



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 23

March 2008

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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What's inside

- Online social networking for animals lovers
- Cat show coming to town



Local animal welfare coalition formed

In September 2007, with encouragement from Springfield City Councilwoman Mary Collette, a group of local animal welfare professionals begin meeting to discuss ways they might partner with Springfield-Greene County Animal Control to address animal issues. Six months later —after numerous meetings, emails, and behind-the-scenes discussions—the coalition is beginning to take form and even has a name: No More Homeless Pets of the Ozarks. The group includes members of the Animal Abuse Council, CARE (Castaway Animal Rescue Effort), Pet Connection, SNAP, Southwest Missouri Humane Society and SW MO K9s. Its purpose is best defined by its name: No More Homeless Pets.

At a City Council luncheon held on January 29, presentations were made which fleshed out the events of the past few months. Kevin Gipson, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department Director, stated that the time has come when Animal Control needs not only to protect people from animals but to “protect animals from people.” This is a change in philosophy and gives the coalition much cause for optimism. Assistant Health Department Director Clay Goddard reported that future activities for Animal Control included changing the name of the organization to better reflect its

focus, developing a mission statement, increasing marketing efforts, and working with the coalition. This was followed by a presentation from Carl Woodland, a member of No More Homeless Pets of the Ozarks and CARE board member. Carl summed up the coalition's progress to that point and plans for the future.



The group hopes to use its expertise to help Animal Control help animals and save money at the same time. The coalition already has several accomplishments to its credit. An anti-abandonment ordinance has been passed by the City; Animal Control has agreed to allow dog breed rescue groups to take dogs that are impounded, thus saving more lives; and the City has agreed to include pictures all dogs on its website, including those released by owners.

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New animal welfare coalition formed (continued from page 1)

A long-term dream is to have a new facility for adoptions and low-income spay/neuter. But for now, there are many smaller projects on the wish list, including a small quarantine facility, a public education campaign, and a pilot spay/neuter program in a central Springfield neighborhood.

The coalition is still getting organized and soon hopes to transition to less talk and more action. The group is actively seeking to expand its membership—the broader the base of support, the greater the impact. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email the coalition at nmhpzarks@yahoo.com.

Animal Control could have continued on its current path, hiring *more* animal control officers to take in *more* animals and build *more* space to shelter them. Instead, they chose to partner with No More Homeless Pets of the Ozarks to implement proactive programs that will save money *and* spare the lives of homeless animals.

Sponsor-a-Spay List

Have you sponsored a spay today? Forget the apple a day!

We're happy to report a total of 104 animals were sponsored in 2007. This is a tremendous help to SNAP, since there are so many low-income pet owners who need extra help.

The list below shows some of the cats and dogs currently in need of assistance. If you would like to sponsor one of them, just fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and send it to SNAP with your donation. \$40 will sponsor one dog and \$25 will sponsor one cat.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 🐕 Bo, male | 🐕 Frosty, female |
| 🐕 Sissy, female | 🐕 Mischief, male |
| 🐕 Buck, male | 🐕 Hank, male |
| 🐕 Flo, female | 🐕 Zorro, male |
| 🐕 Alexis, female | 🐕 Lucey Lou, female |

In Memoriam

*Beloved father of Lance Reeves
Beloved mother of Mitzy Bolin
Carol Lechner
Morris & Tootsie
SNAP volunteer Susan Bell's dog Misty*



Misty

In Honor of Cindy Harding



SNAP shots

We had a terrific turnout at our December 2007 volunteer workshop! Thanks to everyone who attended and allowed us to end 2007 on such a high note. No one was in a more festive mood than volunteer Carol Gosselink (center) as she was presented with a special volunteer award from Susan Bell. Cindy Bird and Janet Martin look on.

Internet social networking for dogs and cats

I'm just a young pup, and like most adolescents these days, I've immersed myself in the internet. Sure, it's a bit inconvenient, because I have to use the computer at night as my person uses it all day, but as long as it's not a three dog night I have no restrictions.

Now, you oldsters might remember the early days of the internet, when we canines tried to hide our doggy identity. These days, we revel in our dogginess online! Dogs (and cats) are surfing the internet, blogging, and networking together in ways that go far beyond the traditional nose-to-nose (or nose-to-butt) greetings. My favorite website is Dogster, where internet-savvy dogs make friends, get virtual bones, and do all kinds of fun stuff. (There is also Catster.com but I leave a discussion of that site to a feline.)

On Dogster, I have my own profile which lists important things about me like my breed (I'm a mutt), birthday, nicknames, bio, personal-



ity, and shows lots of photos of me. There are some fun stats about how many pup pals I have and how many times people have viewed my profile. I've received some virtual treats too...bones, cheese, and a green tennis ball!

