

new *Beginnings*

the official newsletter of Furry Friends Network

WHY ADOPT A SHELTER PET?

Don Kjos [taken from the PAW web site <http://www.petsandanimals.org/index2.asp>]

Shelters have all shapes and sizes of lovable mutts, purebreds, all-American cats, shaggy dogs, puppies and kittens, teenagers and oldsters. Your chances of finding a wonderful companion who matches your lifestyle, family, and home are excellent!

About 25 percent of these animals are purebreds. But if you're looking for a truly one-of-a-kind pet unlike anyone else's, animal shelters offer the best selection anywhere of smart, healthy, lovable mixed-breed cats and dogs.

Pet adoption is a life-long commitment which can easily last 10-15 years for dogs and up to 20 years for a cat. We provide free Pet Adoption Marketing & Advertising to Shelters and organizations through the PAW magazine and website.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, mutts are America's dog of choice, accounting for nearly 60 percent of all pet dogs. And their numbers are increasing. For good reason. As dog trainer and author Brian Kilcommons explains, "mixed breed dogs are often healthier, longer-lived, more intelligent, and of more stable temperament than purebreds. This is due to what geneticists call hybrid vigor."

Shelter animals make great pets. A "second-hand" pet in no way means second-rate. On the contrary, shelter workers have often observed that many shelter animals seem to sense what they were up against and become among the most devoted and grateful companions.

Most shelter residents are healthy, affectionate animals. Many have already lived with a human family and have the basic

training, socialization, and cooperative skills they need to become part of your household.

Dogs, cats, and small mammals like guinea pigs, rabbits, and rats end up in shelters because of circumstances beyond their control. They're victims of a death, illness, divorce, or a move that didn't include them. Or they were displaced by a new baby. Or their owners just didn't learn how to train them.

Did you know...

because mixed-breed animals have a more varied gene pool, they are less susceptible to the hereditary health problems that can plague some pure-bred animals. They are also often more intelligent and have more steady personalities.

Some animals are relinquished at shelters because of a behavioral problem the owners gave up on. But the fact is all pets, young and old, need some obedience training or retraining, as well as patience and commitment, to become cooperative, enjoyable members of your household. And regular, positive training - as little as 10 minutes a day - will reward you amply, because it builds a strong bond between you and your pet as you learn to communicate with him, and he learns to live in your world.

Shelters have the animals' best interests at heart. Animal shelters are either government or private nonprofit agencies. Their primary mission is to find the best possible permanent homes that suit the individual animals they shelter.

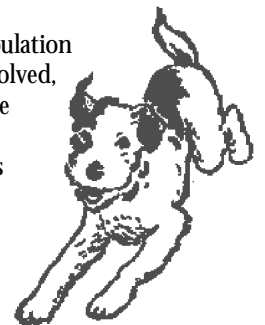
Most shelters, but particularly those well staffed with volunteers, become familiar with the disposition of each animal. If an animal has lived with a family before, then its history and behavior are also known. This knowledge helps the staff make optimal matches between homes and pets and helps you in making Pet adoption decisions.

Shelter pets are a bargain. For an pet adoption fee between \$60 and \$100, you can adopt an animal that would cost several hundred dollars through other means. The fee usually includes spay or neuter surgery, worming and vaccinations, and a certificate for a free health exam.

In addition, shelters offer free educational literature on all aspects of pet ownership, and they often provide ongoing advice and guidance at the shelter, over the phone, and through classes.

You save a life and help combat overpopulation. The simple fact is that there are many more animals needing adoption than there are homes for. So when you adopt from a shelter, you become part of the solution to the overpopulation crisis. You give a deserving animal a new home. You free up cage space for another animal needing to be adopted. And your money goes toward the shelter's education and spay/neuter programs, which help prevent more unwanted animals from being born.

Until the overpopulation crisis has been resolved, pet adoption is the humane, ethical choice for millions of Americans.



AN OLDER MORE REFINED COMPANION!

Senior dogs and cats make great companions, yet sadly, they are often overlooked in our nation's shelters when it comes to adoption. Playful and energetic puppies and kittens catch the attention of potential adopters, while the quieter and reserved animals fade into the background. Furry Friends Network wants to take this time to remind folks that the benefits of an older cat or dog are numerous and well worth a read-through! Not only are these experienced pets often a bit more "civilized" than their younger counterparts, but many have already acquired some basic training. Most of these candidates will be past the chewing stage, so dad's slippers will be safe. Many rescued, older dogs are housebroken and most cats are litter trained.

