



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 21

September 2007

SNAP's mission is to eliminate the need for euthanasia in our community's shelters, to reduce the number of homeless animals, and to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter.

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SNAP is a Missouri 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

What's inside

- New pet-friendly license plate now available in Missouri
- Our view on local pet stores



SNAP lands two new grants!

In June SNAP was awarded a \$9,835 grant from PetSmart Charities to fund *Second Chances Plus*. This is a continuation of our successful *Second Chances* grant, which was carried out in 2005 and 2006.



Our "pending" file contains literally hundreds of pet owners who called the SNAP line, qualified for our services, but never sent in the co-payments required to receive their spay/neuter certificates.

Second Chances Plus will continue to allow us to give these pet owners some extra financial assistance which we hope will serve as an added incentive. We hope to reach even more pet owners this time around!

This is the third grant that SNAP has received from PetSmart Charities. We are very grateful for their support.

To add to our favorable summer season of grants, we received our first ever grant from the DJ&T Foundation in August. The grant amount is \$5,000.

As some of you may know, the organization was founded by Bob Barker, the former host of *Price is Right*, and provides funds for spay/neuter clinics and voucher programs throughout the country. The money will be used exclusively for dogs, and two-thirds must be used for dogs weighing 40 pounds and over. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to a long relationship with DJ&T!



**DJ&T
Foundation**

New member welcome

Individual
Jeanne Strohm

Business
Mama Jean's Natural Market

In Memoriam

Lucky, beloved dog of Larry & Tracy Lipscomb

Skip Curtis

Mrs. Brasher, mother of Anise Pendleton

Cora Cox



Sponsor-a-Spay List

There are plenty of cats and dogs on our Sponsor-a-Spay waiting list. Won't you please sponsor one of

these pets? Your \$25 donation will sponsor a cat, while \$40 will sponsor a dog. Simply fill out the insert form and be assured that you are doing your part to help!

Cats awaiting sponsors:

- 🐾 Gretchen, female
- 🐾 Pearl, female
- 🐾 Willie, male
- 🐾 Bugs, male
- 🐾 Betty Boop, female
- 🐾 Gypsy, female
- 🐾 Checkers, female
- 🐾 Gabe, male

Dogs awaiting sponsors:

- 🐾 Leroy, male
- 🐾 Lucy, female
- 🐾 Taco, male
- 🐾 Wanda, female
- 🐾 Zoe, female
- 🐾 Bingo, male
- 🐾 Mr Wiggles, male
- 🐾 Daisy, female

By the numbers

1008: Number of certificates issued this year. This number is down slightly but by design. Earlier this year the SNAP Board voted to limit the number of counties we serve to six: Greene, Christian, Webster, Dallas, Polk, and Lawrence. The geographical reach of our services had become unwieldy and we decided it would be more effective and more appropriate to concentrate our efforts in a smaller area.



101: Number of certificates issued this year for big dogs. That number may seem small but that's about to change. The added cost to spay or neuter a large dog has traditionally been a barrier for our clients. However, with the advent of the DJ&T grant and to better serve our mission, we will be focusing more on large-breed dogs. Big dogs have more puppies per litter and are much less likely to be adopted from shelters than are small dogs. We hope that this increased focus will show results soon so that we may approach some local animal control agencies and persuade them to start their own spay/neuter programs for low-income pet owners!

Pet-friendly license plate now available in Missouri

Efforts to curb Missouri's pet overpopulation problem are in high gear with the help of the state's newest specialty license plate.

This new plate is dubbed the "Pet Friendly" license plate. The plate promotes the love of pets – and is helping to raise revenue to fund the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. The "pet-friendly" plate is \$25 a year; \$20 from the sale of each plate is deposited into a fund that will pay for spay and neuter services for dogs and cats state-wide.

"This license plate has the potential to raise thousands of dollars that will be used to spay and neuter companion animals across Missouri, thereby reducing the staggering number of unwanted puppies and kittens and homeless animals that end up in shelters, or on the streets, every year," said Cyndi Nason, President of the Missouri State Humane Association (MoSHA). "It's a beautiful license plate that any animal lover will be proud to display on his or her vehicle. Best of all, revenue from the sale of each plate will be used to curb our state's pet overpopulation problem – a problem that results in the euthanasia of thousands of dogs and cats."

In Missouri, more than 150,000 unwanted dogs and cats end up in shelters and animal-control facilities annually. Fewer than half of them are placed in new homes. Untold thousands of dogs and cats roam our communities as unwanted

strays. Most strays die of hunger, dehydration, exposure or as the result of disease, abuse or serious injury. Animal advocates, for decades, have promoted sterilization as one key way to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats and put an end to the needless suffering and death of countless companion animals.

