If you’ve ever seen the movie *Homeward Bound*, you probably remember Shadow, the wise old Golden Retriever who helped lead his family home. That’s a fairly good description of the breed—Goldens are known for their loyalty and dependability, which is one reason why they are a popular choice for guide dogs. Originally, this long-coated canine was bred to retrieve waterfowl that hunters shot down, but nowadays they have a wide range of jobs, from search and rescue to family companion. Let’s take a look at some of the defining features of a Golden.

**Coat:** Definitely the most eye-catching quality of this breed is its coat. Golden Retrievers come in many shades, from blonde to copper and even a rusty red. Goldens need to be brushed once a week in order to prevent tangles, as they have two different layers of fur. A waterproof topcoat sheds year-round and a thick undercoat keeps the dog either warm or cool depending on the season.

**Temperament:** The Golden Retriever is noted for its easy trainability and calm disposition. Unlike most dogs, Goldens are good with small children, which is one of the key reasons that they are such a popular family dog. That being said, if you are looking for a dog to keep your home safe, the Golden is not a good choice due to the fact that, were someone to break in, the dog would most likely greet them with a wagging tail.

If you're looking for an energetic dog that's also perfect for family life, the Golden Retriever is for you.

*See GOLDEN on PAGE 3.*
TWO NEW VETERINARY SCHOOLS OPEN FALL 2014

ARTICLE BY DAENA ROWLISON

Two new veterinary schools in Arizona and Tennessee are accepting applications this year for their newly instituted veterinary medicine programs. Midwestern University of Glendale, Arizona and Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate, Tennessee have completed the first step to becoming fully accredited colleges of veterinary medicine, receiving Letters of Reasonable Assurance from the AVMA.

These schools will be eligible to earn provisional accreditation in 2014 upon enrolling their first classes and full accreditation in 2018, when they will graduate their first class of veterinary students.

Both schools were recently added as the 29th and 30th members of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), meaning that they can both vote on AAVMC decisions and utilize the AAVMC’s Veterinary Medicine College Application Service (VMCAS).

Midwestern University was approved by the Arizona State Board of Private Postsecondary Education to open a veterinary school in October of 2012, while Lincoln Memorial announced plans to open a college of veterinary medicine in 2011.

Both schools will be enrolling students to start in their programs in the Fall of 2014. Midwestern University plans to enroll a class of 100 new students next fall, while Lincoln Memorial University plans to enroll 85.

Want to learn more about the AVMA’s Accreditation Process?

OFFICE HOURS FALL 2013
In Room B22 of the TILT Building

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Researchers have discovered one group of animals who won’t appreciate the many sweets given out on Halloween night: felines. According to Gary Beauchamp, a researcher at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, domestic cats and their wild cousins are incapable of tasting sweetness. The research first came about from many anecdotal stories indicating that felines showed no preference for foods that were sweetened.

The reason that felines cannot detect sweetness lies in the way that the sweetness receptor is constructed, says Beauchamp. The receptor is actually composed of two proteins generated by two different genes: Tas1r2 and Tas1r3. DNA analysis showed that felines have a mutation that renders the protein produced by Tas1r2 nonfunctional.

It was originally thought that felines were the only group of mammals incapable of tasting sweetness, but further research has indicated that other animals—all of which feed exclusively on meat—also cannot taste sweetness. Other animals that cannot detect sweetness include hyenas, bottlenose dolphins, and sea lions. Beauchamp feels that this loss of taste reflects upon the animal’s diet and feeding behavior, noting that exclusive meat eaters would have no need to be able to detect sweetness, but omnivores that may be seeking out carbohydrates from sugar would be at an advantage if they were able to taste when something was sweet.

Don’t believe that Fluffy doesn’t like sweets? Beauchamp says that when cats eat sweet foods, they may actually be enjoying the fat or salt content rather than the sugar.

GOLDENS (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

ArticLe by Hannah teicher

Type: There are actually three different kinds of Golden Retrievers: British, American, and Canadian. British Goldens have shorter legs and tails and a deeper chest than Americans, as well as a more square-shaped head. American-types are much leaner than British as well as slightly taller. While British Goldens are more of a golden-creamy color, the American kind can also be found in crimson or mahogany shades. Canadian Golden Retrievers are very similar to Americans, but they vary greatly in color as well as coat density.

