced by scientists, often result in long-term negative health effects that include suicidal thoughts, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and unemployment.

Tyler Adamson, a researcher who authored “The Global State of Conversion Therapy” report, said a global ban is important to the advancement of the recognition of LGBTQ people globally. He says the ban will eliminate the practice itself, while exposing the increased amount of conversion therapies that occur in the U.S. and other Western countries, as well as improve the broader reflection of how societies view LGBTQ people.

The report by Adamson, in collaboration with the LGBT Foundation, Johns Hopkins University and Hornet, found around 5 percent of respondents indicated that government representatives employed conversion therapy techniques. The report also found 4 percent of reports involved school personnel, which Adamson said may put LGBTQ youth at further risk.

Adamson also found a majority of reports citing conversion therapy practices were from North America. “It’s really easy for us in the United States and other western countries to think, ‘We’ve done it.’ We can get married, we can’t get fired from our jobs,” he said. “There needs to be recognition and an awareness that LGBTQ people around the world are still arrested, beaten and murdered for who they are.”

— Kaela Roeder, Washington Blade  
Courtesy National LGBT Media Association

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# Telehealth increases access to medical care

Doctors, therapists are finding new and innovative uses for the platform

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

One way in which the federal government did respond quickly and successfully to the COVID-19 crisis was changing the reimbursements for Telehealth. Now medical doctors and therapists receive the same reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid for an online visit as they do for in-person visits.

Most insurance companies have also increased their payments.

## HELP's TelePrEP

Telehealth has rapidly become the new standard of care during the pandemic and has been adopted by agencies throughout the community to replace or supplement in-person visits. The HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness in Arlington and Fort Worth offers PrEP at no cost through Telehealth. Executive Director DeeJay Johannessen explained a new patient can go online, request an appointment and receive paperwork electronically. They call their program TelePrEP.

"In a video conference, they do everything they would do in a visit," Johannessen said.

Then HELP Center sends the patient a kit to do self-swabs to check for STDs.

HELP Center's Clinical Nurse Specialist Kelly Tillman said once the patient has the swabs, they take them to Quest Labs where lab employees take blood samples to check for hepatitis and do an HIV test.

"If they're positive, we notify them, and they come to the clinic for treatment," Tillman said. Some STDs, such as chlamydia, are treated with pills that can

be sent from the pharmacy.

Once the infection is cleared up, patients must agree to a Telehealth visit every three months.

What TelePrEP has enabled HELP Center to do is reach out to anyone anywhere in Texas. Currently, PrEP clients come from everywhere from Tyler in East Texas to Lubbock in West Texas. Tillman said if there isn't a Quest Lab in the vicinity, they'll arrange for a local lab to take the tests.

While Truvada has been the traditional medication used in PrEP, Tillman said, "We prescribe Descovy because patients seem to have fewer side effects than with Truvada."

The advantage of TelePrEP, Tillman said, is increased access to care and decreased need to travel. And all services are free.

## Legacy Counseling

Melissa Grove is executive director of Legacy Counseling Center. She said telehealth counseling is now covered by insurance at the same rate as an in-person visit. For someone who doesn't have access to a computer or can't download the software to a smart phone, a telephone session is also covered.

"Telephone [sessions were] never reimbursed at all" before, Grove said.

She said her therapists were concerned with the loss of one-on-one, face-to-face sessions, but when that became impossible during the pandemic, they gave Telehealth a shot. "Still," she added, "some people we feel need to be seen in person."

Telehealth has increased access to care, Grove said, noting that some Legacy clients had to take three buses, traveling an hour-and-a-half or more to get to their counseling sessions. With online sessions, patients are more reliably getting to their appointments, Grove said.

But what do patients think about it? Grove said the feedback's been overwhelmingly positive.

Telehealth also reduces the triple stigma — being gay, being HIV-positive and seeking treatment for substance abuse — that Grove said some her patients face

when going to an appointment in the office.

While agencies like hers often talk about patients who are "lost to care," Grove said the problem really lies in difficulties in accessing that care. "Lost to care?" she said. "We make services a pain to get."

Now Telehealth allows Legacy to serve clients in rural areas, too. And tech-savvy younger patients who might find in-person visits intimidating feel perfectly natural in an online environment.

And, Grove assured, the platform is HIPAA-compliant, secure and maintains patient-client confidentiality.

Grove said she's also looking into getting mobile hotspots for clients without access to the internet. And she's seeking used laptops in good working order so some clients can connect on a full-size screen rather than a small phone screen.

## Resource Center clinic

Dr. Gene Voskuhl runs the Resource Center's health clinic. Since the pandemic began, he's continued seeing his patients via Telehealth, and, he said, the reaction has been surprisingly good.

The Telehealth platform he uses automatically connects him to the patient's electronic medical records, so a lot of what he does is ask questions and counsel his patients online. Sometimes he determines a pain or malady needs an in-person examination, but office visits have been cut by 90 percent.

When someone does need to come into the office, it's one patient at a time. There's no waiting room.

"We still do most blood draws," Voskuhl said. But if it's more convenient, those can be arranged to be taken directly at the lab.

While it isn't a traditional medical exam — Stick out your tongue and say "ahhhhh" just don't work online — some things work surprisingly well. One online patient had a rash but contacted Voskuhl from work. So he went into the bathroom with his cell phone, showed the rash and the doctor knew exactly what to do. Voskuhl sent a prescription and the problem was taken care of.

Without Telehealth, treating that simple rash would have taken an extra hour or two considering travel time and wait



From top, DeeJay Johannessen, Melissa Grove and Dr. Gene Voskuhl

time in the office.

Another thing Voskuhl said he likes about Telehealth is getting to know his patient better. The computer takes him into his patients' homes where he sometimes meets the pets and partners.

"I get a little bit deeper feel for the household," he said. And that translates into better care.



# Pampering your pet

## PAMPER YOUR PET

Dr. Josh offers some suggestions for helping your dog or cat live their best life

**H**ello everyone, and welcome to the Pamper Your Pet special edition column! I am super excited to join Dallas Voice as a writer for the first time in this very special yearly edition.

Our topic for this column is “Ways to Pamper our Pets.” (You saw it coming, didn’t you?) With this column, I am going to share some thoughts on ways to make our pets’ lives even better than they already are.

These are meant to be guidelines, which means there are other things that can be done to pamper our babies. But I am sure you will get plenty of good ideas just from reading this column.

Let me start by breaking down the list of ways to pamper our babies into basic categories, which are what I consider to be the basic needs, even for ourselves: nutrition, relaxation, exercise and self care.

For the first category, it is very important, for many reasons, to make sure the quality of the food our dogs and cats eat is excellent. But that is just a part of “pampering.” I want to address the things that can make them even happier, like treats!

There are different kinds of approaches, from buying healthy treats for them to baking treats at home. I am a huge fan of giving our pets healthy fruits and veggies, like baby carrots, green beans, diced apples, watermelon and cucumbers. If you want to bake treats at home, there are some healthy recipes online that use peanut butter, oatmeal and/or pumpkin as the main ingredients.

Now be careful, because it doesn’t matter how healthy they may sound, portion control is also very important. Just because baby carrots are healthy doesn’t mean you can give your dog a whole bag in one day.



**WOOF**

Dr. Josh Talks Animals

Cats can be very particular about their treats, but many of them love treats for sure! If you buy com-

mercial treats, just make sure they are healthier and on the more natural side.

