

PAWS & THINK

RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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This cute little fella made us laugh during his photo shoot. Look at all his poses! Zeke was born in July 2010 He is such a delight to have at the shelter - but we want him to find his forever home! He will make a wonderful family pet! (He's working hard on his potty training too!)



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Feral and Stray: A Tail of Two Kitties

I used to work at a local outdoor facility, and had the pleasure of running the outdoor education and adventure programs. We had about 60 acres, and sadly, many abandoned animals. The result - a colony of cats - both stray and feral. The difference? A stray cat is a pet cat who is lost or abandoned. Feral cats are often the offspring of lost or abandoned cats or other feral cats who are not spayed or neutered. Stray cats are accustomed to contact with people and are tame, but feral cats - not so much. They are typically too fearful and wild to be handled. In many cases, stray cats may be reunited with their families or adopted into new homes.



However, feral cats do not easily adapt or may never adapt to living as pets in close contact with people. The truth is, many feral cats don't survive. If they do survive, their lives aren't easy without human caretakers, and help.

Some say, "Let's trap and remove them all." First of all... where to? Secondly, this simply doesn't work. Feral cats live at a certain location because it offers food and shelter. If a colony is removed, some feral cats from surrounding colonies may move in to take advantage of the newly available resources. The cycle of reproduction and nuisance behavior begins all over again. If all the cats in a colony are not trapped, then the ones left behind tend to have more kittens. In addition, more kittens will survive because there are fewer cats competing for the available food. The population will continue to increase until the level that can be supported by the available food and shelter is reached. Some areas have tried to instill a "feeding ban" when it comes to strays and feral cat colonies. The logic behind bans against feeding feral cats is that if there is no food available, the cats will go away. Seriously?... Lets think about that for a minute. How long would you sit on the couch with an empty chip bag before you got off your rear, and searched through the fridge? Feral cats are territorial animals - happy where they are. Instead, they tend to look for food closer to humans/homes as they grow hungrier and more desperate. Their malnourished condition will make them more susceptible to parasitic infestations, such as fleas, which they will spread into work places, garages, homes, etc., within their territory. The cats will also continue to reproduce despite the effort to "starve them out," resulting in the visible deaths of many kittens. So as you can see, feeding bans tend to make the situation much worse instead of improving it.

There are several ways that we can help - feeding and creating simple shelters - but the MOST important thing we can do is get them spayed/neutered. This is a crucial part of improving their quality of life and managing the population. Two unaltered cats and all their descendents can theoretically produce 420,000 cats in just seven years. Cats are also less likely to roam, spray, and fight once fixed. Trap-neuter-return (TNR) is the recommended approach for spay/neuter of homeless cats that are too timid or feral to be handled. Cats are humanely trapped, altered, eartipped while under anesthesia (to signify that they are fixed), given a rabies shot, treated for parasites, and are returned to their territory after recovery for ongoing supervision by their caregiver. TNR is a humane way to gradually reduce the stray cat population, as well as the nuisance behaviors associated with breeding, such as fighting, yowling and spraying. The spread of disease and malnutrition are greatly reduced, and the outdoor cats can live healthy, safe and peaceful lives in their territory.

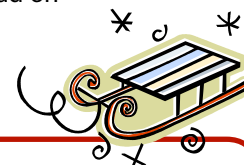
Alley Cat Allies was founded in 1990 by two women who recognized that stray and feral cats' needs were not being met by the animal control pound system. They realized that when well-meaning citizens called pounds and shelters about feral cats, their only response was to kill them. Today, there are many rescue groups right here in central Ohio that provide TNR services to the community at no cost, as well as making food available to feral cat caregivers who may need assistance. How cool is that! Please check out Colony Cats, Pet Promise, Capital Area Humane Society and of course, Alley Cat Allies for more info on how you can help.

