



# PUw Prints

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## Introducing Merrick Pet Food

Merrick offers a full line of holistic canned food for both dogs and cats and holistic dry food for dogs. Dry formulas for cats are currently under development. All of the formulas are suitable for pets of all life stages and are made from human-grade ingredients.

If our pets could read the list of ingredients in these gourmet foods, it would make their mouths water! Unlike low-end canned pet foods, the content look and smell very appealing. Three of the canned formulas; “Turducken,” “Grammy’s Pot Pie,” and “Thanksgiving Day Dinner” were selected as Best Pet Food of the Year for 2006 by The Glycemic Research Institute in Washington, D.C., which may make them appropriate choices for diabetic pets (ask your veterinarian).

Merrick offers fifteen canned dog formulas, nine canned cat formulas, and six dry dog formulas. The canned dog foods come in 5.5oz and 13.2oz cans, the canned cat food in 3.2oz and 5.5oz cans, and the dry food in 5, 15, and 30 pound bags. Green Acres will be stocking most of these varieties and will frequently rotate our selection of the various flavors. We suggest you rotate what you feed your pet as well.

We currently include Merrick’s canned formulas in the rotation of food we feed our personal pets. Some of our pets’ favorites are listed below.

<b>Merrick Canned Dog Food</b>	
<b>Formula</b>	<b>First Seven Ingredients</b>
Wilderness Blend™	Buffalo, Salmon Broth, Venison, Salmon, Fish Broth, Whole Brown Rice, Fresh Carrots
Campfire Trout Feast™	Trout, Salmon Broth, Fresh Yukon Gold Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Fresh Zucchini, Fresh Fuji Apples, Olive Oil
Thanksgiving Day Dinner™	Turkey, Turkey Broth, Turkey Liver, Fresh Sweet Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Fresh Green Beans, Fresh Granny Smith Apples
Venison Holiday Stew™	Venison, Water for processing, Fresh Red Jacket New Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Fresh Zucchini, Fresh Sugar Peas, Fresh Red Delicious Apples

<b>Merrick Canned Cat Food</b>	
<b>Formula</b>	<b>First Seven Ingredients</b>
Grammy's Pot Pie™	Chicken, Chicken Broth, Turkey Liver, Fresh Red Jacket New Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Fresh Snow Peas, Fresh Whole Red Delicious Apples
Ocean Breeze™	Sardine, Chicken Broth, Chicken, Whitefish, Lobster, Crab, Shrimp,
Surf & Turf™	Beef, Beef Broth, Beef Liver, Salmon, Lobster, Shrimp, Fresh Yukon Gold Potatoes
California Roll™	Salmon, Tuna, Chicken Broth, Crab, Brown Rice, Fresh Cucumber, Fresh Carrots

<b>Merrick Dry Dog Food</b>	
<b>Formula</b>	<b>First Five Ingredients</b>
Wilderness Blend™	Buffalo, Oatmeal, Barley, Salmon Meal, Venison,
Turducken™	Turkey, Oatmeal, Barley, Chicken Meal, Chicken
Grammy's Pot Pie™	Chicken, Oatmeal, Barley, Chicken Meal, Whole Brown Rice

## Green Acres Is A “Pet Friendly” Facility

If you are a regular client you might be thinking, “we know Green Acres is pet friendly, why are you telling us?” I believe it is important that pet guardians realize not all people in the pet care business are “pet friendly.” The following are a few examples of what we consider to be unacceptable and unethical behavior on the part of some people in the pet care business.

Recently I read an article in *The Whole Dog Journal* where a pet guardian was astonished to find that the daycare where she had been taking her dog for six months was using an electric shock collar on her dog. Sadly, this lady’s previously well adjusted dog is now very fearful of other dogs. Fortunately she has now found a “pet friendly” daycare, but the damage to her friend has been done. And if you think this could never happen in Maine, it has.

A few years ago we had a client who needed to board their dog and we were filled to capacity. They ended up boarding their dog at another facility. Their dog, which was always anxious in new situations, started stress barking shortly after they left. Without the client’s permission, someone at that kennel put a bark collar on their dog which gave her an electric shock on her throat every time she barked. Obviously, this made her even more anxious and started a vicious cycle of a bark followed by the pain of a shock. This facility told the client what they had done when they picked up the dog, but failed to see the grave error they had made.

Over the weekend I read several messages on an email list for those in the kennel industry. List participants are kennel owners or managers. One person posted a message asking how others deal with dogs that bark while at the kennel. She was frus-

trated that a particular dog kept barking day and night and that it was “annoying her”.