Our second category is relaxation. The first thing that comes to mind is sleeping, right? You can look into buying a brand new bed if your fur baby has been using the same one for a long time.



You can also consider getting multiple beds, and they can be different types of beds, from fluffier to firmer, orthopedic bed styles. That way you can see what your baby may prefer.

Plus every room of our homes should have a space for them to relax, right? If you like having your baby sleep with you in bed, and he or she is a smaller one, you can get pet stairs so that your baby can get into bed easier. You may have to train him or her to use them, as some of them feel they are superman and try to fly off the bed.

Lastly, you can also consider getting them a professional massage — yes, a massage for your pet!!! There are businesses in DFW that offer pet massages, so look into that to offer your baby a new experience.

And the category now is ... exercise! Many times we underestimate the importance of working out (for both dogs and cats!), but it is very important for our pets to stay healthy and in good shape. This gives them an extra tool to hopefully live forever.

But if you are going to exercise your baby in an outdoor setting, make sure you are careful with the heat. Dogs and cats can get heat strokes or burn their paws if the ground is too hot (which it is). Consider exercising early in the morning or quite a bit after the sun has gone down to try to avoid these issues. You can put your hand on the ground for at least 10 seconds or so to see if you can tolerate the warmth on the ground or not; if you can’t tolerate it, don’t expect your pet to tolerate it.

Also be aware that spending time outside exposes them even more to allergens, and, in Texas, allergy season is almost year-round. If your baby is chewing, licking and/or scratching all the time, these can be signs of environmental allergies.

That being said, this should not stop you from exercising your baby. You would just have to consult with your veterinarian to see if he or she thinks



Dr. Josh and Yoda





that your furry one may have environmental allergies or not, and if allergies are present, there are quite a few options to help them with these issues.

When it comes to self care, I think one of the most important things to do is spend time with our babies. Quarantine has helped with this, but for those that work long hours and don't work from home, it can be difficult to set aside quality time to spend with their fur babies.

Consider making a commitment to spend time with them multiple times per week. We only live once, and it is important to cherish our lives now.

These next two self care items may not be what dogs and cats want, but they are vital for their well being. The most important one is health check ups with your veterinarian. I recommend at least yearly checkups for the younger babies and at least biannual checkups for the more mature ones (usually after 6 years of age, based on size and breed). These checkups give your veterinarian an opportunity to perform a thorough exam and blood tests to make sure the liver functions, kidneys functions and glucose levels, among other things, are all within normal limits.

Also consider regular grooming/bathing or at least regular nail trims as part of this self care routine. These can

help us avoid health issues associated with unkempt hair coats and long nails. Other things included with self care are getting toys for your dog or cat, and I am sure your cat may also appreciate a cool cat tower to have fun with. Just make sure the toys are safe and that they cannot be broken into small pieces that could be swallowed.

Let us assume you love animals, but do not have one at the moment. Do you think that is enough to stop you from pampering them? Not at all!

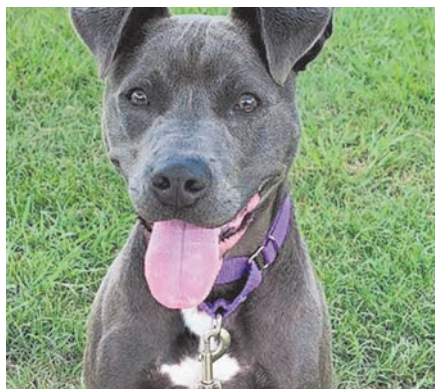
You should consider donating your time or money to a charity or rescue group. You can also look into potentially fostering a dog or a cat from a rescue group, as they always need help.

There are many ways to help and pamper all of these babies in need. Pampering does not stop here, as long as you are a creative person. But if you are not so creative yourself, this column should give you enough tools to make your fur baby's life a bit more exciting.

Now have fun showing your pups and kitties how much you love them!!! As usual, abrazos, my friends!

*Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital at 14380 Marsh Ln. Ste. 110 Addison, TX 75001 (Next to Tom Thumb). Contact him at 972-738-1111 or visit IslaVet.com.*

## Pet of the week • Bosco



Meet **Bosco** who recently turned a year old. He's a beautiful blue-gray mixed-breed dog with a short silky coat, weighing in at 50 pounds. He was rescued by the SPCA of Texas after being mistreated by his owner, but

he's making up for all the fun he missed as puppy and is now a fun-loving, excitable doggy. He's shown some reactivity while in the shelter, and this may carry over into the real world. So he will require a house with a secure wooden fenced yard where he can't see who is passing by. He will do better in a home with kids over 12 years old and does need to meet them before he is adopted. His ideal adopter is active and patient and will devote time to playing and working with Bosco to help him with his obedience skills. If you're looking for fun-loving guy who is ready to be your companion, Bosco is the one for you. He is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. Please visit [spca.org/dogadopt](http://spca.org/dogadopt) to make an appointment to meet him.

In an effort to reduce the potential for spread of COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at [spca.org/findapet](http://spca.org/findapet) and visit [spca.org/dogadopt](http://spca.org/dogadopt) to inquire about a dog or [spca.org/catadopt](http://spca.org/catadopt) to inquire about a cat.

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# Innovations in animal services

Dallas Animal Services hopes to keep more pets in homes through affiliation with new HASS coalition

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Animal Services is expanding its role, going from just placing animals in homes to becoming a comprehensive, social service-inspired agency. New programs being implemented will help keep pets with their families, get lost pets home more quickly and assist pet owners who are struggling to meet their pets' needs.

To accomplish this, DAS joined Human Animal Support Services, a national coalition of 13 other animal shelters around the country. HASS is a pilot program to implement this new animal welfare organizational model working to keep pets and their people together, and more animal services agencies are lining up to join.

"The driving force behind all DAS operations is our motto of public safety, compassion and no shortcuts, and we believe joining HASS is the next logical step in that direction," DAS Director Ed Jamison said in a press release.

DAS recognizes that many of the challenges some pet owners face are rooted in inequality. HASS pilot program shelters will expand their role to provide innovative new programs. Jamison said his agency is re-envisioning what animal services is.

For example, many of the pets given up to the shelter are beloved members of the family, but the families just can't afford to feed the animal. It's less expensive for DAS to help that family feed the pet than it is to house and feed the pet in a shelter. So DAS is hooking families up with a pet food pantry who may even deliver food to clients who can't get there to pick up

food. This new program is especially important now, considering that with the COVID crisis, some people's financial situations have gotten worse.

Jamison pointed out that food deserts in areas across southern Dallas, spawned by discrimination, are mirrored when it comes to pet food and supplies. "There are only two pet stores south of I-30," he noted.

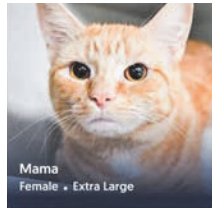
"Our focus on innovation, including our response to COVID-19, means that we are already leaders in many of the HASS-model aspects," Jamison said. "The HASS coalition will help to create systemic change across the country that will ultimately end the cycle of need by addressing the true causes of our largest challenges that include threats to public safety, loose dogs, pet homelessness and non-compliance."

