

The DogChannel Newswire (01-06-09)

Clinic offers pets physical therapy; "Marley & Me" tops box office; and other news.

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Santa Monica Clinic Provides Physical Therapy for Pets

They come in with arthritis, back pain, sore elbows. Some are recuperating from car accidents or surgery or just bad judgment (a leap off a balcony). Others are coping with the ravages of old age. They are patients of California Animal Rehabilitation, seeking physical therapy for pain relief and better mobility, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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Box Office: 'Marley' Is Still Top Dog at the Movies

On a rare weekend when no new wide-release movies came out, "Marley & Me" capitalized by taking the top spot for the second straight weekend. The comedy about a rambunctious Labrador Retriever snapped up \$24.1 million, according to studio estimates from box office trackers Media By Numbers, USA Today reports.

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Is Dog's Journey Home a New Year's Miracle?

When a pet runs away the owners rarely anticipate a homecoming similar to a scene from "Homeward Bound," but that's just what the Murrieta family experienced after their dog ran away from one home and returned to another. At midnight on New Year's Eve an 85-pound, chocolate Labrador Retriever named Timber came home about 30 hours after he went missing, the Orange County (Calif.) Register reports.

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Creature Comforts

It's no longer just guide dogs for blind people. Service animals now include monkeys for quadriplegics, parrots for psychotics, and at least one assistance duck. Should the law recognize all of them? The Department of Justice recently proposed excluding reptiles, rabbits, farm animals, ferrets, amphibians, and rodents from the class of service animals, The New York Times reports.

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Woman Drowns Retrieving Dog From Frozen Pond

New Jersey authorities say a woman drowned trying to retrieve her grandson's dog from a frozen pond, The Associated Press reports.

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