Members of the Missouri State Humane Association expect sales to be strong and say they hope to see allocation of funds for spay and neuter services by mid-2008. "The money will be allocated through a grant-application process," Nason said. "To qualify for a grant, the recipient must be a

501-c-3, nonprofit agency or municipal animal-control agency that offers spay and neuter services for dogs and cats."

SNAP is very excited about the grant potential from the funds set aside from the sale of the license plates, and would like to encourage all volunteers, members, donors and community activists who support spay/neuter efforts to order your personalized plate today!! To order your license plate, visit www.mostatehumane.org and download the emblem use authorization form. After you send the fee to MoSHA, you'll receive a DOR 1716 form that has all the current "cause" license plates listed. Since the pet-friendly plate is not yet on the list, enter "MoSHA \$15" under "other." The one-time charge of \$15 covers the fee for a personalized plate. You have up to six characters to create your own unique message. Sorry, but *SPAY EM* is taken already!



No presents please!

Please come to my birthday party, but please "NO PRESENTS". If you really want to "give" me something, bring your pocket change and put it in the donation jar for SNAP!

At my birthday party in August, the invitation included the above request. Turns out donations in lieu of presents is part of a national trend for both adults and kids.

A New York Times article titled "**Cake, but No Presents, Please**" (7/27/07) reports that "the only gift in sight was a little red Matchbox hook and ladder rig. All the bounty from 4 yr old Gavin's birthday -- \$240 in checks and cash collected in a red box next to a plastic fire helmet -- went to the Cranford Fire Department. Grown-ups who have everything have long politely requested "presence" instead of presents for later-in-life birthdays and anniversaries, and some couples have recently shunned the wedding registry, instead directing loved ones to donate".

A Google search with the keywords [birthday party donation presents dog] yields numerous newsworthy articles of individuals who requested that their guests not spend money on gifts, but rather use that money to help a favorite pet-related charity. And why not? Many people just don't need (or want) more

stuff. But they do care passionately about worthy causes, and pet lovers are no exception.

Would you like to have a "gift-free" party that includes a donation jar? SNAP will provide the jar, along with literature on the benefits of spay and neuter. After you collect the donations simply write a check to SNAP for the amount received and keep the donation jar as a memento to remember your good deed. Or place it at a local business. The donation jars only need to be checked monthly or bi-monthly, so it doesn't involve a great deal of time. Contact me if you'd like more information.



By the way, my birthday party was a big success. No presents were received. And over \$144 were donated!

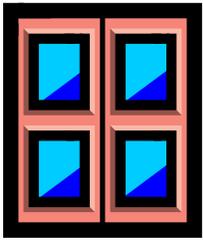
Cynthia Typaldos
SNAP Volunteer & Donation Jar Coordinator
417-416-1117 home
408-867-8875 work

Special Thanks

Many, many thanks to those who made SNAP's silent auction a success on July 26th. This monthly social mixer was created by Jennifer Laney, "The Singing Realtor." She graciously invited SNAP to be the first charity to host a silent auction at Key Largo. Many generous attendees helped us raise over \$1,360 while networking and enjoying live music. We hope to have another auction at "The Shindig" in the next year. Please support and recognize the following businesses that helped us make this event a success!

- ◆ Continental Title (title work & real estate closing). 1531E. Bradford Parkway. Springfield.
- ◆ Sonshine Royal Ballroom (private & group dance lessons), 1329 E. Republic Road. Springfield.
- ◆ Galloway Station (bar and grill). 4211 S. Lone Pine. Springfield.
- ◆ Chipotle Mexican Grill. 3356 South Campbell. Springfield.
- ◆ Scrivener Oil Company, Signal Gas Stations.
- ◆ Louie Layton, Realtor. Murney Associates. 1625 E. Primrose. Springfield.
- ◆ Rose Hughes, Springfield Board of Realtors.
- ◆ Debbie Gintz, Commercial Sign Group. 5070 S. Farm Rd. 219. Rogersville.
- ◆ Gregg Kollmeyer, CPA. The Payroll Company. 1736 E. Sunshine, Ste. 913. Springfield.
- ◆ Bruce Brown, Loan Officer. Brown & Wagner Mortgage. 1411 E. Primrose. Springfield.
- ◆ Hogan Land Title (title work and real estate closing). 1605 E. Sunshine. Springfield.
- ◆ Steven Shelley (Quantum touch and energy work). 417-631-9922.

And a special thanks to David Burt (fine art photographer). www.davidburtimages.com.