Older dogs and cats have the advantage of known personality and temperament. Most shelters and rescues have adoption staff to

help you choose the pet that is right for you. A mature pet also allows you the benefit of knowing its full-grown size, so the 100 pound lap dog will not be a surprise!

Cats and dogs that reach their senior years do have certain requirements that will help them maintain a healthy, happy life. More frequent visits to the veterinarian are a good idea—"wellness" checks to keep tabs on any health changes. Older companions do require more sleep than they did in their younger years. Regular grooming is a must for older animals, especially if your pet fails to do it him or herself. Grooming helps to stimulate the skin and coat and, additionally, it just feels good!

So, why not give a mature cat or dog that second chance? Caring for an older animal gives us the chance to be needed, wanted and, of course, loved unconditionally.

CANDLE FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that the Pocono Candle fundraiser is an ongoing monthly event. The orders and the money are due by the 30th of each month. The candles are delivered around the 15th of the following month. We must have our money collected BEFORE the order is sent in. If anyone can take the order forms into their workplace to generate more orders, that would be greatly appreciated.

To get an order form and scent list email Denise at labluvr@comcast.net

this is why we do it...

Hi! We have been in touch before, we are Shye 100's new family. She is doing SOOO well and we all ADORE her beyond belief. How someone could have mistreated such a wonderful, gentle soul (or any other animal for that matter!) is beyond me.

She has been renamed Kaiya (which means wind and water) by our daughters (who wanted her to have a new name to go with her new life, but wanted something close to the old one so she wasn't confused). She is such a blessing to us. She is SO gentle with everyone, including our one-year-old boy, who calls her and kisses her face, "I me mine dog!"

Our twelve year old has been very ill, and Kaiya has become her constant companion, sleeping with her, right by her side, won't leave her to go out until she is up each

morning, no matter how late it is. On days when she can't get up, the dog will not leave her side, even to go out.

She is starting to feel more secure and more playful. We recently got a tiny puppy (runt of the litter—fits in my hand, had to be fed every three hours) someone was abandoning, and while she was scared of it at first, she now plays with it almost constantly. She is so gentle (it is so tiny she could really hurt it if she weren't). The puppy climbs all over her and she is always flipping her over with her nose.

Thanks for the work you do—even in such a short time, we are so blessed by our dog and I cannot even imagine her not having had a chance at love and life!

Blessings, Kathy

The Rescue Angels

by Julie W. Smith

Tail tucked between your legs,
Confusion in your eyes—
I know it's hard to understand
That Someone heard your
cries.

When loneliness is all you
know
and pain is all you feel—
And no one can be trusted,
And hunger's all too real

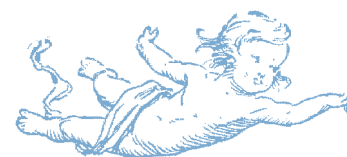
That's the time the Lord
sees you
And lets you know He's there
That's when He sends
His messengers—
The hearts that love and care.

Yes, rescuers are angels—
You cannot see their wings,
They keep them neatly folded
As they do their caring things.

The medicine to make you well
Good food to make you strong,
And finally to help you learn,
That hugs are never wrong.

The perfect place then must
be found—
The home where you can live
Secure and safe and happy—
With joy to get and give.

When you reach your
Forever Home,
Your place to feel whole,
The Angels smile, and off
they go—
To save another soul.



KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY!

Tres Hanley

As you know this is the first issue of our newsletter so our first "Health Column" is an overview of what we will be covering in future issues.

The importance of a high quality/ human grade diet is a theme that will be followed throughout. It is well documented that diet can drastically affect an animal's health and make it more or less prone to many diseases, such as cancers, kidney, diabetes etc.

Many brands such as IAMS and other "popular" foods/treats contain cancer causing chemicals, remains of "euthanized pets", and fillers that strain your dog's immune system.

Treats such as Rawhides and chews made from animal hides brought in from outside the USA contain chemicals such as formaldehyde and arsenic. Many companies stand to lose business if this info is widely known, so we try to educate consumers to read ALL LABELS. Additives such as BHT, BHA, and ethoxyquin.

It is also proven that diet can aid in the healing process or halt certain cancers in animals.

Here is an excerpt from the Medical Symposium at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine – July 27, 2002:

Nutrition is the most neglected part of therapy for cancer. Research has shown that there are substantial changes in the metabolism of fats, carbs and proteins that occur in a patient with cancer. Omega 3 has been shown to aid in the reversal of the

metabolic changes seen with cancer. Also a diet of reduced levels of carbohydrates, the reason for this is that cancers prefer sugars to metabolize and produce less energy from the metabolism. Correct nutrition in cancers will starve the cancer of nutrients and thereby aid in the treatment. We will deal with specific diseases in more detail in future issues.