Some of the suggestions other kennel owners and managers offered were frightening! One suggested she squirt the dog with water whenever it barked. Another indicated that they routinely put bark collars on dogs when they stay at their facility (these collars give the dog an electric shock on the throat when it barks). A further suggestion was to muzzle the dog to keep it quiet.

I advised the person complaining that; 1) dogs barking are part of the business and if you’re in the business you need to accept that, and 2) barking is a very complex behavior and dogs bark for many reasons; however, in a kennel situation continuous barking is probably due to stress or boredom. All of the suggestions she had been given involving punishing the dog (squirt bottle, shock collar, & muzzle) were likely to make the dog more stressed and had great potential to make the dog fearful and aggressive. I suggested putting the dog in another run where it might feel more secure, putting a crate in the run with the dog, giving them extra exercise, providing them with a stuffed Kong, or using a stress reliever like a Dog Appeasing Pheromone diffuser or Bach Rescue Remedy.

As a “Pet Friendly” facility Green Acres pledges that we will NEVER intentionally do anything that will cause your best friend any sort of physical, mental or emotional trauma. If your pet is stressed we will tell you, and while in our care will do everything we can to reduce or alleviate that stress, not contribute to it.

## New Products



### **Solid Gold - Barking at the Moon**

*Barking at the Moon* is Solid Gold’s latest dry dog food formula. Available in 4, 15, and 33 pound bags, this no grain, low carbohydrate, high protein formula is for high-performance dogs.

® The first five ingredients are: Turkey, Salmon, Turkey Meal, Potatoes, and

Salmon Meal. A 50 pound dog would need approximately 2.6 cups/day with a daily cost of \$0.82.

*Barking at the Moon* is very similar in formulation to Innova’s Evo formula and would make a good choice for those wishing to rotate diets.

### **Eagle Pack Large Breed**

Eagle now has a Holistic Select® formula specifically for large and giant breed adult dogs. This formula would be a good choice to rotate with other Eagle Holistic Select diets. A 50

pound dog would need approximately 1.9 cups/day with a daily cost of \$0.67.

### **Greenies Cat Treats**

Feline Greenies® are a new treat for cats that have been scientifically formulated and clinically proven to mechanically reduce the tartar buildup that can cause bad breath and periodontal disease. Equally important, cats seem to really like them! They make a great between meal snack and will work like a little toothbrush to scrub your cat’s teeth.

### **Oops! - Innova Evo Pricing Error**

In October, Innova had a price increase on their food. Due to an error on the price and cost information provided by our distributor, we sold three 13lb bags of Innova Evo for dogs for \$27.86 instead of the correct price of \$20.96. If you were one of those people who purchased a bag at this price, we apologize. Let us know if you were overcharged and we will make sure you get an appropriate credit.

# Kennel & Staff News

## **Welcome Ian!**

Congratulations to employees Kate and Lamont Dutra on the birth of their son Ian on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Ian arrived just in time for Green Acres anniversary. We look forward to watching Ian grow and welcome him to the Green Acres family!

## **40th Anniversary Celebration**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our combined 10<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> anniversary such a success. While the weather wasn't great, everyone had a good time. A special thanks to those friends and business associates that advertised in our supplement to the Bangor Daily News; Edwards, Faust and Smith - Certified Public Accounts, Eagle Pack Pet Foods and Mary Alice Jansky, Merrill Bank, Brent Slater - Attorney at Law, the Complementary Health Center and Sue Richardson, Steve's Real Food for Pets, Warren's Office Supplies, Barresi Financial, Inc., Fairmount Market, Softouch Concepts, Inc., Bangor Letter Shop, and Wysong and Purbeck Isle.

## **Breakfast with Mike & Mike Show**

On the morning of November 11<sup>th</sup> Green Acres was honored to host the Mike and Mike show on KISS 94.5 as part of the Mike's "shameless self-promotion" tour! We loved the donuts and coffee and Louise especially loved the butt rubs!

## **Erin - Certified Pet Care Technician**

Erin Colpitt, a pet care technician and assistant dog training instructor at Green Acres, has passed the American Boarding Kennel Associations (ABKA) level 1 certification exam covering the basics of Breed Recognition, Small Animal Anatomy and Physiology, Boarding Care, Emergency Care and First Aid, Geriatric and Degenerative Disease Care, Contagious Disease, Parasite, Zoonotic Disease, Pesticides and Customer Relations. Erin, congratulations on your commitment to personal growth and the well earned title of Certified Pet Care Technician (CPCT)!

