



## Don't Miss the Natural Pet Expo By Jennifer M. Brauns

**P**lease save the date! On Saturday, September 15, an extraordinary group of people will gather at DeKoevend Park in Centennial for the 3rd Annual Natural Pet Expo. Yes, you've probably been to pet expos before, but this one is quite a different experience and one you shouldn't miss.

The Natural Pet Expo was founded in October, 2010 by local veterinarian Dr. Judy Jasek as a way to promote natural and holistic care for pets. The products, services and healing modalities on display at the show are integrative and complimentary with care that you and your veterinarian are already providing for your pet. While you've probably heard the term "holistic" tossed around, you may not be entirely sure what it is or why you should care about it for yourself or your pets. The term holistic simply means that something is designed with the whole animal in mind. Holistic care is about promoting a healthy mind, body and spirit and seeking to balance the body for optimal health.

The goal of the Natural Pet Expo is to educate people about the availability of natural and holistic products and services for animals. Not only is this event for dog and cat owners, the Colorado Natural Pet Care Association (CNPCA), who hosts the event, is encouraging veterinarians, dog massage therapists, pet chiropractors and other animal care practitioners to come and learn as well.

I spoke with CNPCA board member Russell Louie who said, "People often don't explore natural and holistic options and alternatives until their dog is diagnosed with a disease." CNPCA wants people to learn about these crucial health options before your dog becomes ill. "The members that comprise the CNPCA all want your pets to live longer, happier and healthier lives. That's why they went into business for themselves in the first place," said Russell. "They used these products

and services on their own pets with great success and want everyone else to know about these options as well. We are all very passionate about our pets."

Russell also wanted to stress that what is appropriate and healthy in terms of food, supplements or other products for a five-year-old dog is not necessarily good for a senior dog and vice-versa.

Some treatments, such as cold laser therapy, have gained wide acceptance in both human and veterinary medicine in recent years to reduce pain and inflammation associated with injuries and other conditions such as arthritis. Come learn about these and other health-promoting products and services including:

- Holistic veterinary, chiropractic and acupuncture services
- Natural diets, holistic pet food and supplements
- Massage, Reiki, acupressure and Healing Touch for Animals
- Expert dog trainers and behavior specialists
- Rehabilitation and physical therapy
- Aromatherapy for pets
- Animal communication
- Small animal hospice care
- Canine agility demos
- Rescue organizations
- Exhibits on natural and holistic pet products

This year's Natural Pet Expo will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at DeKoevend Park located at 6301 South University Boulevard in Centennial. Be sure to pick up a free goodie bag with product information, coupons and free samples while supplies last. Admission is free. For more information, please visit [www.cnPCA.org](http://www.cnPCA.org).