

You and Your Pet

Halloween is no treat for pets

Halloween is a time for mystery and make-believe. On October 31 many of us will open our homes to the fun and festivities of All Hallows Eve. Unlike their human guardians; pets do not revel in the celebration. Costumes, decorations, loud noises and frequent visitors to the front door put pets at risk and can cause extreme anxiety. The Humane Society encourages pet parents to follow these safety tips:

- All pets should wear proper identification. ID tags and microchips are essential. The identification information must be current.
- Do not bring your animals out during Halloween. You increase the chance of your pet becoming frightened, lost, or injured. Walk dogs during the day so they get adequate exercise and will be calm by night. Make sure your dog is inside when the sun begins to set and people prepare to set off for tricks and treats. Cats should always be indoors but, take care to put them in a room where people are not coming in and out. Sadly, pets are often victims of cruel pranksters, especially on Halloween. Black, orange, tortoiseshell and calico cats are particularly vulnerable during Halloween.
- Control the environment. Provide your pet with a safe place. Pets should not be in the room when trick-or-treaters come to the door; seeing Batman or Zorro in his home will cause your pet anxiety and he could easily bolt out the door.
- Play quiet music. To mask the noise of trick or treaters, soft jazz or classical music can be soothing, particularly for dogs.
- No surprises. Do not shock your pet with your own costume. Familiar people become scary when wearing costumes and masks. If you must wear a costume, introduce your pet to the costume prior to putting it on; display the costume so your pet can see it, and then give your pet a tasty treat so a positive association is established.

Help train Ranger *Fund-raiser for guide dog*

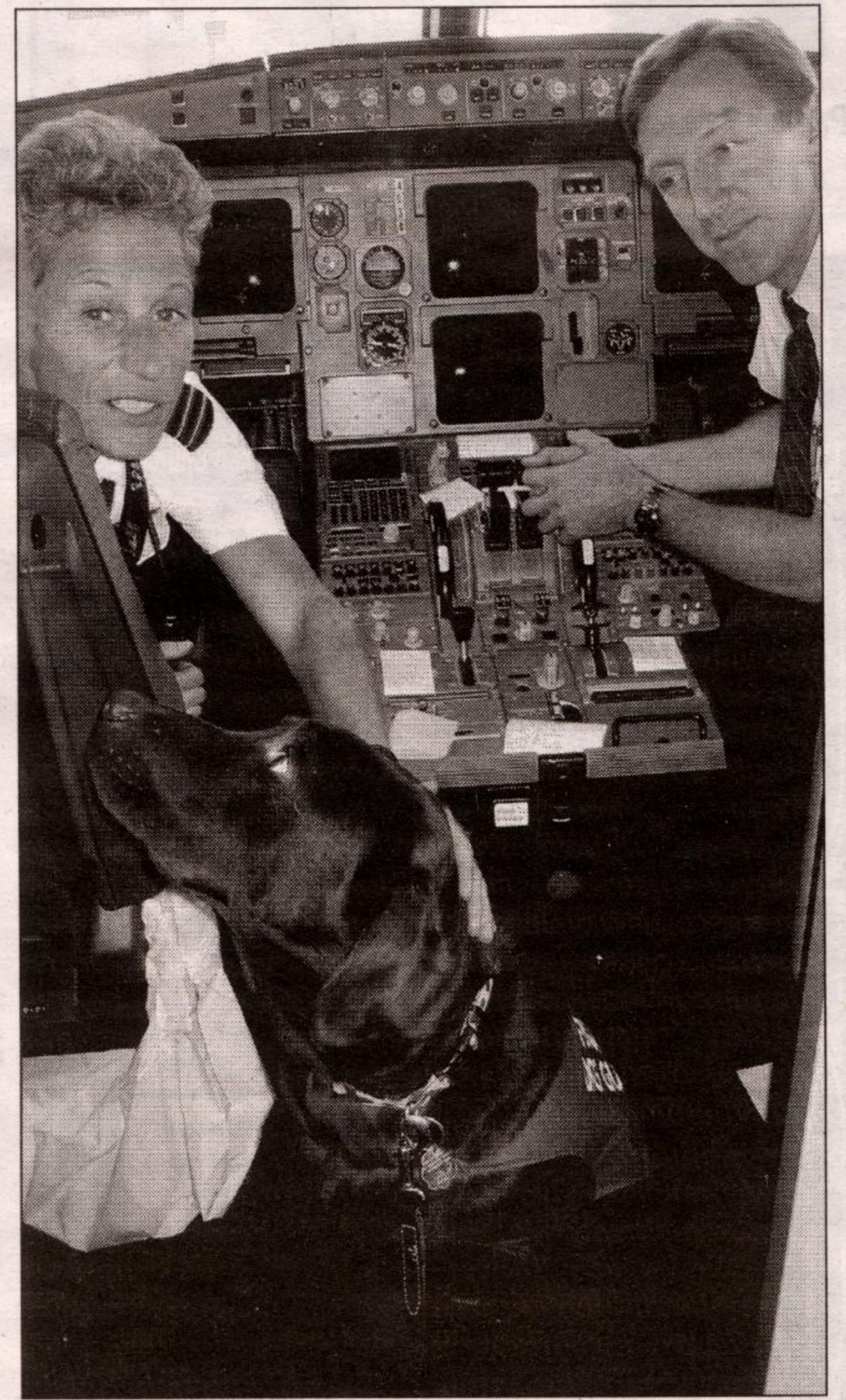
A Georgetown foster family for Ranger, a dog guide-in-training is hosting PawsFest 2005 on Saturday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at Bracky's Tavern in Georgetown.

Susan Housel and Ray Cheshier are currently fostering the puppy dog Ranger, before he heads off to train for a life of service. The Lion's Foundation of Canada sponsors this program where dogs are trained for service as vision dogs, hearing dogs, or special needs dogs. To breed, care for, and train a dog for a client, the Lion's Foundation spends in excess of \$25,000 per dog. The person who will eventually receive Ranger does not pay for the dog, the Lion's Club provides this as a service to the community.

Pawsfest will feature the band, The Kings, (www.thekingsarehere.com) and 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the Lion's Club as various members of the community have agreed to donate services/money for the band, sound, food, and tickets (provided by Halton Printing).

Local businesses have agreed to donate various items to auction/raffle off during the evening including a day of golf at Devil's Pulpit, a batch of wine from Wine Not, gift certificates from Bratin's Auto and the Georgetown Yarn & Craft shop— just a few of the donated items to date. The couple is looking for additional donations of items/services to be used for auctioning off during the evening.

To attend the event, contact Susan, 905-873-7854 or susan@jadaman.com. Tickets are \$25 per person with entertainment, appetizers, and a cash bar.



Ranger visited the cockpit of a United Airlines jet with the pilot and co-pilot, recently when he flew with foster mom Susan Housel to Salt Lake City conference. The pilots had invited Ranger to stop in the cockpit to say, "hello" to him.



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