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August-September 2008



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# Humane Education

**Kokomo Humane Society Mission**  
*Improving the lives of and preventing cruelty to domestic and companion animals through humane education, shelter, and uniting pets with families.*

**It's time to make living ethically, sustainably, and peaceably on this planet the very purpose of education.**

[www.humaneeducation.org](http://www.humaneeducation.org)

Monday, August 11, 2008

**8 AM** You left for work without saying goodbye. Hrumph.

**10 AM** Watched squirrels playing. I wish I could play outside. Shoe on the floor. I didn't want to chew on it...

**12 PM** Peed the rug. HAD to.

**2 PM** Tore open the pillows.

**4 PM** Something in the trash smells SOOOO good.....

Back to school time is a busy time for the whole family, but can be a very alienating time for your pet. Unfortunately, when Fido gets bored he doesn't have opposable thumbs to change channels or surf the web. He tends to express himself in the only way he knows how...by forgetting everything he learned in obedience training and destroying your house. It doesn't mean he is a bad dog-it just means he is bored. Keeping our pets

entertained is part of the responsibility of having them, but our busy lifestyle sometimes compromises the amount of time we can spend with them.

While breaking this behavior can be hard, averting it works even better. When you aren't home, keeping your pet in a large crate is highly recommended. Even a room where he cannot get into trouble (i.e. bathroom or laundry room) will somewhat insure the safety of your shoes and other chewable items. Walk Rover when you get home, but try not to over stimulate him as soon as you walk in the door. This can lead to additional anxiety issues. For more information on crate training check out :

[www.cuhumane.org/topics/crate.html](http://www.cuhumane.org/topics/crate.html)

## Diary of a Destructive Dog



Has your dog been getting into trouble?



### Fast Animal Facts

- 🐱 Cats age ten years in the first six months of life.
- 🐱 The Basenji is the only barkless dog in the world.
- 🐱 Domestic cats are the only species able to hold their tail vertically while walking.
- 🐱 The oldest breed of dog native to North America is the Chihuahua.



# Fish and Chips

*Starting your tank right!*

You bought the tank, the rocks, the decorations, the food and the fish. Three days later your tank is cloudy and your fish are belly up. What went wrong? Patience is key when starting a fish habitat, and sometimes the excitement of getting your kid (or you!) their first tank throws all previously acquired aquarium knowledge out the window. First off, letting the tank settle before getting fish might be

boring, but it is very important. Fish don't live in tap water in the wild. For freshwater tanks, adding an enzyme solution such as Stress Zyme will expedite the starting process. The only way to make sure your water is safe for fish is to get it tested at a local pet store. Once your water is ready, you can select a few hardy fish. Start economically, as it is likely that some of

them will end up as floaters in the beginning. For a clean, healthy tank stick to a general rule of thumb: one inch of fish per gallon of water. Twenty zebra danios will look pretty in your 10 gallon tank, but you will be cleaning it very often. Fish tanks are still a great way to teach your kids, or even your classroom, about the responsibility of pet ownership and care.

## Which Fish?



While the freshwater standard is still the goldfish, consider a more low maintenance fish such as a betta, tetra or danio. These species require less food and put out less waste. Bonus: as a result, less cleaning!



**From your neighborhood animal lover/humane educator!**

**School is in session!**  
Contact me to coordinate humane education programs to fit your curriculum needs! At the Kokomo Humane Society we are committed to preventing pet overpopulation and animal abandonment. This takes everyone's cooperation to educate our community! Reach me at 765-452-6224 ext. 3 or [e.auth@kokomohumane.org](mailto:e.auth@kokomohumane.org)

**Many Thanks, Emily J. Auth,  
Community Outreach Coordinator**

*Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.  
- George Eliot*



Check us out on myspace!  
[myspace.com/kokomohumane](http://myspace.com/kokomohumane)



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