

**SPECIAL
PUPPIES SECTION**

PAW THROUGH 36 POPULAR BREEDS

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For the Love of Dog

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Magazine

Our A-to-Z GUIDE TO PUPPIES

16 Bonus pages

eat it up!

**HELP FOR TUMMY
TROUBLES**

**THE LATEST ON
GRAIN-FREE DIETS**

plus!

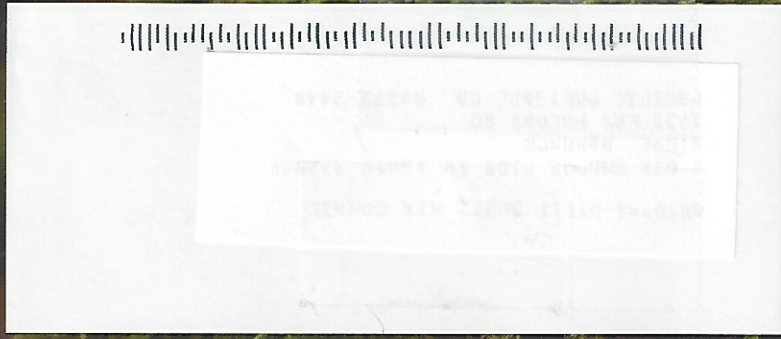
**SENIOR DOG ISSUES
AND SOLUTIONS**

SCARY FUN!

**HALLOWEEN PICS
& COSTUMES**



Find your SPECIAL BREED!



Shepherd Dog Russell Terrier Australian Shepherd Biewer Terrier

3 Luxury Pet Apartments

The Fidus Pet Concierge Communities outside Dallas, Texas, are as luxurious for its dogs as they are for the residents. The grounds feature private, shaded dog parks to help foster new relationships among residents, along with open spaces that have pet-safe mulch, yard-wide drainage and motion-activated lights.

Inside each unit, doggie doors lead out to a private yard or porch potty system. Residents have access to a video surveillance app and text alerts if their dog is barking or in distress.

"We aren't just dog-friendly," says founder and dog lover Steve Bardack, who opened his first location last year in Grapevine, Texas. The second location opened months later in Garland. "We're dog-centric."

Steve and his team focus on solutions not only for dog owners, but also for the wider issue of dog surrender due to apartment breed and size restrictions.

Fidus allows up to three friendly dogs per apartment and, instead of restricting breeds, there's a temperament test the dogs must pass during the application process.

"You have a 200-pound Mastiff? Yep, we love it," Steve says.

Fidus Pet Concierge partners with 64 local shelters and surrender departments, and covers the fostering fees and four months of pet rent for any resident who fosters a dog.

In addition, as people go back into the office and can't care for their dogs throughout the day, residents will soon have access to on-demand pet services — activated through a text — at the onsite dog daycare and boarding facility.

Once Steve and his team open six local properties — they're currently opening a third — he plans to expand to other states.



"Dogs are a social icebreaker," he says. "And we need more of that."

To learn more, visit FidusPet.com.

— Lauren



Oscar the Gay Dog now has a happy home with his new parents Steve Nichols and John Winn.

4 Oscar the Gay Dog

Steve Nichols and husband John Winn have always tried to raise awareness about dog rescue and adoption, but when the Charlotte, North Carolina, couple heard that a man surrendered his dog for being "gay" after humping another male

dog, they knew there was a bigger story to tell.

"We put up with discrimination in our lives," Steve says about dealing with prejudices personally and professionally. "But we can do something about this (dog's life)."

Before bringing the German Shepherd mix (formerly named Fezco) home, they had to address multiple health issues, including heartworm and removal of a malignant

tumor — expenses that were covered by the Greater Charlotte SPCA. Eventually the dog joined their family with their Chihuahua-Terrier mix Harry.

Steve and John changed his name to Oscar, after the famous gay poet Oscar Wilde, even though they know dog humping has nothing to do with sexual orientation and is more often a sign of anxiety, dominance or pack play.

Since Oscar's story has gone viral, being featured on national news and entertainment shows, Steve and John hope it will continue to set an example of acceptance and courage.

"We have received a tremendous amount of heartfelt and genuine support," Steve says of the gifts sent to their house and the local support from the community. "It's been amazing."

Follow Oscar's adventures at oscarthegaydog.com and @oscarthegaydog on Facebook and Instagram.

— Lauren