During the early stages of the pandemic, shelters saw record numbers of pets being housed in foster homes. Fostering, Jamison explained, expands the shelter's circle of clients. Very few of the pets who've been fostered have been returned to the shelter. Some fosters have adopted their pets. Others have adopted the pet out through their own circle of friends, and other pets have been adopted through the DAS website.

DAS has also partnered with the city's 311 service. When the city receives a call on surrendering a pet, before arranging a pick-up, the operator will ask, "Is there



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Mama  
Female • Extra Large



Tornado  
Female • Small



Lightning  
Male • Small



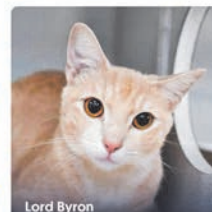
Rain  
Male • Small



Hail



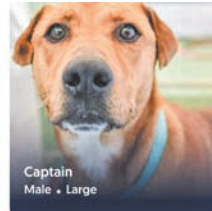
Thunder



Lord Byron



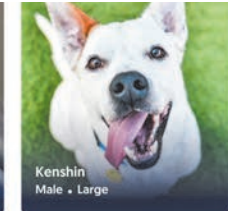
Chucho



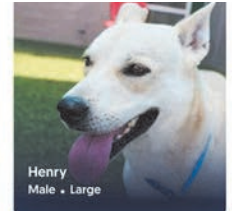
Captain  
Male • Large



Joker  
Male • Medium



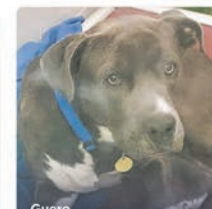
Kenshin  
Male • Large



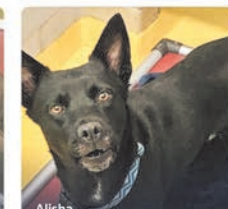
Henry  
Male • Large



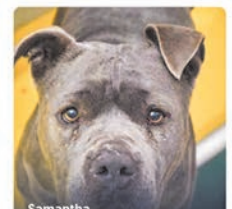
Lord



Guero



Ally



Sambha

anything we can do to help?" Often the caller just needs assistance with food or, if they're moving, with a pet deposit on a new apartment.

Again, Jamison said, it's less expensive for the shelter to help with a pet deposit than it is to house the animal in the shelter.

And just as humans are getting much of their healthcare through Telehealth, so are animals. DAS has set up veterinary Telehealth and text support.

Getting lost pets back to their owners is another priority. Rather than transporting the animal to the shelter, DAS personnel will return the animal directly to their owner while they're in the neighborhood. Jamison said it just makes sense and costs the city less.

During the pandemic, the shelter is doing what it can to limit the number of people at the shelter with curbside adop-

tion pickup. Jamison said the number of returns is actually down. Staff members are interviewing people to learn what they're looking for and matching them with animals on their website. Spending time with potential pet owners one-on-one seems to be working better than working with a lot of people running around the shelter at the same time.

But just because the goal is to keep shelter populations lower, Jamison said the shelter will never be empty.

"Some animals — the sick, injured and

dangerous — we must house," he said. And with these new creative services, DAS has more time to work on the loose dog crisis in parts of the city.

The idea for HASS was developed during the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a record number of pets were sheltered in foster homes. The coalition began sharing ideas that had been working for them and developed and tested new ideas. But the coalition is so new, Jamison expects more innovative ideas to emerge to save more animals and keep pets in homes.

And he reminded people that although Dallas did away with licensing pets in 2017 because that wasn't working and wasn't making any money for the city or Dallas Animal Services, microchipping of pets is required and has been one of the best programs to return lost pets to their owners.



# Your dog may be older than you think

## PAMPER YOUR PET

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

We've always been told dogs age seven years for every one of our years. But new research shows your dog may be older than you think.

According to a study from the University of California San Diego, a one-year-old dog is more like a 31-year-old human. Then aging in dogs begins to

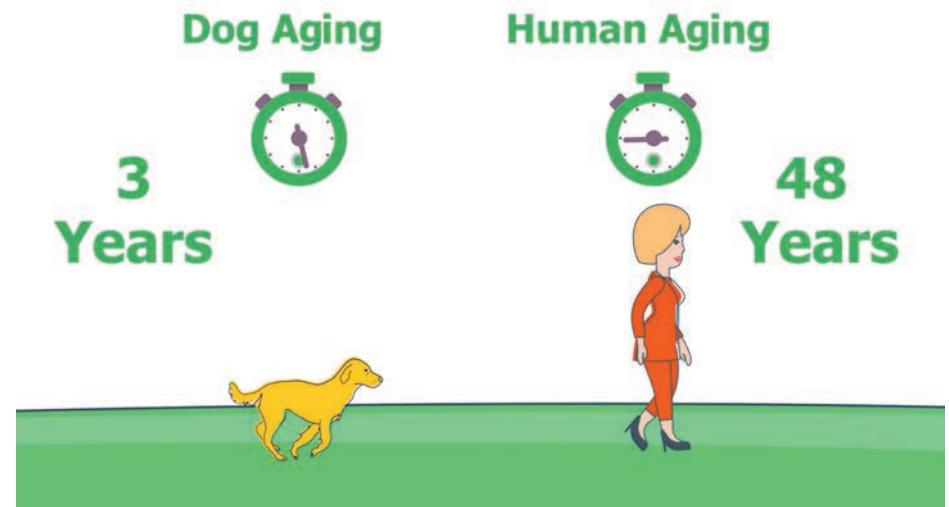
slow. At three years, a dog is more like a 48-year-old human; that's eight-and-a-half years per year.

By age six, a dog is entering its senior years. Seven years equals 60 in dog years. But by age seven, a dog has only aged about two years.

A dog's average life expectancy is 12 years, and at 12, a dog is equivalent to a 70-year-old human. So for those last five years, the aging process slows down to just over a year per actual year.

According veterinarian Chad Dodd, quoted in a press release by joint supplement YuMove, this information on how dogs age means "we should be checking a dog's mobility sooner, even if there are no outward signs."

Here are his tips to make sure your dog is ready for a brisk walk or a run in the dog park or if your dog has joint issues:



- Check their joints: Is Fido a bit creaky from sitting on your lap or under your office desk? If your dog is limping, licking at joints, hesitant to walk on hard surfaces and not jumping onto your bed as usual, they might have more challenging joint issues. It's key to keep joints healthy for your dog's mobility throughout their life, and now biology is showing that there might be joint issues at a younger age.
- Build up their stamina: Your dog just might be a little out of practice. Start

with two 15-minute walks a day and see how they do.

- Start with a game of tag: Grab your dog's favorite toy, toss it and then race your dog to retrieve it.

- Play hide and seek: Hide some kibble or favorite toys to get your dog moving outdoors or around the house to keep their activity levels up.

Even if there are no outward signs, given this new study, consider a joint supplement at 3 or 4 years-old vs. 7 or 8.

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# Pets and the pandemic



Know the facts about animals and SARS-CoV-2 to keep your pets safe

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

**T**he Texas Animal Health Commission recently announced in a statement that a Fort Worth-area dog was confirmed to have SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. A private veterinarian tested the pooch as a precaution after its owners were confirmed to have COVID-19.