Many of the cats that are brought in for the TNR program, are found to be quite gentle and loving. They may be abandoned or lost pets who are very sweet and tame. Local shelters treat and keep these guys - in the hope of giving them a second chance through adoption. In fact - there is a cute little kitty named Bubbles who was recently saved by Colony Cats Rescue (sportin' a tipped ear and all!) Please see the Colony Cats ad on the back page for more on Bubbles!

(sources: humanesociety.org, petpromise.org, allycat.org, colonycats.org)

Start 2011 Off Right With Some Furry Face Time!

- **Saturday, January 22nd - Love Unleashed Event @ the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St - Downtown, 7-10pm, benefits the Capital Area Humane Society**
A fundraising event for the doggies, kitties & bunnies! Hear unforgettable stories of animals and the people who care for them. Enjoy entertainment, live and silent auctions, tasty treats, and of course, adoptables. Check it out online at www.caHS-pets.org
- **Sunday, January 30th - Pins for Pups at Ten Pin Alley, 11am - 1:30pm @ 5499 Constitution Blvd., Hilliard.** Bring a team, and help the Friends of the Shelter! Prizes for first place team, silent auction, raffles and fun! www.friendsoftheshelter.info



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I know you've seen these plates around town - all the cool people have them! So, whats up?

The Ohio Pet License Plates are vehicle registration tags that raise much-needed funds for education, spay & neuter of pets for low income families, and for dogs and cats adopted from qualifying agencies (animal shelters, humane societies, and 501c3 nonprofit organizations)

Even if you have just renewed your license plates, you can still buy the plate for \$25! Simply visit your local BMV, call 1-800-589-TAGS, or visit OPlates.com

The more plates we sell, the more dogs & cats we can help!

PAWS & THINK

Happy Tails...

Wallace and Gromit (formerly Niles and Frazier) are doing just wonderfully here on the farm. They have adjusted quickly - love their sisters, the horses, digging for shrews, greeting the UPS man and getting snacks from him. They are truly a comic pair - and are still too cute for words. I am not sure Gromit will ever grow into his ears, but that is fine with me!! They LOVE the snow, and sunning themselves on the sawdust pile!! They send their love and thanks for taking them in at their hour of need and letting me take them and keep them together as a family! Keep up the good work in the new year!



Hairball: A Furry Friend's Foe

Have you ever seen one, or "heard" one in the making? It is not pretty! Hairballs have an obvious cause: kitties swallow a considerable amount of their own hair when they groom themselves. Some cats groom themselves and all the other cats in their household, making the amount of hair they consume enormous. The rough surface of your cat's tongue is a perfect tool for pulling dead and excess fur from her coat during grooming. Some of that hair gets ingested. Hairballs aren't round; they are typically cylindrical masses of hair, debris, and undigested bits of food. Cat owners unfamiliar with hairballs might think their kitty has missed the litter box - but a mess found in a location away from the litter box is more than likely a hairball. The odor is also a tipoff, as hairballs don't smell like the other stuff.



A cat's digestive system is designed to handle a certain amount of fur, her own and from prey in the wild. But lots of kitties wind up with hairballs due to hair length, shedding patterns, dietary deficiencies, digestive challenges - or a combination of issues. Assuming your cat's hairball situation didn't come on suddenly and there are no other signs of illness, here are some things you can do to help: Make

necessary adjustments to her diet to ensure adequate moisture content, add an omega-3 supplement, and brush your cat at least several times a week. If you're feeding your cat only dry pet food, she's not getting anywhere near the moisture content her organs need to function well for a lifetime. Dry kibble is not biologically appropriate nutrition for felines, as it

lacks two ingredients essential to your kitty's health: moisture and high quality protein. Your kitty's digestive system is working harder than nature intended to process all that dry stuff, and don't expect her to drink extra water to compensate. Cats get most of the water their bodies need from food. A healthy dog drinks loads of water throughout the day. A healthy cat does not. If your kitty's diet is low in moisture content, she's living in a state of chronic dehydration and less able to transport a mass of swallowed fur and debris.