My whole doggy family is also on Dogster -- that's Buffy and Pumpkin, and Uncle Sammy and Aunt Elsa who are in doggy heaven. Buffy was an early adopter of Dogster, his ID

is 1,633 (there are now over 375,000 Dogster members), his profile has been viewed over 3,000 times and he has 34 pup pals. But what exactly is Dogster and how did it



come to be? Launched in January 2004, Dogster.com (and its sister site Catster.com) are the fastest growing pet destinations on the internet. Now serving 500,000 members, Dogster and Catster have more than 750,000 visitors a month.

My favorite section of Dogster is "See the Dogs!". I like to look at the adoptable dogs nearby, and one time I looked at every other dog on the site named "Bunny". All 98 of them! None of them were as cute as me. Then there's "site favorites" where Cubby the Pomeranian from New Jersey is top dog. Cubby has 5,902 pup pals, 29 virtual bones, and too many stars to count. Her profile has been viewed 267,463 times. That's what is so great about Dogster...so many virtual noses to sniff, and so little time.

You can meet me on Dogster at www.dogster.com. Search for "Bunny" in "Mount Vernon". Throw me a bone or better yet, be my pup pal.

Bunny the Dog

Lakes Country cat show to be held March 29-30



Okay, he's a shelter cat, not a full-blooded Maine Coon. But if you want to see Maine Coons and lots of other breeds, be sure to attend

the Lakes Country Cat Fanciers Association show, which will be held on March 29 and 30 at the Expo Center in Springfield (635 St. Louis Street).

A cat show is a unique experience and well worth the price of admission. And if you've been yearning to see a Cornish Rex in the flesh (or fur), now's your chance!

SNAP volunteers will be helping out in the show rings. We hope to see you there. For more information, visit the Lakes Country website at <http://www.cfamidwest.org/lakes.html>

By the numbers: 2007 in review

Last year was another busy one for SNAP. Here are the nuts and bolts (or cats and dogs):

1,607—Number of certificates issued, 517 for dogs and 1,090 for cats

\$22—The average cost paid by SNAP for a certificate

57.8%—Percentage of clients served who reside in Greene County

80%—percentage of clients whose pets were not current on rabies shots

3—number of *intact* pets in an average SNAP client household

\$1,002—monthly household income of an average SNAP client

\$68,102—the amount we took in

\$61,074—the amount we spent

Special Thanks

- ◆ We would like to thank these fellow animal lovers who became honorary lifetime SNAP members in 2007: **Barbara Brockschmidt, Lynn & Sandra Burks, Kay Mathews, Dorothy McNamara, Dorothy Michael, Becky Seigel, and Cindy Turner.** Your support of SNAP makes it all worthwhile.
- ◆ A very special thanks to supporters **Lisa Koontz** and **Judy Versaw.** Lisa and Judy, you're the best!
- ◆ Our heartfelt thanks to **Bullseye #31** convenience store in Nixa. Our donation canister there has brought in more than \$650 in the last two years. We sincerely appreciate your support of SNAP.

Spotlight On ...

SNAP pets



Hello to all you SNAP people. My name is Skooter. I'm a one-year-old shepherd/husky mix. I live in Branson with my two humans and one cat (ugh!). I'm really glad to be fixed, but I just wished it had been done sooner. I'm so laid back now that the cat doesn't know what to think!

ArfFest to be held April 27

On Sunday, April 27, plan to take your dog to ArfFest, the first year of this ArtsFest spin-off event. Join other dogs and their people from 1-6 pm at the Jefferson Ave Footbridge on historic Commercial Street. Activities include a Pet Pageant, Pets of the Past, Plein Air Pets, and booths featuring rescue groups and pet supply services. Admission is \$3 (children 10 and under free). Call 417-864-7015 for more details.



SNAP annual meeting to be held on May 20 at Lake Springfield

Looking for something to do with your dog this spring? Make plans now to join us at the SNAP annual meeting. In the past, we've held the annual meeting at the Library Center. You know the routine—rows of chairs, a PowerPoint presentation, and so on. But no more! We decided it would be more fun to have the event outside so that our members could bring their dogs along (and cats if you're feeling brave).

The meeting will begin at 6 pm on May 20 and will be a pot-luck affair. We expect a variety of goodies to snack on (including lots of doggie treats, of course). There is no rain date planned so let's hope for good weather!



YES!

I would like to become a member of SNAP to help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Southwest Missouri. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, acknowledgement on the SNAP website, and an invitation to SNAP's annual meeting. (Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible. Payment may be made by check or money order.)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

- \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over)
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$125 Business
- \$500 Lifetime

OR...

- _____ I want to help! Please send information about becoming a SNAP volunteer.
- _____ I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.
- _____ Please make a donation in memory of _____
- _____ Please send me information on estate planning .
- _____ I would like to "Sponsor-a-Spay." I am enclosing \$ _____ to sponsor:
 - _____ A specific pet (indicate pet's name) _____
 - _____ The pet at the top of SNAP's waiting list

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