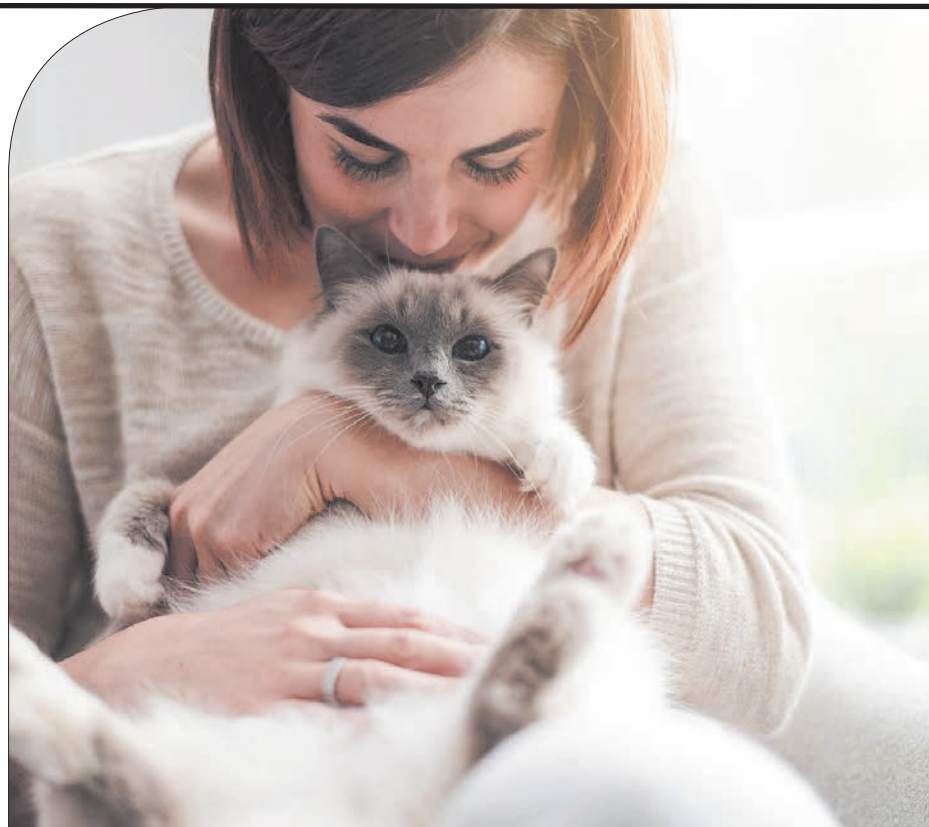
The veterinarian reported the 2-year-old dog is otherwise healthy, according to the commission statement.

The dog is not the first animal in the nation to test positive for the coronavirus: Ten other animals have tested positive for the virus, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website.

State Veterinarian Dr. Andy Schwartz assured that there is no known evidence that pets can transmit the virus, but they can catch it. He advised that pets be restricted from contact with persons with the coronavirus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, although the exact source of SARS CoV-2 (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19) is unknown, scientists have confirmed that the virus originated in an animal, most likely a bat. Still, there is no evidence at this time that animals play any significant role in the continuing spread of the virus. The risk that an animal might pass the virus to a human is low, the CDC notes.

But, as noted above, people can — and have — passed the virus to animals. The first case in the U.S. of an animal testing positive for COVID-19 came in April when a 4-year-old female Malayan tiger named Nadia at the Bronx Zoo tested positive for the virus. Zoo officials noted at the time that “three other tigers and



three African lions were showing similar symptoms.”

By April 23, a total of eight big cats at that zoo were confirmed to have tested positive for the virus. According to a statement from zoo officials, the animals apparently contracted the virus from “a person caring for them who was asymptotically infected with the virus before that person developed symptoms.”

The big cats all recovered.

According to the CDC, SARS-CoV-2 has also been found in mink on multiple farms in the Netherlands, which have experienced an increase in mink deaths. The sick animals showed respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. Some cats on the mink farms also developed antibodies to the virus, suggesting they, too, have been exposed to the virus.

The CDC website notes that officials in the Netherlands believe the animals were all exposed by contact with infected humans and are “investigating the connections between the health of people and animals as well as the environment on these mink farms.”

## Ongoing research

CDC officials said there has been limited research regarding SARS-CoV-2 in animals, but there are some studies underway. Research has shown that ferrets, cats and golden Syrian hamsters infected with the virus can spread that infection to other animals in the same species in a laboratory setting. And a separate study has shown that rhesus macaques, cynomolgus macaques, Grivets and common marmosets can become infected SARS-CoV-2 and get sick in a laboratory setting.

Other studies have shown that mice, pigs, chickens and ducks do not appear to become infected or spread the virus, while dogs can get infected but may not spread the virus to other dogs as cats, ferrets and hamsters can to others of their own species.

## Protecting your pets

Although the risk of animals spread-

ing SARS-CoV-2 to humans appears to be low, the CDC does encourage everyone with pets to take precautions to protect them. The first is to limit your pets’ interactions with people outside their household.

In addition, you should keep your cats indoors whenever possible; do not let them roam freely outside. When you take your dog for a walk, keep them on a leash and keep them at least six feet away from other people and animals. Just as you should avoid large gatherings, so should your pet. But while humans are urged to wear masks to help stop the virus from spreading, the CDC says not to try and put masks on your pets.

Also, since there is no evidence the virus can spread to people from the skin, fur or hair of your pets, do not bathe or wipe down your pets with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or any products not approved for use on animals.

While you are not likely to contract SARS CoV-2 from your pets, you can pass the virus to them. So if you are sick or think you might be sick, be sure to take precautions to keep your pets safe.

If you have COVID-19, avoid contact with pets and other animals, just as you would with other humans. Have another member of the household care for your pets when you are ill, and avoid petting, snuggling, being licked by or sharing food with your pet. Don’t let them sleep in your bed with you, either.

If you have to care for your pet or be around them when you are sick, wear a cloth mask and wash your hands before and after interacting with them.

And if you have COVID-19 and your pet does get sick, too, do not take your pet to the veterinarian yourself. Call the vet to look into telemedicine consultations or options.

The best route, of course, is to keep yourself and your pets healthy. That means washing your hands after handling your pets, their food, their waste or their supplies. Practice good pet hygiene as well as good personal hygiene, and clean up after your pets properly.

If you have other questions, ask your vet or visit the CDC’s website. ■

*(The Associated Press and the CDC website contributed to this report.)*



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# Top dog breeds revealed

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compact package; they're ideal dogs for city dwellers, but require training to temper their "big dog" attitudes.

4. German shepherd dogs: intelligent, protective and loyal; they bond well with their owners through physical activities like herding, tracking and agility.

5. Golden retriever: Intelligent and with a friendly disposition; these smart pups do well with obedience training and make great hunters.

6. Yorkshire terriers: funny, feisty and braver than their size implies; also quite affectionate and favorites of city-dwellers worldwide.

7. Shih tzu: these "little lion dogs" are outgoing and affectionate, mischievous and playful; never a dull moment with a shih tzu around.

8. Dachshund: spunky and full of personality, ever curious and alert but also notoriously stubborn and require patience to train, though the results are totally worth it.

9. Goldendoodle: a fairly new crossbreed



Miniature schnauzers Maxwell, Aldo and Jake

Rover.com, billed as "the world's largest network of 5-star pet sitters and dog walkers," recently unveiled its list of "America's Most Popular Dog Breeds" for 2020. And if you want to know the most popular breeds in your specific city or region, they can tell you that, too.

