

# The Good Shepherd?

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga resident Lisa Gillette holds new kitten Hobbes, with dogs Ember (frog in mouth), Duncan, Guinevere and Allison looking on. Photos Cathy Dausman

Ember is a nine-month-old red merle Australian Shepherd; that much is certain. Whether she's a heroine or a thief is open to debate.

Ember lives in Moraga with Lisa Gillette; Lisa owns lots of pets. In April, Gillette's pet census included three cats, a turtle, a fish and a canary, two horses and four Australian Shepherd dogs. The dogs are Ember, her father Duncan, a 6-year-old black tricolor male, her mother Allison, a 4-year-old blue merle female, and a light colored 1-year-old female named Guinevere.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, Guinevere and Ember went on a "walkabout" near the grounds of their Bollinger Canyon home. They were gone about an hour when Gillette took the other two dogs out to find them. She spotted the young dogs running toward her, and noticed Ember was carrying something in her mouth. Guinevere wanted it, but Ember carefully kept her prize to herself.

Ember was literally dancing with excitement when Gillette heard mewing. It was a male ginger kitten so young its eyes hadn't opened yet. "He wasn't any bigger than a British banger [sausage]," and weighed about four ounces Gillette said, but "he was dirty and spitting, and fighting mad."

Gillette cradled it beneath her shirt for warmth, bought kitten milk replacer, and bottle fed the tiny creature eight to 10 times daily around the clock. Dog mother Allison claimed the kitten as her own, and licked and cleaned it on a regular basis (mother cats lick their kittens after birth to clean and stimulate them; kittens groom themselves by four weeks).

He became "the cleanest kitten ever," said Gillette, who named him Hobbes.

Today the "older and badder" Hobbes is thriving, said Gillette, who

took him for a checkup. Hobbes happily plays with his dog family, plunking himself down on the dog bed, and likes to play with the other three cats. When Hobbes gets too rambunctious, he's given a 'timeout' in a converted dog crate.

Gillette's not sure whether Ember should be praised or punished for "stealing" the kitten, and Hobbes' mother and siblings were never found. One thing's for sure—this kitten has warmed Gillette's heart, and stolen the hearts of her Shepherd pack.



Australian Shepherd Guinevere snuggles with Hobbes

# Moraga Royale's Alaskan Cruise

Submitted by Jessica McCormick



From left, Connie Kuhlmann, Sharon Shields, Lois Valcalda, Aleksandra Bjelogric, Alsida Canton, Dorothy Schwab, Anne Deroser, Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Cece Fitzgerald, Elaine Fitzgerald, Cleo Fitzgerald. Photo provided

Four residents of Moraga Royale, along with three staff members and five friends and family members, set sail on a 10-day voyage from San Francisco to Alaska May 13, stopping in Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, and Victoria, aboard the Sea Princess. Luita Lynch, Josephine Cuttica, Dorothy Schwab and Lois Valcalda, all residents of Moraga Royale, filled their days with sight-seeing, reading, relaxing, eating, gambling, shopping, and much more.

Luita Lynch described her favorite part of their journey: "The whole Alaska trip was fun, exciting, and beautiful, and one of the very best memories I have is of coming home to San Francisco," she said. "It was stormy and raining when we sailed

past Washington and Oregon, but when we got to the California coast it was calm and the sky looked like it was going to be a beautiful day. We came into San Francisco Bay just before sunrise, and when we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge (which was all prettied up for its anniversary) the sun was just below the horizon.

The sky was pink and the bridge looked awesome against the rising sun. San Francisco was gleaming as we passed all the familiar places. I've done a lot of traveling, but I think that arriving in San Francisco by water is one of the most beautiful experiences I've ever had. There truly is no place like home!"

## Vacation Stories Good and Bad

As we mentioned in our July 4 issue, *Lamorinda Weekly* wants to hear about your vacations – the memorable ones like a European honeymoon or a Disney trip where no one got sick, or the not-so-fun side trips – the ones that maybe included bee stings, running out of gas, lost children, rained out picnics or anything else you'd care to share. Send your unique stories and trip pics to [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com) and prepare yourself for a different type of vacation experience – one you can read about!

## Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



Mike Rosa, Agent  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

PD40036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

**Ware Designs JEWELRY**

**New Location**

Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

*Ware Designs*  
Fine Jewelry since 1977

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,  
Lafayette  
between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
283-2988  
[www.waredesigns.com](http://www.waredesigns.com)

**50% off**  
**Watch Battery**  
Now \$5, Reg \$10  
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 7/31/12. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

# Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.



Phone: (925) 317-3187  
Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: [tvvc@theaterviewvetclinic.com](mailto:tvvc@theaterviewvetclinic.com)  
[www.theaterviewvetclinic.com](http://www.theaterviewvetclinic.com)

**1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda**

Advertising

# MANORCARE CONGRATULATES REHAB GRADS

Rehabilitation is an important part of the recovery process after surgery, illness or injury or as part of a strengthening program. It requires dedication by all those involved, including patients, therapists, nurses and physicians. ManorCare Walnut Creek and ManorCare Tice Valley would like to congratulate our rehabilitation graduates as they leave our center to return to their meaningful lifestyles.

"Our graduates' hard work and commitment to their recovery makes us proud every day," Samira Davi, Nurse Liaison said. "We focus on returning our patients home as quickly as possible, but it is their determination and willingness to work as a team that makes it happen. Setting reasonable goals, developing individualized care plans and maintaining a positive attitude allows our patients and staff to work together to achieve successful outcomes."

There are two ManorCare locations in Walnut Creek and each offer physical, speech and occupational therapy to meet the needs of individual patients. Our comprehensive programming effectively treats patients with conditions such as stroke, orthopedic injuries, total joint replacement, and cardiac-related problems. We provide 24-hour skilled nursing care and offer a unique variety of lifestyle and medical management programs to maximize our patients' personal independence and quality of life. For more information about our rehabilitation programs or graduates, contact Samira Davi at 925.270.8766.

**HCR ManorCare**

**ManorCare Walnut Creek**  
1226 Rossmoor Parkway  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
925.975.5000  
[Walnutcreek@manorcare.com](mailto:Walnutcreek@manorcare.com)

**ManorCare Tice Valley**  
1975 Tice Valley Blvd  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
925.906.0200  
[ticevalley@manorcare.com](mailto:ticevalley@manorcare.com)