This is just one example of how important it is to feed a high quality/human grade dog food. It is also important to include some "people food" too. The reason many people are told NOT to do this is because some everyday foods can be harmful to a pet. But a knowledgeable owner can integrate, to the pet's benefit. Table food and "scraps". Things such as onions, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, white refined starch products, sugars, chocolate and caffeine just are a start of a list of things that can cause illness or death for your pet. When in doubt, call your vet or look up the food on the internet. Pits such as one from a plum, cherry or even seeds from an apple can be toxic (they contain cyanide so you shouldn't eat them either!). Even more so they can cause an obstruction and cause death in 24 hours.

Here is our top 10 tips for keeping your animal safe...

- 1) Diet feed pet foods with HUMAN GRADE ingredients + fresh fruits, veggies, meats.
- 2) Don't give treats with BHA, BHT, ethoxyquin – read labels
- 3) Avoid toxins – chocolate, grapes, raisins, anti-freeze, onions, plants, Rawhides*

- 4) Cat litter – only use corn, wheat or paper based. Don't use clumping or clay litters!
- 5) Get checkups yearly – Don't over vaccinate – ask to do a TITER instead!
- 6) Brush your pets teeth** – (see info below) (with pet toothpaste only)
- 7) Keep pets clear of Airbags in Cars – Secure in back seats to seat belts on in a secured carrier
- 8) Spay/neuter – before 1st heat if possible.
- 9) Use stainless steel or glass feeding/water bowls—Never plastic!
- 10) Use spring water/filtered water if possible – always in polluted areas

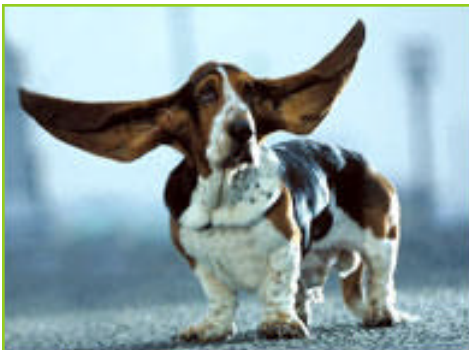
**Rawhides: buy only made in the USA as others are dusted with arsenic during processing. Arsenic builds up in the body & is toxic over time causing health problems. Never let a dog chew rawhide bones unsupervised - they can choke on them.*

***new info shows toxins, bacteria enter the body through the gums and contaminate the bloodstream leading to disease.*

Lastly-Don't forget to Tag/Microchip your pet!

As we mentioned above, we will cover many of these topics in more detail in future newsletters.

For more detailed info on much of the information above visit www.caninesincrisis.org or email tres@caniensincrisis.org



Mr. Jeffries, whose full name is Knightsfolle Ladiesman, has ears that measured 11.5 inches on Nov. 3, 2002, Guinness said.

Owner Phil Jeffries, of Southwick, England, said his pet is more than just a hound dog. The dog's ears are insured for \$47,800.

The new titleholder only managed to set the record when his long-eared granddad died last year, giving up his claim to the Guinness book.

LOCAL EVENTS

FURRY FRIENDS NETWORK

NOVEMBER 1

FFN will be at Malec's Pet Store grand re-opening. Malec's is no longer selling puppies from their store. They will now allow rescues and shelters to bring in adoptable animals to show. Malec's is located in the West Shore Plaza in Lemoyne.

NOVEMBER 2

FFN will be at Petsmart. Kent Roberts, caricaturist from Shippensburg will be doing pet caricatures to benefit FFN. The cost will be \$5.00 for "head shots" and \$10.00 for "whole body". He will work from photos too. Kent will be at the West Shore Petsmart from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

We will also have a major hot dog/ bake sale on November 2, volunteers that would like to help the weekend of November 1st and 2nd please contact Pat (pdravk@aol.com). If you can't physically help then please try to donate a baked good.

DECEMBER 14 & 21

Pet photos with Santa. This will be held at the WS Petsmart, located on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg. We will be having "spectacular" bake sale on those dates too. Please contact Pat if you will be able to bake for these events.

MARCH 28, 2004

Kibble & Alley Cat Bowl-a-thon at Trindle Lanes. More info to come!