Here's Rover's list of the top 10 most popular dog breeds nationally:

1. Mixed breed mutts: often hardy and always unique; there's a mixed pup out there for just about everyone."

2. Labrador retrievers: high-spirited sporting dogs perfect for people who love spending time outdoors swimming, jogging or hunting.

3. Chihuahuas: lot of personality in a

known for their teddy bear looks, low-shedding coats and friendly personalities.

10. Boxer: fun-loving and protective; consider a boxer if you're an active individual looking for a playful, high-energy dog.

Rounding out the national top 20 are the poodle, the Australian shepherd, the beagle, the Siberian husky, the American pit bull terrier; the Maltese, the labradoodle, the French bulldog, the pug and the pomeranian.

The top five most popular breeds in Dallas and Fort Worth are

1. Miniature schnauzer
2. Australian shepherd
3. Dachshund
4. Boxer
5. Maltese

Rover.com also offers a "dog breed selector" that helps you find the perfect pup for your household; Puppy HQ for those looking for help with new babies and more.

There are also resources for the cat people among you, too!

— Tammye Nash



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## Shoe, meet Other Foot

When Katie asked me to marry her, we had a wedding to plan. It was going to be a small affair at our home with family and close friends — just two practical girls who didn't want or need a huge church wedding.

Still, we had lots of planning to do.

When it came to flowers, we only needed a couple of bridal bouquets — matching flowers of baby blue, pink and white, the colors of the trans Pride flag that means so much to both of us. So I contacted a flower shop in Coppell, where we live. But when I told them I needed two bridal bouquets, I was told they couldn't help me, and I should find another flower shop.

Our wedding was in September, and the Supreme Court had just handed down its Masterpiece Cakeshop decision handed down just a couple of months earlier, in June of that year, was still fresh in our minds.

I was disappointed with the florist's response, but I didn't scream obscenities, stomp my feet, lay down in their flower shop and spew hateful rhetoric about my constitutional rights. I didn't threaten to sue them.

Instead, I went to Michael's and got the supplies to make my own bridal bouquets out of silk flowers. They were beautiful. In fact, they were perfect, and I still have them.

We also decided not to fight the cake battle; we went to Costco, and they made an amazing and delicious cake and had no problems with making a cake for two women tying the knot.

However, there were then — and still are — a fair number of people who believe that a business can decide that they don't want to sell me their product because their "deeply-held religious beliefs" tell them I am wrong because I love another woman. And if that's how they feel, I'd prefer not to shop there anyway.

Now, flash forward two years, and here we are — in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, and the United States the COVID-19 hotbed of the planet, part-



Leslie McMurray  
Accidental Activist

ly due to an historic lack of leadership mixed with an almost comical sense of entitlement. Those same people who would deny Katie and me a cake or flowers are now howling about their God-given right to not wear a mask, which, along with social-distancing, has been shown as the best way to protect from community spread if one has to go out. The internet is full of entitled "Karens" who dissolve into hysterics when asked to wear a mask, something that would protect them as well as others.

More than 135,000 Americans have DIED from COVID-19, and more than 3 million have been sickened. Hospitals are filled to the breaking point, and you don't want to wear a face mask because it's inconvenient?

I've seen some argue that it's "my body, my choice!" (with the word "choice" misspelled in some instances). That's rich — "Your body, your choice" unless it's a woman's right to choose, right?

You can refuse to serve me because "Religious Freedom," but if you are denied entry to a Costco for not wearing a face mask, the rights or beliefs or policies of the people who own and/or operate a business matter not. It's all about you, isn't it, precious snowflake?

Who cares whether other people might contract a fatal disease because of your selfishness? Cheese balls await on aisle 6, and a mask will just slow you down.

Thank goodness for camera phones. They have opened up America's closet, and it's not pretty. It's filled with official oppression, callous disregard for human life at the highest levels, ugly

racism, greed, selfishness — and even some quiet heroes. (I'm looking at you Phillip Blanks, the Black former football standout who caught a white woman's child dropped from the third floor of a burning building in Phoenix.)

So tell me, "Karen," do you know what you look like? Squirring on the floor of a Costco like a 2-year-old past their nap time? You are an embarrassment, a product of your environment where no one has ever said "No" to you before.

I was delighted to see the city of San Francisco propose the "CAREN" Act: "Caution Against Racially Exploitative Non-emergencies." There have been instances of weaponized racism around the country where white women call police on Black people who are just going about their lives, doing nothing wrong — like the white woman who called police when a Black birdwatcher in Central Park asked her to keep her dog on a leash (as park rules required, or the white hotel employee in North Carolina who called 911 to report a Black woman and her children — paid guests at the hotel — for using the pool.

If passed, the CAREN Act would make using 911 as a tool for your prejudice, unlawful. It's about time, too.

So yeah, "Karen" you have the right to not wear a mask in your car and in your house and in a lot of other places. But businesses also can decide whether to serve you or not. That's their right.

You understand the need to wear pants right? Or a shirt? Our social compact also urges you to use a bathroom and not just poop on the floor of your dentist's office. You get that, right?

Well, during a pandemic that is deadly for many, highly contagious and often without symptoms, some stores, counties and cities are going to ask you to mask up. It's not a political statement; it's just common courtesy.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in the DFW area. Read more of her blogs at [lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com](https://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com).



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**TIME: ALL DAY**

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**LOCATION: EVERYWHERE**





# The shadow season



'Portrait of a Lady on Fire,' above, gorgeously explores a same-sex romance; the Georgian drama 'And Then We Danced,' below, pits cultural norms against sexual desire; Hugh Grant, above opposite, plays a sly gay mobster in 'The Gentlemen;' the 'Peter Pan' redux 'Wendy,' below opposite, breathes fresh life into an old tale.

Despite an abortive summer of moviegoing, 2020 has produced some excellent feature films. Seek them out

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

As the pandemic loomed back in March, Hollywood hedged its bets and postponed many of its big tent-pole movies, bumping them a few weeks or months until the little hiccup that would be a virus was over. Then movie theaters nationwide closed entirely. On March 8, the weekend box office take was \$100 million; last weekend, it was \$11,000. Still, Sony planned for its prestige summer pic — Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* — to open on time... i.e., July 17.

Then the studio blinked.

The movie industry hasn't bounced back yet, though *Tenet* (as well as Disney's live-action *Mulan*) are presently slated to open some time next month. But we are still halfway through the year, when we'd normally be taking a look back at the cinema landscape so far

(and to come). And the truth is, there have been some good movies that had theatrical runs in 2020. (Other films, pushed to streaming services though still considered feature releases for Oscar purposes — such as Netflix's Spike Lee picture *Da 5 Bloods* — are not included.) So here it is: Our mid-year retrospective on the best movies released so far (listed in alphabetical order)... and look for reviews of theatrical releases *Tenet*, *Mulan* and more when things normalize!

**And Then We Danced.** Writer-director Levan Akin's same-sex romance is groundbreaking in its cultural setting (the nation of Georgia, known for its homophobia and persecution of sexuality), but a common story in the West: A meet-cute story of sexual awakening in the face of repression. If it feels familiar, it's also excellently executed. *Dance* is a reliable medium for conveying physicality, longing and desire, and those scenes are full of chemistry.