## **Don - Certified in Dog Behavior**

Don Hanson, co-owner and Director of Behavior Counseling and Training at the Green Acres Kennel Shop in Bangor, has been credentialed as a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC) by the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC). In order to be certified as a clinical member of IAABC, Don had to demonstrate competency in; Assessment & Intervention Strategies, Counseling Skills & Social Systems Assessment, Behavioral Science, General Knowledge of Animal Behavior/Ethology, and Species-Specific Knowledge. He is currently the only CDBC in Maine and is also a Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT) and a Bach Foundation Registered Practitioner animal specialist (BFRP).

The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, Inc. is a professional association for the field of animal behavior consulting. The association represents the professional interests of behavior consultants throughout the world. It is involved with the problems, needs and changing patterns

of animal-owner relationships, and helps to ensure that trained practitioners meet the public's needs. The IAABC Mission is to assist and educate owners and handlers of companion animals to prevent problems and to interrupt the cycle of inappropriate punishment, rejection, and euthanasia of animals with behavior problems that are resolvable.

## **Paula Hanson & Adam Morrison - Complete ABKA Level II Certification**

Green Acres co-owner Paula Hanson and Kennel Manager Adam Morrison have passed the American Boarding Kennel Associations (ABKA) level II certification exam covering pet care, successful personnel management and business development. Congratulations on earning the title of Certified Advanced Pet Care Technicians (CAPCT).

## COUPONS

Check our webpage ([greenacreskennel.com](http://greenacreskennel.com)) for monthly coupons

Buy 6 cans of Merrick Dog or 6 cans of Merrick Cat food and get 1 free, expires 3/31/06, one coupon per customer, not valid with other coupons or discounts, NC020-\$1.89, NC021-\$1.25

\$2 OFF any 5# bag Merrick Dry Dog Food, expires 3/31/06, one coupon per customer, not valid with other coupons or discounts, NC023

Barking at the Moon, \$4/\$2/\$1 OFF 33#/15#/4# bag, expires 3/31/06, one coupon per customer, not valid with other coupons or discounts, NC024, NC025, NC026

\$4 OFF 33# Bag Eagle Lrg Breed Adult, expires 3/31/06, one coupon per customer, not valid with other coupons or discounts, NC027

\$0.50 OFF any 3oz Feline Greenies, expires 3/31/06, one coupon per customer, not valid with other coupons or discounts, NC028

## **Staff Anniversaries**

Rachel McLeod—February—3 years  
Kathy Kingman—March—9 years  
Joel Mahaffey—March —3 years  
Erin Colpitt—March—1 year

**Thank You!**



Green Acres Kennel Shop  
1653 Union Street  
Bangor, ME 04401

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## Pet Nutrition Seminar

This 2-hour seminar will focus on nutrition as the foundation of good health. Unfortunately, one can be overwhelmed by the often contradictory information on what type of diet is the best for the average pet. In this presentation we will examine the very fundamentals of our pets nutritional needs and how those needs are met by the various types of diets that are fed today (homemade, home prepared raw, commercial raw, commercial dry, and commercial canned). We will then use the Green Acres Kennel Shop food comparison database to look at several types of foods including their advantages, disadvantages, risks and their real costs. At the conclusion of this presentation you will be better equipped to select a food for your own pet.

This seminar will be offered on **Saturday, March 11th at 9:30AM**. If the first seminar fills, a second will be offered at **1PM** on the same day. The seminar will begin promptly as scheduled. Space is limited, so we do ask that you sign-up in advance. There is no charge for the seminars, but we do ask that you reserve your spot with a minimum \$5 donation to the Bangor Humane Society Shed and Emily Fund. Checks may be sent to Green Acres, where we will forward them to BHS after the seminar.

## New Web Page..... Really!

In our September 2005 newsletter I took a gamble and announced that our new web page was completed, even though I was still working on it. Well I lost the bet! However, this time when I tell you to check out the new webpage I can assure you it is online!

When we redesigned our new site we wanted it to be more than just an "electronic brochure" for our products and services. Joel Mahaffey, one of our dog training instructors, has done a great job of designing the "look and feel" of the new site, while I and others have been developing the content. You will find it contains information about Green Acres, but you will also find articles on caring for your pet, past newsletters, links to other useful sites, and coupons for monthly specials. Our goal is to use the website to communicate with Bangor's pet loving community on a more regular basis than we are able to do through our newsletter.

Please take a look at [www.greenacreskennel.com](http://www.greenacreskennel.com) and let us know what you think!