



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

REMINDER: If you haven't yet renewed your ABKA membership, please do so by February 15th so that we can include you in the 2006 Membership Directory! You can renew online at www.abka.com. Just click on **Join Us!** and then choose the **Renew Your Membership** option. If you need assistance, please call us at 877-570-7788, ext. 22 or 25.

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ABKA NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Discount on ABKA Programs & Products through April 1, 2006!

Attention ABKA Members! If you have been thinking about enrolling in the education or VFA programs or purchasing publications or other materials from ABKA, now is the time to do so!

programs and products. The increase will go into effect immediately, but all ABKA members can take advantage of a 10% discount on new pricing through April 1, 2006.

For additional information on ABKA's [education programs](#) and enrollment send an email to education@abka.com

For additional information on ABKA's [Voluntary Facilities Accreditation \(VFA\) Program](#) send an email to vfa@abka.com

For additional information or to order books, videos and other materials visit the [General Store](#) at www.abka.com

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ABKA Members are Making Headlines!

Steve Berns, ABKA Region 6 Director Kitty Berns, CKO and the rest of the staff at [Tailwaggers Pet Chateau](#) in Savoy, IL made headlines for their efforts to rescue animals displaced by the recent hurricanes. To read the [News-Gazette Online](#) article, click [here](#).

ABKA Member Facility the [Ranch at Etna Road](#) (Lebanon, NH) was the focus of an article in the [Concord Monitor Online](#) entitled **Think Your Pooch is Pampered? Think Again!** ABKA's own Jim Krack was also interviewed for this piece, which you can read [here](#).

Is your facility making headlines? [Email me](#) and let me know what you're up to!

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Announcement - Diamond Pet Food Recall Information Sheet

ABKA and [Morris Animal Foundation](#) have created a [fact sheet](#) in PDF format to provide our members with the most current information on the Diamond Pet Food Recall.

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Announcement - Update to ABKA's Calendar of Events!

All dates are tentative and subject to change. Please continue to refer to ABKA's

dates for the Region 1 Spring Meeting have changed!

*** - Education testing will be available at these meetings / events.

Date	Event	Location
Feb 24 & 25 (Fri & Sat)	Region 11 Spring Meeting ***	University Park Inn Davis, CA (530) 756-0910 Room Rate: \$84.00 Tour University of Davis Pet Medical Center
March 3rd (Fri)	Region 10 Spring Meeting *** Concurrent with the world-famous Iditarod.	Hilton Anchorage Anchorage, Alaska 907-272-7411 Room Block expires on February 2, 2006 Room Rate: \$105.00
Mar 17-20 (Fri-Mon)	Pet Services Expo	Dallas, TX
Mar 29-31 (Wed-Fri)	Region 5 Spring Meeting	Doubletree (previously Radisson) Hotel Atlanta-Windy Hill Atlanta, GA 770-272-9441 Room Block expires on March 19, 2006 Room Rate: \$99.00
Apr 9-11 (Sun-Tues)	Region 8 Spring Meeting ***	Hilton Houston Westchase Houston, TX 713-974-1000 Room Block expires on March 19, 2006 Room Rate: \$89.00
Apr 11-13 (Tues-Thurs)	Region 3 Spring Meeting ***	Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center at Historic Union Station Indianapolis, IN 317-631-2221 Room Block expires on March 14, 2006 Room Rate: \$129.00
Apr 22-27 (Sat-Thurs)	Spring Board Meeting	TBD
May 1-7 (Mon-Sun)	Pet Services Expo	Phoenix, AZ
May 2-4 (Tues-Thurs)	Region 2 Spring Meeting ***	Gettysburg Hotel Gettysburg, PA 717-337-2000 Room Block expires on March 17, 2006

		Room Rate: \$109.00
May 3-5 (Wed-Fri)	Region 7 Spring Meeting ***	DoubleTree Hotel Denver Southeast Denver, CO 303-337-2800/800-222-TREE Room Block expires on April 16, 2006 Room Rate: \$69.00
May 7-9 (Sun-Tues)	Region 9 Spring Meeting	Holiday Inn-Conference Center Des Moines, IA 800-248-4013 Room Block expires on April 16, 2006 Room Rate: \$79.00
May 8-10 (Mon-Wed)	Region 6 Spring Meeting ***	Holiday Inn of Six Flags St. Louis, MO 636-938-6661 Room Block expires on April 7, 2006 Room Rate: \$89.00
May 16-18 (Tues-Thurs)	Region 4 Spring Meeting	Embassy Suites Hotel Charleston, WV 347-8700 Block expires on April 22, 2006 Room Rate: \$119.00 304-Room
May 31-Jun 2 (Wed-Fri)	Region 1 Spring Meeting	The Inn & Spa at Mill Falls Meredith, New Hampshire 800-622-6455 Room Block expires on May 1, 2006 Room Rate: Single Occupancy - \$392.92 Double Occupancy - \$286.02 EACH Meal and accommodation-inclusive packages
Jul 14-17 (Fri-Mon)	Pet Services Expo	St. Louis, MO
Sep 8-11	Pet Services Expo	Baltimore, MD