**The Burnt Orange Heresy.** The last film I personally screened in an indoor theater, just 24 hours before the shutdown, hasn't officially opened in Dallas yet, but did receive limited release

elsewhere. Seek it out when it becomes available. Based on Charles Willeford's insidiously smart detective novel about the art world — one of the best examples of genre fiction in the last half-century — it captures Willeford's hard-boiled sensibility but also the aching irony of the best literature.

**Corpus Christi.** An ex-con reports to work at a sawmill in a small town in Poland but by happenstance is mistaken for the new parish priest and accedes

to the deception. A nominee for best international film at the Oscars earlier this year, this drama delves through layers of Polish history in a style reminiscent of an American Western.

**Human Nature.** Another near-miss in Dallas theaters, its opening was curtailed. But this documentary — which debuted at SXSW in 2019 and finally received a distributor — tackles the arcane topic of genetic engineers via CRISPR, a DNA-editing tool that can







tailor our genes... but to what end?

**The Gentlemen.** Guy Ritchie is like Michael Bay with talent: A director of flamboyant visual flourishes and a narrative attack that often demands your full attention. This heisty mob movie, with its labyrinthine story structure, toys with homoeroticism (a great performance by Hugh Grant) and delivered the year's first statement picture back in January, and its effect lingers still.

**The Invisible Man.** What could come off as a mere sci-fi horror film about an unseen entity terrorizing Elizabeth Moss becomes, in the #MeToo era, a powerful metaphor: a woman abused by a powerful man, but nobody believes her. There are a number of legit jump scares, plus a raw performance by Moss as the victim who won't be victimized anymore.

**Portrait of a Lady on Fire.** Oozing Gothic mystery and clandestine sexual tension, this period romantic drama about a female artist tasked with painting the portrait of an unwilling bride-to-be is as concerned with the artistic temperament as it is telling the story of a tentative love affair. The remote, wind-battered setting has been a sure-fire one since the days of the Bronte

sisters and Henry James, but writer-director Celine Sciamma incisively uses her camera to paint her own images as seductively as Vermeer or Rembrandt. It's as ravishing as its subject matter.

**Saint Frances.** A comedy about abortion might sound like a disaster, but this smart feminist take on adulating, in which an immature 30-something is forced to grow up when she becomes nanny for a lesbian couple's precocious 6-year-old, injected a quirky point of view into a universe of same-old/same-old stories about the millennial generation.

**The Vast of Night.** This locally-shot indie — the first film I have screened at a drive-in theater in decades — takes place roughly in real time on a dark night in the 1950s. What is the strange noise detected on the airwaves? Low on budget and effects, but high on atmosphere and dialogue, this thoughtful movie about aliens is the closest encounter since *Arrival* to metaphysical sci-fi.

**Wendy.** Director Behn Zeitlin's second feature (after *Beasts of the Southern Wild*) is a modernist take on *Peter Pan*, which actually dissuaded me at first, but his take is so fresh and unsentimental that it breathes unexpected life into this warhorse of a fable. I do believe, Behn!



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## PAMPER YOUR PET

Trans author's memoir of canine companionship heals ... and heels

***Good Boy: My Life in Seven Dogs, A Memoir* by Jennifer Finney Boylan (Celadon 2020) \$26.99; 272 pp.**

Like any other history, your life can be separated into "B.C." and "A.D." That's *before canine* and *after dog* or, as Jennifer Finney Boylan writes, "My days have been numbered in dogs."

For Jennifer (while she still went by James), there was a dalmatian named Playboy, a troublesome hoodlum and escape artist who seemed mostly to ignore Boylan. Playboy showed that it's possible to love someone, despite their faults. On James' 11th birthday, Penny entered the family. She was also a dalmatian, and an overeater who grew sausage-like, drooly and messy, but Boylan adored that chubby dog until childhood things were put aside, and Penny resignedly went with them.

There was Matt the Mutt, an out-of-



control mongrel who taught Boylan that "sometimes the happiest people are the ones that cause the most pain to everyone around them." An "adorable brown fluff ball" named Brown showed that scars can be healed "if you know love."

Alex was not Boylan's dog at first, and he almost never was; the Gordon Setter's heart had always belonged to Boylan's best friend, Zero — although Alex was there when Boylan fell in love, and again when James Boylan revealed that he was transitioning fully to be Jenny. Then there was Lucy, who disliked everyone; and Ranger, the last family dog.

"When I was young," writes Boylan, "I was haunted by the person I imagined I could never be." The surprise was that the boy and the man she was "still live

within my heart, along with every last dog that ever helped them on their way."

Not to quibble, but *Good Boy* is not just about a good boy. It's also about a couple of *bad* boys, a few good girls, a host of hilarious family stories, and Boylan's life, told without any dark corners of insincerity. So it's not about a *single Good Boy*. S'OK, we're good.

You won't even mind that you sometimes forget dogs are supposed to be the reason for this book but that they're hijacked by Boylan's most delightful memories, many of which are so evocative and universal they feel as though they were pulled out of some kind of Late Baby Boomer Handbook. You might not even notice that dogs are just half this book, the other half being a funny, awkward hike toward insight, love and *love of*.

This is the sort of book that you want to last just a few more pages. It's trite to say that you'll laugh, you'll cry ... but you will. It's one to read with a furry baby lying on your feet. For right now, *Good Boy* is good to order.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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**QUISINE**





**We Are the Radical Monarchs.** In the context of Black Lives Matter, queer female activists of color aren't uncommon... but tweens? This documentary, that debuted at South by Southwest in 2019, makes its way to TV screens nationwide this week, as the opening entry in the storied PBS series *POV*. Started by two adult women in San Francisco, *The Radical Monarchs* is a socially-conscious alternative to scouting... and entirely heartwarming. *Debuts July 20 on KERA Channel 13 and PBS platforms.*



**Lone Star.** We all know that mingling (to an extent) is safer outside, so the Classics Theatre Project has gone alfresco with its latest production, which continues through this weekend. *Lone Star* is a modern classic of Texas masculine identity, as three cowbros bond over beer. The outdoor presentation, which opened last week, finishes its run this weekend outside the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park. July 17–19. [TheClassicsTheatreProject.com](http://TheClassicsTheatreProject.com).



**I Am My Own Wife.** Charlotte von Mahlsdorf survived the Nazi regime while preserving antiques — a remarkable success story, considering she was also a trans woman when that was barely understood. But Charlotte was a complicated figure, full of contradictions, which Dallas native Doug Wright explored in his Pulitzer- and Tony-winning solo show. Originally on WaterTower Theatre's schedule for an in-theater performance earlier this season, the performance (with local actor Bob Hess) has been filmed and prepared for streaming. *Streaming through Aug. 2. \$38. [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org).*



# Cassie Nova

Day drinking and fine quarantine dining

Hello squirreelfriends. Have you gone crazy yet? Are ya sick of being at home? Or are you one of those assholes out and about everyday like there ain't a pandemic? Just kiddin. This isn't going to be a bitchfest. Instead, today I would like to talk about some of the things I have liked or learned during this quarantine.

First off — and I hope I don't sound like the world's biggest alcoholic when I say this, but — day drinking is awesome! I've always liked day drinking, but since I work nights, I usually don't do it. If I drank all day and then went on to do a show that night, I would be a rotten mess by the end of that third show.

I'd say nobody wants to see that, but I know better. Some of y'all love to see us get sloppy drunk.

