



# ANIMALS *on the* AIRWAVES

BY EMILY VOLMAN

## RADIO GOES TO THE DOGS WITH THESE GREAT PET TALK SHOWS

These days, there's a talk radio show for just about every topic imaginable. And with technology ever improving, you can now listen to good ol' terrestrial radio, subscription-based satellite radio and download digital podcasts onto your portable mp3 player. However, with so many options, it can be overwhelming to find something actually worth listening to.

Well, worry no more as I give you the inside scoop on Nashville's pet radio, offering your ears everything from training tips, pet nutrition, health and more.

### DOG TALK

Dog behaviorists Cory Clacker and Brian Ferguson, co-owners of Middle Tennessee Dog Psychology, are the hosts of WSM – The Legend's (650AM) "Dog Talk" radio show every Saturday morning from 7:00-8:00am. Counter to most dry talk radio, Clacker and Ferguson's dog knowledge is combined with their easy-going spirit and sense of humor to make for a very entertaining yet informative hour.

Clacker and Ferguson moved to Nashville five years ago from Texas and brought their successful behavioral modification business with them. They specialize in positive reinforcement training for difficult cases, and work closely with individual families in their homes, as well as county shelters and non-profit animal rescue groups to ready hardship canine cases for adoption.

In a mere four years, their professional reputation spread quickly throughout Music City and they were sought out by WSM programming to host the station's only talk radio show on their specialty. "The station manager sent me an email asking if we would be interested in hosting a show, so it actually just fell in our laps," says Clacker. "We've always thought it would be something cool to do, but, of course, always thought, 'How in the world does one get started in radio?'"

Now they know. With a listenership of 60,000 and growing, "Dog Talk" is winding up its first year. And because of its call-in format, listeners are encouraged to email and phone in live with questions. This enables them to cover all types of topics, from understanding your dog's rascally behavior and how human emotions reinforce those habits to your pet's nutrition and breed-specific legislation.

### WYNN WITH DOGS

For those of you more digitally inclined, Raquel Wynn, a Nashville health and wellness therapist with a national reputation, has a weekly podcast called "Wynn With Dogs," which is downloadable anytime from [petliferadio.com](http://petliferadio.com). Having started her career in neuromuscular therapy on humans, her love of animals brought her to horses and then dogs. "I started realizing that [the treatments] were based on the same information between humans and dogs, but no

one was really saying that,” says Wynn. While veterinary care is important, Wynn says she wanted to reach pet lovers with a more holistic approach to wellness. “I just wanted to show people the other side of the coin. I want to empower people to put their pet’s health back in their own hands, so to speak,” she says.

And with that mission, Wynn embarked on the new adventure of a weekly podcast approximately one year ago. “Mine is a health and longevity talk show, focusing on natural preventatives and natural health care for dogs,” she says. In addition to her own vast knowledge of hands-on-doggie approaches through exercise, massage and alternative modalities like underwater treadmills, she invites equally accomplished guests from all over the country to be on her show, such as local trainer Kat Martin and author Brenda Bryan (who wrote *Barking Buddha: Simple Soul Stretches for Yogi and Dogi*), as well as nutritional biochemist and former bodybuilding champion Frank Cavaleri.

## THE POLITICS OF DOGS

One of Wynn’s other podcast guests also has her own Nashville-based pet talk radio show called “The Politics of Dogs” on WRFN - Radio Free Nashville (107.1FM), airing Tuesdays from 9:00-11:00am. The host, Tracy B. Ann, has been running Zen Paw, a Nashville dog training company, for over 16 years and focuses on the ethological approach of working with dogs. Says Ann, “Jane Goodall sat in the woods learning how primates communicate with each other. I take the same approach: instead of us trying to teach dogs our language, I teach [dog guardians] how to speak *their* language.”

Her weekly radio show stirs up an eclectic mix of cats, dogs and politics. “I think everything is political and everything political has to do with our pets,” she says. “For example, the quality of our water is political because some legislation allow more arsenic than others and some work more towards cleaning it up than others. That’s all political and that’s what my dogs and cats drink.”

Besides the political aspect, Ann’s show also features various guests, poetry and music. “There’s no reason why education

can’t be goofy and fun,” says Ann. “My show is a bit sacrilegious. While I read from Rumi, the 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian poet, I also read from Dr. Seuss. Whenever I discuss teaching people how to get their dog to walk on leash, I love to play The Ramone’s ‘I Don’t Wanna Walk Around With You.’ It’s just really fun.”

While there are plenty of other nationally syndicated and downloadable pet podcasts available to you 24/7, each of the radio shows highlighted here offer a unique point of view from animal professionals working right here in Nashville. They utilize not only their local community but also other professionals to bring you entertaining and informative shows week after week. If you enjoy lively conversation and have a passion for animals, tune in. You’ll be supporting local radio, and you’ll likely learn a lot about the animals we share our homes and worlds with!

*Emily Volman is a writer and comedienne. She lives in Franklin with her husband, Mark, and two rescue dogs, Josie and Jasper.*

## DOG TALK

Hosts: Cory Clackler & Brian Ferguson  
of Middle TN Dog Psychology  
Saturdays 7:00-8:00am  
WSM – The Legend (650 AM)  
or online at [wsmonline.com](http://wsmonline.com)

## THE POLITICS OF DOGS

Host: Tracy B. Ann  
of Zen Paws Dog Training  
Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am  
WRFN – Radio Free Nashville  
107.1FM  
or online at [radiofreenashville.org](http://radiofreenashville.org)

## WYNN WITH DOGS

Host: Raquel Wynn,  
author of *Stretch Your Dog Healthy*  
Weekly podcast downloadable at  
[petliferadio.com](http://petliferadio.com)



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