(Fri-Mon)		
Nov 8-11 (Wed-Sat)	ABKA National Convention & Trade Show ***	Wyndham Orlando Wyndham By Request Orlando, FL

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Announcement - How to Select a Pet Care Facility Booklet Updated!

The **How to Select a Pet Care Facility** booklet has been redesigned and updated to include more information relating to daycare facilities. This booklet is a great resource to help educate pet owners on what to look for in a properly run boarding or daycare facility. Topics include security, sanitation, safety and supervision, common questions and concerns and steps that pet owners can take to ensure a healthy, happy experience for their pets. ABKA members can purchase copies of this booklet for \$2 each. It's a great tool to provide to prospective clients or to hand out in your community!

To order, visit www.abka.com, log in to the **Members Only** area and select **General Store**, then click on **Books and Videos**.

You can also download the booklet in PDF format from the home page at www.abka.com.

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Announcement - New Dog Training Brochure Available!

Let's Talk About Training Your Dog is the newest addition to the ABKA series of informational brochures. It is designed to offer the pet owner a general overview of how to find and select a good trainer and what options are available including group class, private lessons, and board and train.

The *Let's Talk About...* series is comprised of eleven brochures that address pet-related topics and answer questions pet owners often have when placing their pet in a boarding or daycare facility. These brochures are free to all members and are available for download in the **Members Only -- Free Downloads** area at www.abka.com

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Announcement - Educational Testing Available at Region Spring Meetings

Candidates interested in completing the written test for Certified Advanced Pet

Care Technician (CPACT) or the written testing and oral interviews for Certified Kennel Operator (CKO) during one of the available regional Spring Meetings should contact the ABKA Education Department (phone: 877-570-7788, Ext. 14; email: education@abka.com) a minimum of 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting. This will allow the staff enough time to ensure that all required information has been received and the testing materials are prepared and provided to the particular region director or education representative. While it may be most convenient to test within your region, some regions may not be able to offer this option or you may find the dates of another region meeting will fit your personal schedule better. In either case, you can schedule to test at any of the region meetings offering testing.

To date, the following regions have indicated they will include educational testing in their schedule of activities:

Region 2: 2-4 May

Region 4: 16-18 May

Region 6: 8-10 May (CAPCT written test only)

Region 7: 3-5 May

Region 8: 9-11 Apr

Region 10: 3 Mar (CAPCT written test only, 4:30pm-6:00pm)

Region 11: 24-25 Feb

In addition to notifying the ABKA Education Department, you might also want to contact your Region Director to confirm your desire and intent to complete testing during a Spring Meeting. For those who have not yet enrolled in either of these courses, there is still time to enroll and be ready to test this spring. This is a great way to enhance your professional credentials among your fellow employees and to your clients. Take action now!

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Announcement - ABKA 2006 Membership Directory

It's that time again! We're hard at work on the 2006 Membership Directory. This year, we are considering two different formats. Would you like to receive your directory on disc or would you prefer the standard print copy? Please [email me](#) with your preference by February 28.

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Announcement - Region 10 Teams Regional Meeting with Iditarod!

Breathtaking northern lights and the start of the world-famous [Iditarod](#) race frame this year's regional meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The Region 10 meeting will be held on Friday, March 3rd at the Anchorage Hilton, which is just steps away from the starting line! You can register for the meeting by calling ABKA at 877-570-7788, ext. 17.

For hotel reservations, call the Hilton at 907-272-7411 and let them know you are with ABKA. If you would like to attend the Musher's Banquet (where mushers will be selecting their starting positions) at Sullivan Arena on Thursday, March 2nd, tickets may be purchased for \$60 per person by calling Iditarod Headquarters at 907-352-2201. This is a great opportunity to share a meal with all your favorite mushers so don't miss out! Buy your tickets today as this event usually sells out in advance.

