



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

January / February 2012

A Gift Called Buddha

To paraphrase the dictionary - a gift is a present received without compensation due. That was truly our Buddha. He was a beautiful Shih-Tzu born on March 12, 1997 and he passed from this earth on November 25, 2011. Buddha, by all appearances was a dog - he had four legs, a furry body, and a beautiful tail that swept up over his back. But to us he seemed almost human - he gave us the gift of unconditional companionship and love. All he wanted was to be with us - go where we went - eat when we ate - sleep where we slept - live our lives with us. And that he did. We used to laugh and say he let us live with him, certainly never the other way around.

Buddha became a Registered Pet Therapy Dog in the spring of 1999. Yes, passed even the part where he had to "sit & stay" while I walked away - quite a feat for a dog that never was more than a few steps away from his "family". He made visits to nursing homes, hospitals, and libraries. Once again, he gave the gift of love...sitting in laps, soaking up affection, and helping bring back lots of memories to folks who had long since had to give up their own four-legged companions. To some he was the link to a relationship that once was.

Buddha shared his home with his other family member - a four-legged one. Buggy, a rescue Shih-Tzu, came to live with us a decade ago. And while I'm sure Buddha treasured his "only child" status, he was ever so accepting of the challenges of a newcomer to the household... waiting patiently by the food dish while Buggy got the best food, sharing his toys with him and putting up with being Buggy's "pillow" when he chose to put his head on Buddha when he needed a cozy place to snuggle. Once again, being a gift - the gift of companion to a needy soul.

The final gift was his quiet passing. He lived hard and full until the very end. In less than a day his body went from full activity to inactivity. He left no doubt that his fate was in our hands. With the knowledge that he would not have it any other way, we said our goodbyes - full of snuggling, kissing and tears - and took that final gift of more than fourteen years of treasured time filled with laughter and love and tucked it deep in our hearts.

So with this writing, I ask you about the "gift" in your life...

If you have a "gift", won't you remember them with an honor donation to SNAP? Or if, like us, you have lost your "gift", won't you remember them with a memory donation to SNAP? And if this story of Buddha has touched your heart - it would be an honor to have you remember him with a donation to SNAP.

You see, it is only through continued efforts of organizations like SNAP that we can have confidence that the dreaded pet overpopulation can be brought under control. Without your help we can't ensure that all pets have the chance to be some family's "gift"!

Thank you for all you do to help with this worthy cause. Buddha's family,

Steve, Becky & Buggy Seigel



Volunteer Opportunities

- *Plan a fundraising event
- *Help at tabling events - Artsfest, Dogfest, Pets & Pumpkins
- *Education – Talk at area schools
- *Dog Bandanas – buy material, cut, or sew
- *Donation Canisters – monthly pickup @ area businesses
- *Donate ink cartridges for recycling
- *Attend our monthly meetings with your ideas
- *Spread the word about spay-neuter

In Memoriam

Mr. Bear
Maddie
Buddha
Callie

CAN YOU HELP?

Case # 7 – Ruth is a single grandparent raising her disabled grandson. Their only income is a disability check. She picked up a female Shih-Tzu mix at the nearby Wal-Mart. They would love to keep her but can't afford to spay her. The cost to fix Misty is \$55.00.

Case #8 – Beth lives just outside Springfield, MO. She was given a female Pit-bull that has now had two litters. She kept one of the puppies who is now 3 months old. She heard about us at the food pantry and would like to get both dogs spayed but has no money to put toward it. The cost to get both dogs fixed is \$140.00.

Case #9 – Katie lives east of Springfield and had two female cats show up pregnant. The mamas left as soon as the kittens were weaned so Katie now has ten 3-4 month old kittens to fix. With a monthly income of under \$1000/month, it's a struggle. She has spayed the 2 female kittens already thru SNAP but needs help with 8 males. Total cost for the 8 males is \$240.

If you are able to help fix any of these animals, please send your donation to SNAP, PO Box 14354, Springfield, MO 65814. You can specify on the memo line which case you would like to help. In the event the case you specify has already been helped by another caring donor, your contribution will be used to help a different but equally in-need pet owner as determined by the SNAP team. Thank you for your support!

World Spay Day is an annual event of the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International to inspire people to save animals' lives by spaying or neutering pets and feral cats. World Spay Day officially takes place on the last Tuesday of February - but events will be running all through the month! The 17th annual World Spay Day is February 28, 2012.



We need your support!

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 _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | |

- 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 accept a donation in memory of _____.
_____ I would like to set up a monthly gift as an automatic withdrawal. Please contact me!
_____ 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.
_____ Case # _____ on page 2 of this newsletter.

Mail to: SNAP / P.O. Box 14354 / Springfield, MO 65814 / (417) 823-7627
www.snap123.org / spayneuter123@gmail.com

Attend a SNAP meeting!

3rd Monday of each month

The Library Center 4653 S. Campbell

Check our website for any change in schedule.

HOW TO CONTACT US

PO Box 14354 / Springfield, MO 65814 / 417.823.7627
www.snap123.org / spayneuter123@gmail.com
Or see us on Facebook

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