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THE PAWS POST

PAWS FOR LIFE USA

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Therapy Dog of the Month: Joy

BY SARAH MORRIS

During Joy's puppy years, she struggled to find her forever home. At only one year old, Joy had been brought into the Cobb County Animal Shelter twice. Enter Paula, Joy's future owner and companion. Paula wanted to adopt a shelter dog who could be part of a pet therapy team. Upon first meeting Joy, Paula felt an instant bond with her. As she describes their first moments together, Paula says, "Joy immediately laid her head in my lap and melted into me like butter." The two were destined to be companions.

Two days later, Paws For Life USA founder, **Kimberly Brenowitz**, tested Joy's potential for therapy work, quickly approving of Paula's choice. Paula chose the name Joy for her new pup because bringing joy to others would be her purpose.

This adorable mixed breed is two years old now and weighs forty-two pounds. After DNA testing, Paula discovered that Joy is a blend of many breeds, including



Boxer and Foxhound. She has a sweet temperament and exists to love people. She loves to take long walks, hikes, and climb Kennesaw Mountain, which is her favorite place to go. Paula and Joy (pictured above) walk about five miles every day and after one year of training, Joy earned her **therapy certification** on March 21st, 2021.

Fact of the Month

Therapy dogs used in **animal-assisted therapy** assist therapists and are included as part of a patient's treatment plan to meet specific goals.

April Events

Service Dog Basic Obedience Training •
PFL USA School, Marietta, GA • Every
Saturday, starting April 3rd - 11 am

Intermediate & Advanced Service Dog
Training • East Cobb Park, Marietta, GA
• Every Saturday - 12 pm

Paws For Life USA Fitness Club • East
Cobb Park, Marietta, GA • Sat., April 3rd
- 12 pm

Paws For Life USA Climb & Hike •
Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park,
Kennesaw, GA • Sat., April 10th - 12 pm

Check our [website](#) for event changes.

Why Dogs Eat Grass and Dirt

BY KIMBERLY BRENOWITZ &
SARAH MORRIS

Your dog could be eating grass, dirt, twigs, and so on for a variety of reasons. If your dog is prone to this nasty habit, they may be:

- Bored. To keep your pup from eating random things outside, play some games with them or exercise with them.
- Experiencing a stomach ache. Dogs will eat grass or dirt as a catalyst for throwing up, which is a natural remedy for dogs with an upset stomach.
- Lacking minerals in their diet. Ask your vet if they recommend adding supplements to your dog's diet.
- Looking for something different than their standard kibble to eat. Consider adding fruit or vegetables to your dog's diet.

The Best Fruits to Give Your Dog

BY KIMBERLY BRENOWITZ &
SARAH MORRIS

- Blueberries- high in antioxidants, which prevent heart disease, as well as vitamin C and fiber.
- Apples- high in vitamin C, calcium, and anti-inflammatory properties. Aids dogs' digestive system.
- Pears- good source of fiber and potassium. Promotes intestinal health and prevents cardiovascular disease.
- Bananas- Helpful in small amounts to dogs with constipation due to its high insoluble fiber count.



- Apricots, peaches- rich in soluble fiber which regulates intestinal transit in dogs. High iron content can prevent anemia.
- Strawberries- rich in antioxidants which maintains dogs' healthy skin and prevents cellular oxidation.
- Watermelons- contain large concentration of water, which can combat overheating and help hydrate dogs when given in moderation.
- Melons- excellent sources of vitamins A and E, in addition to diuretic properties and antioxidants.



The Best Vegetables to Give Your Dog

BY KIMBERLY BRENOWITZ & SARAH MORRIS

- Spinach- rich in fiber which regulates dogs' bowel movements. Plentiful source of vitamins A, B, C, E, and F.
- Lettuce, Cabbage- high iron and antioxidant counts. Has analgesic and depurative properties.
- Celery- natural antioxidant and diuretic that has anti-inflammatory properties. Strengthens the immune system and regulates the digestive system. Reduces pain in dogs with conditions like arthritis.
- Green beans, peas- rich in vitamins A and C with antioxidant, digestive, and energetic properties.
- Carrots- strengthens dogs' teeth and has antioxidant, digestive, and purifying properties.
- Pumpkin- rich in fiber with antioxidant and diuretic properties. Recommended for dogs suffering from constipation.



Fruits and Vegetables Toxic to Dogs

BY KIMBERLY BRENOWITZ & SARAH MORRIS

- Avocados- the most poisonous fruit to dogs. When consumed, dogs may experience vomiting, stomach pain, or pancreatitis. Excessive consumption could cause pulmonary deficiencies or affect the heart.
- Grapes, raisins- Causes liver and kidney damage. Excessive consumption can result in kidney failure.
- Fruit seeds or stones- always remove seeds/stones from fruit before giving any to your dog.
- Onions, garlic, leeks, chives- destroys red blood cells and can cause anemia.
- Raw Potatoes/Sweet Potatoes, leaves, stalks- contain high solanine count, which is a poison from the nightshade family.



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