Health: Like any purebred dog, Golden Retrievers are predisposed to certain medical issues. The most common are cancer, hip/elbow dysplasia, cataracts (cloudy lenses over the eye that affect vision), heart disease and joint and skin diseases. Regular vet checkups and a vigilant owner can help prevent most of these, or catch them before they become a serious problem. Some, such as hip/elbow dysplasia and cataracts, are much more common in older dogs and are a natural part of the aging process.
I REMEMBER applying to schools across the country hoping to one day follow my mom’s footsteps and get involved in the restaurant business. A degree in business management seemed like something that would help me achieve that goal. I started the University of Tampa in August of 2008 and had the experience of a lifetime. While I always referred to myself as a good student, I did take time out to go have fun in the warm sun of Florida.

My sophomore year I moved off campus and realized that I needed a companion — what better place to find one than at the Humane Society? So I searched and searched through the Humane Society of Tampa Bay website until I found Frodo, a 10 month old Vizsla mix that had the most beautiful eyes and longest nose! I’ll never forget that day in mid-October (still extremely hot in Florida!), when I went to first visit this pup that had piqued my interest.

I remember when I first spotted him; unfortunately, he didn’t seem to like me too much. All of the other dogs were excited and wagging their tails, while the dog who I thought would become my best friend didn’t even come to say hello! Discouraged, I visited with three other dogs.

During my last visit, Frodo came outside with a volunteer to go for a walk. Curious, I decided that maybe I should really get to know him. I asked the volunteer if I could throw the ball for him. Once I did, he ran after it and came back to give me kisses. At that point, he stole my heart. With tears in my eyes, I decided that Frodo, who I renamed Sunny, will forever be my best friend.

It is amazing how an animal can change someone’s life. I spent every single day with Sunny, enjoying his company, taking him to the dog park, and cuddling on the couch. While owning a dog did become a responsibility, Sunny made it all worth it. I wanted to be with him and I couldn’t wait to get out of class to play and spend weekends exploring doggie parks and beaches. Ultimately,
his company is what made me decide that I want to spend the rest of my life practicing veterinary medicine.

I decided to finish up my schooling at UT and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management, during which time I expanded my family with another addition from the Humane Society, Simba. Simba only encouraged me to pursue my dream by being the total opposite of Sunny. He is a troublemaker but gives the most love. Even to this day, the dynamic between the two of them fascinates me and makes me love them more and more each day (yes, that is possible!).

Today, I find myself at Colorado State University hoping to one day become a specialty surgeon and explore my love for orthopedics. While this all will be time consuming, I know that my passion for animals will let me succeed. Sunny, Simba and Monroe (their new kitty sister) let me know every day that I am doing the right thing. It is never too late to pursue your dream and I plan on making the best out of my time at CSU while also making a difference for animals near and far.

Do you have an interesting story about why you wanted to become a veterinarian?

Write an article and send it to the Pre-Vet Club Newsletter Editor at daenarewlinson@gmail.com

Vivacious Vizslas

Vizslas are a Hungarian breed of hunting dog renowned for their excellent noses and gentle natures. The first written record of Vizslas dates back to 1357 and they were the 115th breed of dog to be recognized by the AKC. Photo from the AKC.
THE DOG PARK

Jokes, trivia, quotes, and the occasional game of fetch.

“My favorite animal is steak.”
- Fran Lebowitz

“Old age means realizing you will never own all of the dogs you wanted to.”
- Joe Gores

Q: What kind of dog does a vampire own?
A: A bloodhound.

Two dogs walk over to a parking meter. One said to the other, “How do you like that? Pay toilets.”

A French poodle and a collie were walking down the street. The poodle turned to the collie and complained, “My life is such a mess. My owner is mean, my girlfriend is having an affair with a German shepherd and I’m as nervous as a cat.” “Why don’t you go see a psychiatrist?” asked the collie. “I can’t,” replied the poodle. “I’m not allowed on the couch.”

DID YOU KNOW?
- Rat baiting was a sport in 19th century London where dogs were tasked with killing rats in a pit. The world record is held by Jacko, a bull terrier, who killed 100 rats in 5 minutes 28 seconds in 1862.
- There are only three species of vampire bats, none of which live in the United States.
- In Scotland, black cats on your porch bring prosperity.
Can you match the animals in Box A with their closest relatives in Box B?

**FAMILY REUNIONS**

1. Bear
2. Zebra
3. Mongoose
4. Elephant
5. Giraffe

a. Tapir
b. Okapi
c. Hyena
d. Seal
e. Hyrax

Answers: 1-d 2-e 3-c 4-b 5-a
# October 2013

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[www.facebook.com/groups/1410620589157206/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1410620589157206/)