Our View

By now you may have heard that the Pet Warehouse on East Independence in Springfield is selling puppies. Needless to say, this has caused quite a stir in

the local animal welfare community, culminating in a protest near Pet Warehouse on June 23 that received a good amount of press coverage. A SNAP board member contacted Pet Warehouse, who initially confirmed that they were buying puppies from the Hunter Corporation, the largest mass broker of puppy mills in the country. (For those who may not know, Hunter's headquarters are located in Goodman, Missouri, only 85 short miles from Springfield.) Subsequently, the manager contacted our board member and backtracked, saying that they had stopped getting their puppies from Hunter and were now using "blue ribbon breeders." We don't buy it. Reputable breeders do not sell puppies to pet stores for resale and such sales do promote the puppy mill industry. We strongly discourage any pet owner from doing business with Pet Warehouse for any reason.

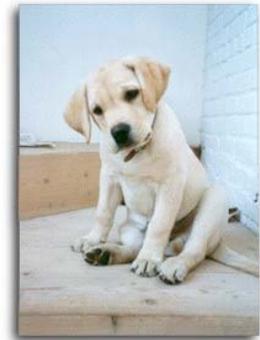
To make matters worse, it appears that a Petland store will soon open on Battlefield Road in Springfield near the mall. According to a recent article in *Best Friends* magazine, Petland is one of the largest pet store chains in the country. Each store is independently owned and is responsible for selecting the pets sold in their store. Petland's director of business improvement said their puppies and kittens come primarily from three sources: individuals who breed registered pets, rescue groups and individuals who offer mixed-breed puppies and kittens for the store's adoption program, and professional distributors. Hunter Corporation is one of Petland's largest "distributors."

At best, we recommend a wait-and-see attitude towards Petland. After all, the store has yet to open. However, we are doubtful that Petland is interested in anything other than making a buck. And the idea of selling kittens is deplor-

Local Pet Stores

able. Local shelters take in as many as 70 kittens and cats per day during the height of kitten season, most of whom are euthanized. It is unconscionable that any pet store would consider selling kittens.

Meanwhile, PetSmart quietly continues policies that actually benefit animals. Admittedly, we are biased since PetSmart Charities has given SNAP three grants. But the facts speak for themselves. PetSmart does not sell dogs and cats. Instead, shelter and rescue groups are allowed to bring their animals in for adoptions each weekend. Go to PetSmart on a Saturday afternoon. The place is mobbed and has become a very popular venue for pet adoptions. Nationally 378,028 dogs and cats were adopted at PetSmart stores last year.



PetSmart Charities supports animal welfare in a variety of ways. Consider Hurricane Katrina. The aftermath of that disaster saw a group of animal charities come together to fund a huge spay/neuter initiative in the gulf coast area. PetSmart Charities paid 41% of the \$3.2 million cost. Most importantly, their funding for spay/neuter grants increased substantially last year to \$4.2 million, up from \$2.5 million in 2005. As far as dogs and cats are concerned, we can't say enough positive things about PetSmart and encourage you to do business there. You might not have thought it made a difference where you bought Rover's food or Fluffy's litter. As you can see, it does.

~SNAP Board of Directors

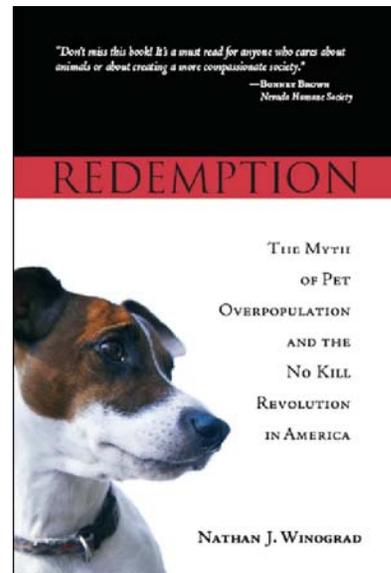
For more information about puppy mills, visit the Humane Society of the United States' website www.stoppupmills.org.

Nathan Winograd to speak in Kansas City and St. Louis

Animal welfare advocate Nathan Winograd will be making two appearances in Missouri in October. On Wednesday, October 10, 6:30 pm, Winograd will be at the Barnes & Noble located at 8871 Ladue Road in Ladue. He will read from his new book *Redemption*, hold a Q&A session, and sign books afterwards.

On Saturday, October 13, 7:00 pm, Winograd will hold a free seminar in Kansas City entitled "Building a No-Kill Community." The event will be held at Unity Temple, 707 W. 47th Street. There will be a book signing following the presentation.

Winograd is well-known in the animal welfare community for his inspirational writings about no-kill communities and the value of all dogs and cats, even the ones we might think of as unadoptable. His appearances will undoubtedly be as inspirational! For more information, visit http://www.nathanwinograd.com/nathanwinograd_020.htm.



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The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation