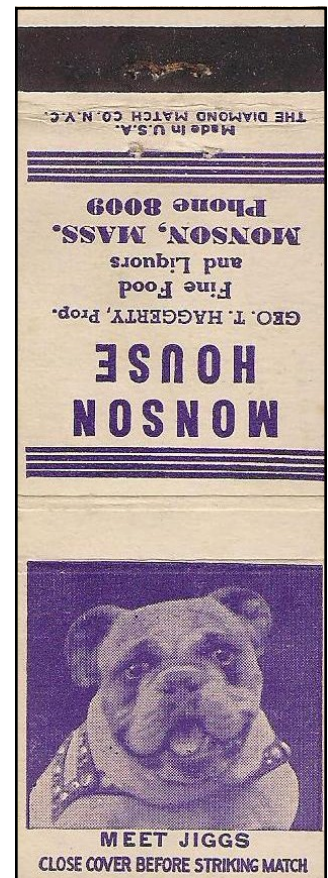
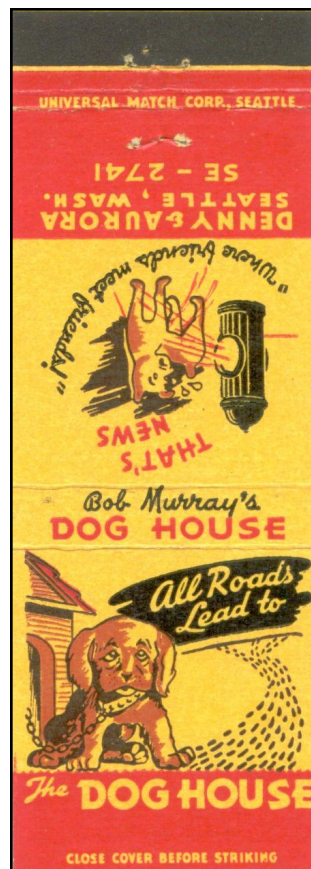
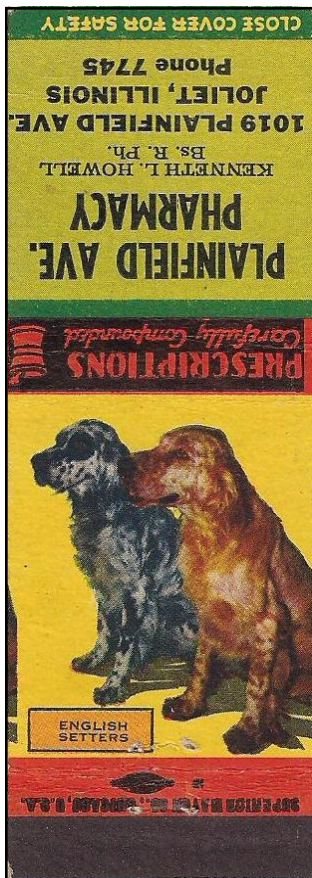


## Man's Best Friend

Did you know that...The oldest in-tact fossilized remains of a pet canine dates back 33,000 years. It was discovered in Siberia in the 1970s. Dogs have feelings, too! Canines show agitated behavior when they see other dogs getting treats while they are left in the dust. In Palding, Ohio, it is legal for a police officer to bite a barking dog to keep it quiet. In the United States, about 1 million dog owners have named their pets the primary beneficiary in their wills. 33 percent of dog owners admit to talking to their dog over the telephone, often leaving them messages on the answering machine.

Dogs who live in cities tend to live, on average, 3 years longer than dogs from the country. Spiked dog collars were used in ancient Greece to protect dogs' throats from wolf attacks. In 1969, Lassie, the famous Collie, was the very first animal inducted into the Animal Hall of Fame. A poodle's coat was originally shaved to increase swimming skills. In 1937, America's first Akita came over from Japan. Its travel companion was Helen Keller. For running purposes, the shoulder blades on dogs are not attached to the rest of the skeleton.

"Him" and "Her" were the names of President Lyndon Johnson's two beagles. At age one, dogs have the same level of physical development that humans have at age 15. Dog body odor is often called "Frito Feet," referring to bacteria collected on dogs' paws that often smell like the popular salty snack. A typical dog has a mouthful of 42 permanent teeth, while the average human has 32. Feeling a big anxious? Studies indicate that petting your dog can lower your blood pressure. As per the Guinness Book of World Records, the world's smallest dog, a Yorkshire Terrier from Great Britain, weighed a teeny-tiny 4 ounces at age two. Poodles are not French by origin. They're German dogs, but French nobility quickly became fascinated by these pooches. [<http://animal.discovery.com/pets/dog-facts.htm>]





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