H-BURG HUMANE SOCIETY

MONTH LONG ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

Featured Creatures Pet Photo Contest at Appalachian Harley Davidson. Monetary and food donations being accepted to benefit the West Shore Shelter

Treats for the Animals Drive at Sugar Shak, Hummelstown. Wish List items being collected to benefit the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area.

OCTOBER 29

Celebrity Bartending at Doc Hollidays, New Cumberland. 5:00 - 11:00pm. We are looking for celebrities and customers.

Come on out for a great social night! Benefits the Harrisburg Humane Society

NOVEMBER 8

2nd Annual Fur Ball Formal and Silent Auction. Hershey Lodge Convention Center. Donation of \$90.00 per person in support of the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Inc.

NOVEMBER 16

Magical Night of Giving Colonial Park Mall 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Ticket price: \$5.00 - available at the shelter.

For more info on these events... www.humanesocietyhbg.org

We are still looking for great volunteers. Contact Jill 564-3320.

MISCELLANEOUS

OCTOBER 30

The Hanover Halloween Parade. Meeting at the Shephard-Myers Field in Hanover (directions on the web site) at 6:00 pm. You and your dog are invited to dress up and join us.

Sign up at PETCO of Hanover, or go to www.muttpalace.com for more details.

OPERATION SARA

We want to thank everyone for contributions of supplies and money donations. In the last few months it seems we have taken in a lot of dogs and puppies that have needed extensive medical care. We couldn't turn down helping Sara the pregnant American Staffordshire Terrier. We knew her babies wouldn't do well being born in the shelter. With the help of Michelle Carroll, who is a trainer at Petco, we found Mary Smallwood, Owner of Keystone Dog Training, who took Sara in. She is now safe and comfortable at Mary's kennels. Of course all this care costs money. There are vet bills and food costs and more expenses once the babies are born. They will be with the mom for 8 weeks which ties up Mary's kennel.

**ANY DONATIONS FOR "OPERATION SARA" OR FOR VET BILLS
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!**

Contact Robin Scherer at 717.258.8756

THE SECOND TIME AROUND...

Micky Niego, ASPCA, Revised 2001

The dog that you adopt from a shelter or rescue may have been a stray or a dog that someone has voluntarily surrendered for adoption.

Whether he was born in the bushes behind the Laundromat or an adolescent abandoned on the streets by his once upon-a-time owner, the streetwise stray can be a real challenge to incorporate into your life. The famous “he followed me home, can I keep him, Mom?” canine is a special animal that needs time and space, patience and understanding.

This is a dog that has had to compete to stay alive; he’s fought for food, scrambled for shelter. His reliance on his inborn canine savvy kept him alive on the streets long enough to be rescued and adopted by you. Now you’ve committed yourself to him, it becomes a crash course in Canine Socialization and Human Interaction 101.

If he’s street-born, chances are he’s never heard the toilet flush or seen a vacuum cleaner in action. He’ll gobble up his food, throwing furtive glances left and right. The acoustics of the indoor environment may make him anxious. Edgy, he’ll whine and pace. A sudden sound and he’ll either bolt upright ready for action or slither along behind you.

Be reasonable in your expectations. Be sensitive. It’s culture shock, pure and simple. Put yourself in his shoes. Just imagine that you’ve been snatched away

from home and suddenly find yourself in an aborigine outback community. No language or gestures in common. Communication is by trial and error. Be patient and supportive. You’ll succeed.

The stray that was “previously owned” enters your home with a completely different set of baggage. Leashes, hands, rolled up newspapers and magazines, feet, chairs and sticks are just some of the pieces of “training equipment” that may have been used on this dog. Words like “come here” and “lie down” may bring forth a reaction other than the one you expected. Or maybe he led a sheltered life and was never socialized to children or sidewalk activity. This dog may be the product of a never-ending series of scrambled communications and unreal expectations.

As an adolescent or adult dog, he’s already formed his opinion regarding humans. Be prepared to meet with confusion, reluctance and resistance as you retrain this fellow. He may flinch when you reach to pet him, make a sudden move or raise your voice. But don’t let yourself be held hostage by thoughts of past cruelties and abuse. Don’t treat him like a victim. The key here is confidence. Build his with consistent training and you’ll turn him around.

The dog that has been voluntarily surrendered for adoption may have somehow let someone down. Not housebroken, too active, too noisy, destructive when left alone, too friendly. Or maybe he’s a victim of circumstance.

Divorce, an owner who died, is ill or was arrested. A newborn who is allergic. Whatever the reason, he’s separated from those he loves and trusts. In despair, he waits for them to return, sniffing for the familiar smells that make him feel good all over. He misses them, he mourns them. His pack, his family... where are they?

