

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

December 2017

I love retirement! I should have retired decades ago. In addition to traveling, one of my favorite activities is volunteering for the Bloomington Animal Shelter. I walk dogs on Tuesday mornings and help with Adoption Counseling on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. About eight hours a week. I have been humbled by the experience. I love to watch people fall in love with *their* favorite animal. I now believe that every animal has it's soul mate. Even those pit bulls. Most people who come to the shelter are giving, loving people and I love enjoy talking "dog" with them.

My travel was quite limited this year. Shella Fuhrman and I took our dogs to the Panhandle of Florida again. Of course in January/February! We stayed at Port St. Joe and Topsail State Park. Here we are, enjoying an outdoor café, with Wylie and Max. → I had more travels on my agenda, but changed my plans for the passing of close friends and relatives. I guess that's part of retirement too. 😞



On the other hand, if you think about my backyard, I can find adventures there without travel. In June a mama deer gave birth to this little fawn (←) in my backyard. I saw mama's water break and kept the dogs out of the yard for a couple of hours. Then walked out to find both of them. Bambi was nursing and trying to walk. So, I opened all the gates and mama soon led her out. Somehow mama knew staying in my backyard would not be healthy for Bambi. My dogs, however, have never chased the deer in my backyard. In fact, Shine won't even go outside if he sees one.

I joined the *Hoosier Cruiser* RV rally club this year. It will be a great opportunity for me to explore a different aspect of Indiana....that is, not dog sport related. My first trip was cancelled because of the the spring flooding. We were supposed to go to New Harmony State Park, but the Ohio River had consumed it. I did get to join them for the Pork Festival in Tipton IN.



Wylie will be Mr. June for the 2018 Pet's Alive calendar. He's the centerfold. The calendar opens right up to him. He was one of the top 12 pets in a photo contest. This photo ← is from his photshoot. The picture that was submitted for the contest → was puppy Wylie meeting his first deer in the backyard.

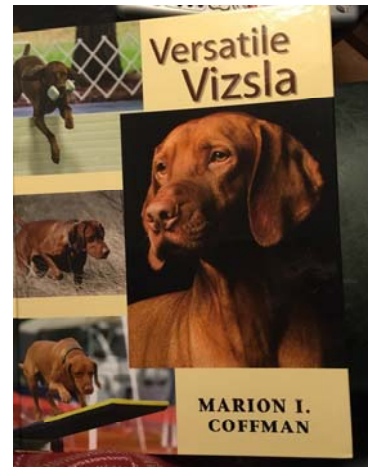
The Pet's Alive facility is phenomenal. Two veterinarians average 80 spays/neuters per day.





← Dart made it into a book. She is featured as one of the three triple champion Vizslas. Quite an honor. When Dart earned her TC in 2013, she was the 60th dog (in the history of the AKC) to do so. She was the 20th to have four championships. There were only three dogs that had earned five championships.

So, everyone needs to go out and get a copy of the *Versatile Vizsla* by Marion Coffman and turn to page 147. No other pictures are important.



Shine earned a C-ATCH in CPE Agility this year. C-ATCH translated is Canine, Agility Trial Champion. He's now earned enough Q's to qualify for the 2018 National Championships. →



We had a great pheasant hunting trip this year and will go again for new years. I had the most fun running Dart. At 15 years old, she danced with joy over the ground. She found a few birds and I shot them for her to retrieve. It was just like the good ole times we used to have. ←

Wylie and Shine, on the other hand, had too much fun finding and chasing birds. We got to see how many were in the field we could have had.



Wylie does have a beautiful point (and back) when he does slow down. →

We'll be spending Christmas with the McCullough family (cousins) again this year....in the Detroit area. Cousin Debbie and I will be planning a trip to Hawaii for next year. We'll also get to see Cousin Diane and Bob who will be visiting their grand-kids in Michigan.

Looking forward to another great year. Hope you all have good holidays.