

rescue. Educating friends and colleagues about the needs of senior dogs is also important. Many costly health issues that may lead to surrender of older dogs are preventable. For example, many old dogs are in desperate need of dental care, which can lead to other health problems. Regular dental screening and cleaning are critical. Finally, donating to organizations that support programs specifically for senior dogs is a great way to help.

Check out the Grey Muzzle Organization on Facebook or at greymuzzle.org.



3
GIVEAWAYS

6/ Animal Journals: Dogs

I love journals and notebooks, and I especially love these from Princeton Architectural

Press because they have dogs on them! Featuring colorful prints by artists Ben Giles, Leah Reena Goren, Geoffrey Martin, and Alice Pattullo, each paperback journal has lined paper, a sewn spine, and measures 5.5 by 7 inches. The inside back cover features information about the artists, along with their websites.

For \$16.95, you get a pack of four journals. For more information, visit papress.com — Annie (To win a set of journals, see Page 85 for giveaway rules.)

7/ Custom Silhouettes

Dog-themed art from the likes of Brian Rubenacker and Ron Schmidt hangs on my walls, but I have yet to splurge on portraits of my Boston Terriers, Spot and Dolly. Custom art is pricey!

That will soon change thanks to Minted. The online stationary and art store has introduced custom silhouette art prints. Simply upload a side-profile pic of your dog, choose from dozens of colors and fonts, and a designer will take it from there. Prices vary by size and style, with options as inexpensive as \$44 for an unframed 5-by-7 print. Visit Minted.com for more info. — Pamela



8/ Pets on Stamps

I love stamps, and I regularly check the United States Postal Service's website to see

what's new. That's why I was excited to hear about the USPS's latest stamp booklet to be released in May depicting 20 of America's best loved pets, which includes dogs and cats, of course. You'll be able to purchase the booklet at your local post office or, if you really love stamps, you can get it at the World Stamp Show in New York on May 28th through June 4th. (Admission is free!)

"This set to be issued by the USPS in May is one of many depicting animals, a popular subject for stamps worldwide," said Thomas Fortunato, Chairman of Marketing and Public Relations for the World Stamp Show. "Our favorite pets, especially cats and dogs, can be seen on thousands of stamps and philatelic items issued by the U.S. and other postal administrations."

Thomas shared the following dog-related stamp tidbits with me:

- ◆ The first "stamp" depicting a dog did not pay for postage but a tax instead. Ireland produced dog license tax stamps showing an Irish Wolfhound beginning around 1865.

- ◆ The *Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet* sheet of commemorative 44-cent stamps was issued in 2010 with images of five dogs and five cats adopted from shelters.

- ◆ In 2011, mixed breed Owey, the famous post office mascot and rail-traveling dog from 1888 to 1897, got his own postage stamp, with interactive features.

- ◆ *Working Dogs* was a set of four stamps in 2012, depicting a guide dog, a therapy dog, a military (tracking) dog, and a search dog.

- ◆ A campaign to raise awareness of getting pets neutered or spayed through stamps came in 2002. The 37-cent stamps featured a photo of a kitten and puppy from a shelter.

- ◆ Canada came out with a *Love Your Pet* souvenir sheet in May 2015.

For more information about USPS's animal stamps, go to uspstamps.com/topics/animals. For more information on the World Stamp Show, go to NY2016.org.