I'm actually not drinking that much, but being stuck at home with nothing on my schedule, I will make myself a random shot just to do laundry. Last Wednesday at 2 p.m., I made myself a dirty martini and walked outside — too fucking hot! And back inside I went to finish my drink and watch Kelly.

I gotta be careful, though. I accidentally had a cocktail and went to Wal-mart. Let's just say, anyone not wearing a mask got called an idiot — loudly, and usually from another aisle or while I looked like I was reading the ingredients to something from a few feet away. It was actually kind of fun.

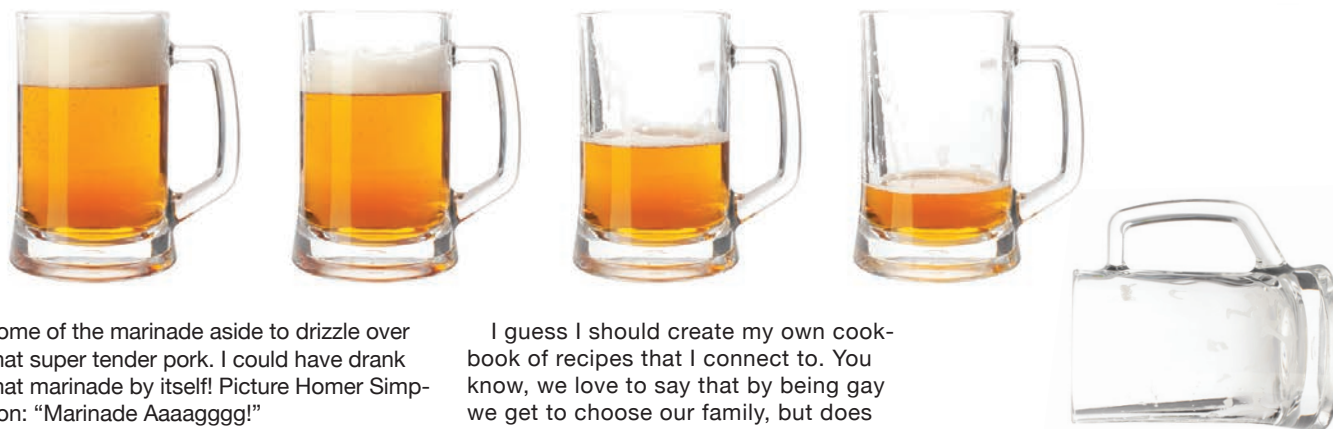
I also told a teenager to stop using the electric shopping cart. Nothing was wrong with him, he just thought he looked cute driving up and down the aisles with his feet propped up. I told him to get his lazy ass off of that thing and leave it for someone that actually needs it. He said, "Yes ma'am!" as he jumped up and ran away. In his defense, all he saw of me was a mask and eyebrows and I might have been wearing a loose blouse.

Plus, day drinking can sometimes lead to hanky-spanky time. And even better is when your husband is home so he can join in. Drunken sex on a random Tuesday afternoon is awesome.

We've gotten into a routine to water our plants in the backyard. Yes, that's how bad things have gotten. I get excited to go outside in the evenings and water freaking plants. The backyard looks great, even though the only people seeing it are myself, the husband, the dogs and Ruby, the Tort!

But, this second half of quarantine, I have got to exercise more, especially if I am going to continue to cook like I have been. This extra time has given me the drive to try some different recipes.

I recently made pernil, a Puerto Rican pork roast marinated in a lime juice, orange juice, cilantro, garlic and other seasonings. It turned out so good! But I should have set



some of the marinade aside to drizzle over that super tender pork. I could have drank that marinade by itself! Picture Homer Simpson: "Marinade Aaaagggg!"

Speaking of cooking, have you watched the docuseries *Taste The Nation* with Padma Lakshmi on Hulu? It is one of my favorite shows I've watched during quarantine. It does an amazing job of teaching about different cultures food while also opening our eyes to what "American" food actually is.

This show shines a very poetic and timely light on immigration in America. Each episode looks at a different culture and the struggle the people from that country face once they are actually in America — well, except the Native Americans, who were already here. Their story — like so many of the stories from this series — will break your heart as it educates you.

That show really got me thinking about my family heritage. We did 23andMe DNA tests last year and found out — shockingly enough — that I am overwhelmingly white: 52.6 percent British and Irish, 27.8 percent French and German, 2.1 percent Scandinavian. Culinary speaking, that's not a lot to get excited about. Sure, each of these countries has a few dishes I like and relate to, but none of those foods remind me of home.

I guess I should create my own cookbook of recipes that I connect to. You know, we love to say that by being gay we get to choose our family, but does that mean I can choose dishes that I connect to, as long as I give credit where it is due? Most of the things I cook we have always just called "country." In reality though, it is mostly soul food or Creole cooking.

Southern staples like beans and cornbread, chicken and dumplings, biscuits and gravy and all things fried are the foods that I think of when I think of my family — poor people food, where you made the best with what you have. And yes, food snobs, I know that some of those foods have roots in French technique, but its not French food to me.

Truth be told I make Latin, Tex-Mex, Indian, Middle Eastern, Chinese and Italian dishes in my house more than I do Southern food — unless it is a holiday. If I had kids, I hope that all of those types of food would remind them of home.

I think I have just talked myself into making a fabulous dinner — and possibly a shot or two!

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova

## this week's solution

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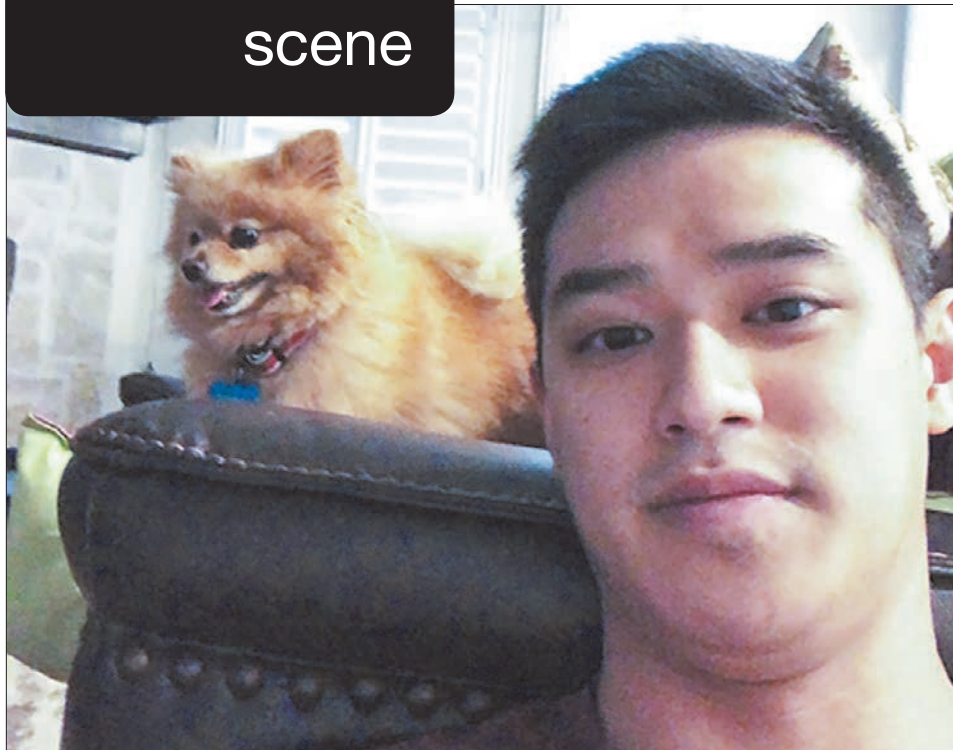
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Josey and Linda