When you get him home, he’s confused and disoriented. Sights and sounds are simultaneously familiar and unfamiliar; things are jumbled up. He jumps on the couch and bed, he drinks from the toilet bowl, barks at the phone and makes wild lunges at strangers. In another life, these behaviors may have been encouraged or maybe just not discouraged. Don’t worry, he’ll catch on. He’ll get past it all. He’ll become your dog...

Taking on the responsibility of a dog with a past is hard work. At first, it may seem overwhelming. Most of the problem behavior you’ll encounter is an expression of the dog’s inability to cope with the demands of your personality and lifestyle. Make sure you and he are indeed suited for each other; that you can meet his needs for activity and companionship according to his breed type. Things may proceed slowly; you’ll hit frustrating learning plateaus. But if you’re committed you’ll get there. Remember that the basic period of adjustment can be anywhere from six to twelve weeks. Go into this with your eyes open... And then stand back and marvel at the transformation... it will knock your socks off!

UPDATE ON SARA

Sara has 9 puppies—7 males and 2 females. The pups are beautiful and Sara couldn’t be better.

Her foster mom, Mary is in need of the following:
paper towels, cleaning agents, (Pine Sol and Clorox), heating pads and newspapers

If you can donate any of the above mentioned items please contact Robin Scherer at 717.258.8756



TOP 10 COMMANDMENTS FOR A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. ANY SEPARATION from you will be painful for me.
2. Give me the time to understand what you want from me.
3. Place your trust in me... it's CRUCIAL to my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up for punishment. You have your work, your friends, and your entertainment. I HAVE ONLY YOU!!!
5. TALK to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that HOWEVER you treat me, I'll never forget it.
7. Remember before you hit me, that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones of your hand, but I choose NOT to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something may be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right foods, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old... you, too, will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. NEVER say, "I can't bear to watch it," or, "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if YOU are there. Above all, remember, that I LOVE YOU!!!

KEEPING KITTY INDOORS

Traffic, traps, poisoning and cruel people are just a few of the dangers that can kill or injure outdoor cats.

Disease and parasites are much easier to avoid when a cat stays indoors.

Cats that are not spayed and neutered and are allowed to roam will mate and create MORE cats that will either die agonizing deaths on the street or be killed in shelters because there are not enough homes for them.

Outside dangers are so prevalent that the average life span for a free-roaming cat is just a little more than one year, whereas an indoor cat's average life-span is fourteen to twenty years.

Additionally, here are some other good reasons to keep Kitty inside:

- Animal control personnel pick up stray animals -don't allow your pet to become an added burden to this agency
- Your cat may come in contact with a rabid animal
- Free-roaming cats are natural predators to certain wildlife Cats are quite content and happy indoors. To help them adjust, provide them with:
 - ~ a scratching post or cat tree
 - ~ a few safe toys
 - ~ a window perch
 - ~ an empty paper grocery bag or empty cardboard box
 - ~ a radio tuned to a classical music station - volume low

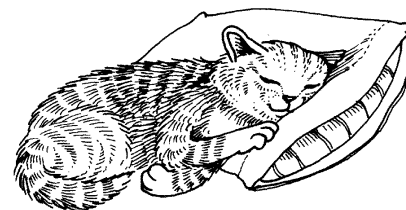
With these items, you will find that you have easily created a built-in kitty play-room!

You may also want to try one or more of the following sprouts in a pet garden to provide some greenery for your feline:

- ~ oat grass
- ~ wheat grass
- ~ rye grass
- ~ parsley
- ~ plain grass
- ~ catnip
- ~ leaf lettuce

Nibbling on leaves and grass helps remove hairballs and aids in the digestive process. Remember, however, to keep all other house plants out of reach, since many plants may be toxic, such as dieffenbachia, ivy - all varieties, lilies of the valley, poinsettia, caladium, cala lilies, oleander, primroses, philodendrons and rhododendrons. This list is a collection of common toxic plants. It is NOT a list of ALL poisonous plants. In some vegetation, only certain parts of the plants are toxic. In others, all parts are poisonous. If your cat ingests a toxic plant, do not delay in getting your pet to a veterinarian. Death can occur from nibbling even a small portion of a poisonous plant. Screened porches make excellent play areas for cats. Some people even build large, screened enclosures for their cats, but you don't need to go to that extent to make your feline a happy indoor inhabitant.

Cats can learn to enjoy a safe, indoor life with a little encouragement from their friends.



Just a reminder:
**November is
"Adopt A Senior Pet"
Month!**