Saturday, March 4th kicks off the Iditarod! There is no charge to view this awesome event - just "stake your claim" anywhere on the street to watch the action. The race begins at 4th and D Streets downtown at 10am.

Come learn how to increase demand for your services and increase your profits while enjoying the excitement of the world's greatest race at ABKA's first-ever meeting in Alaska...and don't forget to ask your hotel for a "Northern Light Wake-up Call."

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Announcement - Congratulations to ABKA's new VFA Facilities!

[Country Kitty B & B](#) (Queensbury, NY) - owned and operated by Kip and Jean Grant – was recently granted reaccreditation status by ABKA's VFA Committee. Congratulations!

Fun Fact: In September of 2000, Country Kitty B & B was the very first facility in New York State [to be accredited](#) by ABKA!

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Announcement - New Members for January 2006:

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members:

ALASKA:

Arctic Tails, LLC
Dog Tired Doggie Daycare

ALABAMA:

For Paws Boutique, Inc.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

The Spotted Spa Resort

CALIFORNIA:

Camp Bow Wow - Roseville

Cha Cha's Doggie Daycare

Grand Feline Resort

Paws For Fun

Stone's K9

Truckee-Tahoe Kennels

COLORADO:

Canine's Canyon

Cedar Hills Pet Care

Julie Steiner

Jan Stokes

Winston's Doggy Playhouse

FLORIDA:

Bark Avenue Pet Resort

Best Pals Pet Sitting

Camp Bow Wow of the Treasure Coast

Pet Home Care and Boarding

ILLINOIS:

Green Acres Kennel

MASSACHUSETTS:

Powderly Meadows

Ramson Kennel

MARYLAND:

Cynthia Wyatt

MICHIGAN:

Taking the Lead

MINNESOTA:

Camp Bow Wow - Burnsville

NORTH CAROLINA:

Peachtree Kennels

NEW JERSEY:

Wilford Dog Training Academy

NEW MEXICO:

Park Place Boarding

NEW YORK:

Country HosPETality

OHIO:

PetSitters

TLC Cottage

QUEBEC:

Linda Zago

TEXAS:

Happy Tails Dog Spa

SDH Enterprises, Inc.

UTAH:

It's Reigning Cats & Dogs

VIRGINIA:

Peter & Marie Fernandes

WASHINGTON:

Finley Farms

Hillrose Pet Resort

WISCONSIN:

Margarita Files

WEST VIRGINIA:

Vogel Hund Kennel & Training Academy

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Article of Interest - Study Dispels Nutritional Myth of Canine Bloat

From the [American Animal Hospital Association \(AAHA\)](#): Researchers find that vegetarian ingredients do not increase the risk of gastric dilation-volvulus. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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Article of Interest - Updated DNA Test for Copper Toxicosis

The [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) has announced an updated DNA test for copper toxicosis in Bedlington Terriers. Click [here](#) for more information.

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Reminder for AOL Users

ABKA has been experiencing a number of email delivery issues with members who have America Online (AOL) accounts. It has come to our attention that email sent from the ABKA office destined for AOL accounts is being blocked from delivery after being designated as "Junk Mail." This is happening even if ABKA did not generate the original communication, but is trying to respond to an email sent in from a member with an AOL account.

The explanation offered by AOL is that some of our members with AOL email addresses have, at some point in time, designated incoming ABKA email as "Junk" so the AOL filters then recognize all subsequent ABKA email as "Junk" and block delivery.

ABKA has tried repeatedly to resolve this issue by utilizing AOL technical support, but a satisfactory solution has not been reached. Therefore, we are suggesting that members with AOL accounts consider the following action(s):

- AOL account holders should not identify ABKA emails as "Junk" but rather simply delete the ABKA email when it is no longer needed. (Note: ABKA only uses mail to correspond with members for legitimate association-related business.)
- ABKA members currently using AOL may want to consider opening an alternate email account. Many providers, such as Yahoo and Hotmail offer free email services. If you do choose this option, however, please be sure to notify ABKA of your new email address. It is worth mentioning that many free email accounts are very sensitive to storage quotas and it is necessary to clear old emails frequently to make room for incoming mail.

Please keep in mind that these suggested actions are general in

nature and if you are uncertain of what to do we strongly suggest you contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) for specific technical support.

As a general rule, if an ABKA member with an AOL email account has not received a response from the ABKA staff within two business days, the member should assume that the AOL Junk Filter has impacted the delivery and should follow up with ABKA by phone.

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Thanks for your continued dedication and support! See you next month!