Gloria and Reese



Cecil and Tim



Karl and Sheldon



Matt and Tyler with Jones and Indy



Sterling, Major, June and Nick





Bradley, Nyla and Cooper



Todd and Lola



Brandon, Phil and Zippy



Bandit



Dylan and Augustine

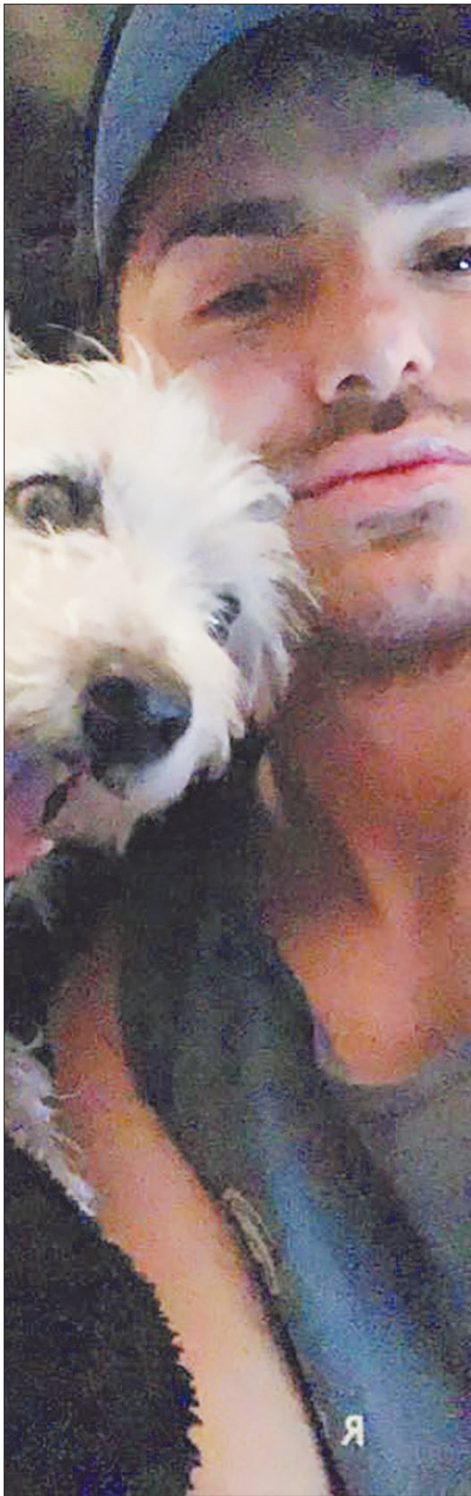


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Solution on Page 22

- Across**

1 The bottom line

6 “\_\_\_ Walked Into My Life”

10 Fashion accessory for Zorro

14 Town in a Hersey novel

15 Actor with no lines

16 Way to come

17 Start of the reason that the title character of

57-Across texted “Screw you!” to Simon

19 Who deserves malice, to Lincoln

20 Top Greek philosopher

21 Spaghetti topping

22 What comes out of your head

23 Got in a pet

24 Carolyn, who wrote about a Nancy

27 Daughter of a gay friendly president

28 Pitching stat

29 More of the reason

35 Diana or Betsy

37 What to do with your best shot, to Benatar

38 \_\_\_ *For All Seasons*

39 End of the reason

42 Guesstimate from the cockpit

43 Works with visual effects

44 Frost over
- 46 Like John Hurt’s Caligula

48 Czech champ of tennis

51 El Greco’s homeland

52 Randy Rainbow songs, for example

55 Fill with cargo

56 Follow-up series to a movie about Simon

58 Pt. of AARP

59 McCormack of a rebooted series

60 Homonym for Chaz’s mom

61 Triple X, for Caesar

62 Got going

63 Trojan beauty
- 13 Hit in the family jewels

18 Kind of enc.

21 Takei’s *Star Trek* role

23 Crooks crack them

24 Broadway composer Jerome

25 Ending with switch

26 Adam and Steve’s favorite James Dean movie?

27 Home of Picasso’s Stein portrait

30 Terminal in Chicago

31 Baseball glove

32 Hot time for Colette

33 Russian singing duo

34 Move the football between your legs

36 Workplace for Michelangelo

40 Type of crime

41 Language of *Fiddler on the Roof*, historically

45 You’ve heard it before

46 Fame

47 Body build

48 *Alice* star Linda

49 With blood rushing to the head

50 Mo. to vote against homophobic Trump

52 Minute opening

53 List ender

54 Kind of loser

56 *Ben Hur* novelist Wallace

57 Kevin Bacon in *Footloose*



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TOP PRODUCERS  
IN DALLAS 2018



## Real Estate

**Terri Tranter**



Call 904-GO TERRI today!  
[www.TerriTranter.com](http://www.TerriTranter.com)

[Terri-Realtor@Tranter.us](mailto:Terri-Realtor@Tranter.us)

[f TerriTranterRealtor](https://www.facebook.com/TerriTranterRealtor)

Looking to buy, sell, or lease? I'm your girl!



Let's get you  
home!

## Adult



**AFTER  
HOURS  
VIDEO**

**2528 W. Walnut, Garland**  
**(972) 276-0893**  
7 Day Rentals! \$6 DVD's!  
\$9.95 Head Cleaners.

## MarketPlace

Your calling card for LGBT Texas business  
For information on advertising, call us at:  
**214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at:**

[dallasvoice.com/marketplace](http://dallasvoice.com/marketplace)  
**dallasvoice.com**

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

## Services

**EDDIE'S**  
QUALITY PAINTING



FENCE STAINING, INTERIOR/EXTERIOR,  
TAPE, BED & TEXTURE  
METICULOUS & ATTENTION TO DETAIL  
POWER WASHING

**469-471-8618**

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!  
NEAT, CLEAN & RELIABLE

## For Lease

**N.E. Oak Lawn | SOHIP**



Studio residence in a  
predominately lesbian and gay,  
small quiet gated community.  
Recently renovated inside and out.  
Mediterranean front with beautiful  
landscaping. 4 inch door casings,  
7 inch baseboards, crown molding,  
ceiling fan and track lighting.  
Individual heat and AC.  
Gay owned & managed.  
Available NOW!

Studio w/Private Garden \$830/Month  
plus electric and insurance.

**The Villas on Holland**  
4210 Holland Ave., #107 at Douglas  
**214-770-1214**



A photograph of two men smiling and embracing each other outdoors. The man on the left has short dark hair and a beard, wearing a purple t-shirt. The man on the right has curly dark hair, a beard, and a nose ring, wearing a white t-shirt. They are both looking towards the camera.

# Taking PrEP Makes a Difference!

Free HIV/STD Tests

Free PrEP

Free STD Treatment



CHECK YOUR  
**STATUS**

817-479-1200  
CHECKYOURSTATUS.org

**AIDS**  
OUTREACH  
CENTER AHF  
ADVANCE