So, if hairballs are a problem and you are feeding her primarily kibble, the first thing to do is start transitioning to a biologically appropriate diet. No, your cat did not put me up to this... and yes, the wet food is VERY yummy. (source: healthypets.mercola.com)

You Had Me At Ouch. What Next?

Last month we talked about teaching your puppy bite inhibition, and as promised, we are going to follow up with some "no-bite" tricks. Most important - a tired puppy is a good puppy! Walks, fetch, hide-n-seek... all good stuff to get them tired. If your puppy is biting at your hands while you are playing - redirect their mouth to one of their toys to chew on instead. With my pups, or at adoption events, I always carry a chew toy in my pocket - to offer another option when they start to nibble. When they chew on their toy - praise them. Good job! Woohoo! If they are biting at your feet/ankles while you walk - stop moving your feet, and again offer them their toy. When they stop, you can begin to move again. It may seem cute at first when your puppy nibbles at your ankles - but this can soon turn in to a very bad (and dangerous) habit. Its best to "nip" this one early! Continue to offer the chew toy, and praise them when they chew the toy, and not your pantleg. Continue this until you can walk freely without concern.



Many folks get very upset because their puppies chew on *their* things. Honestly, how do they know what *your* things are? It is best to provide lots and lots of interesting things they are allowed to chew on the floor around them. Set them up to be successful, not to fail. believe me, when they are teething... they will find something! If they do start to chew something that they shouldn't, just redirect them to their toy, and praise them. If they become obsessed with a corner of a table or chair leg... you can use a spray deterrent like "bitter apple". These are available in most pet stores.

Teaching a puppy about the rules of biting and chewing can be tiring, but consistency is key! Redirect, redirect, redirect - never swat! They will begin to fear your hand, and make matters worse. Lots of information to chew on... good luck!

(source: aspcbehavior.org)



IZZY SEZ...

My New Year's Resolutions...

- I'll never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
- If what I want lies buried, I will dig in with determination until I find it.
 - When I'm happy, I shall dance about and wag my entire body.
- I will always delight in the simple joy of a nice walk.
- When loved ones come home, I will always run to greet them.
- When it's in my best interest, I shall practice obedience.
- I will avoid biting when a simple growl will suffice.
- I shall play often with gusto and enthusiasm.
- When someone I love is down, I'll be silent, sit close and nuzzle them gently.
 - I will always be fascinated by everything.
- Above all, I will be loyal to my loved ones and true to myself.

May the New Year bring you many treats!

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He is Just My Dog.



He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds; my other ears that hear above the winds. He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea. He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being; by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him. (I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.)

When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive. When I am angry, he clowns to make me smile. When I am happy, he is joy unbounded. When I am a fool, he ignores it. When I succeed, he brags. Without him, I am only another man. With him, I am all-powerful. He is loyalty itself.

He has taught me the meaning of devotion. With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace. He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant.

His head on my knee can heal my human hurts. His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things. He has promised to wait for me... whenever... wherever - in case I need him.

And I expect I will - as I always have.

He is just my dog.

- Gene Hill

Lend-A-Hand Thrift Shop

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Now accepting gently used clothing, household items, sporting goods, collectibles, furniture and more! Project Lend-A-Hand is a 501c3 non-profit, offering services & projects for the developmentally disabled. Please stop in today and check us out!

Start the Year Off Right! 10% off any item with this ad!

ROCCO'S RANTS...



Open wide baby! A quick, easy way to stay in-tuned with your cat's health is to check out their mouth. Now, some may be more willing than others... personally, I don't mind, but its best to do it when I'm a little sleepy, and not in a playful "I'm gonna getcha" mood. Healthy gums are pink, pale or bright; red gums may mean something is wrong. Drooling, bad breath, brown streaks or pawing at the mouth may also be cause for concern. Just a thought! Your cat will thank you!

(source: cathealth.com)

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