



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 10

December, 2004

Community Involvement—the Key to Success

Imagine a day when “euthanasia” is no longer tolerated as a means of population control in animal shelters. Does it sound like an impossible dream to you? Well, those of us who study national trends in the humane movement feel an energizing sense of hope. Every day, we learn about (and shamelessly copy and plagiarize) successful new programs and innovative ideas developed by humane groups all around the country. From Kanab, Utah (pop. 3,564) to New York City (pop. 18.9 million), “euthanasia” is no longer being accepted as a “necessary evil.”

In the 1970s, 100 animals were euthanized every year per 1,000 of human population. By August 2003, that number had dropped to 15. That’s a huge decrease, but more than four million animals are still being killed in shelters every year.

So what is the answer? How can we finally end the killing?

It should come as no surprise that there isn’t a magic formula for success...a “one size fits all” solution to pet overpopulation. There do appear to be a few common denominators, however: strong leadership, unity among local animal welfare groups, and widespread community involvement.

Ithaca, New York is one of the safest places to be a homeless animal. When Nathan Winograd was hired as Executive Director of the Tompkins County SPCA in June 2001, however, the shelter was in sad shape. The TC-SPCA was responsible for the area’s animal control, and no animal could be turned away. On his second day on the job, a litter of puppies was dropped off, and the shelter staff asked their new leader

which animals they should euthanize to make room. Nathan asked for another option. None was forthcoming, so he brought in a horse trough and set it up in the lobby for the puppies. The puppies were quickly adopted, and the TC-SPCA went “no-kill” overnight.

The “can’t do” staff was soon released and replaced by a “can do” staff. A foster program was established to handle the overflow of animals. Local merchants even fostered homeless animals in their places of business! Volunteer and donor support increased dramatically as people saw that these efforts were producing results, and their financial contributions would not be used to kill animals.



Nathan had simply drawn the line; he decided that *no adoptable animal would be killed on his watch*. Before long, the TC-SPCA was able to treat injured animals and diseased animals, so animals once considered “unadoptable” were making it out the door alive.

Nathan did not subscribe to the notions that

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“there aren’t enough homes for them all” and “we can’t save them all.” He believed that a shelter staff or Board of Directors that clings to these pessimistic notions is doing a disservice to the animals they are charged with sheltering and protecting.



Nathan’s goal was simple and clearly defined: Stop the Killing. His goal was measurable: 100% of adoptable animals were to leave his shelter alive. With this simply stated, easily measurable goal and sheer determination, he was able to win widespread community support for his shelter.

By the time Nathan left New York this past summer to launch a new business in California, the only animals being euthanized in Ithaca were terminally ill, suffering animals or those who were truly vicious beyond hope of rehabilitation.

Although innovative adoption methods are critical for saving the lives of shelter animals, we cannot adopt our way out of the pet overpopulation problem. We can build more shelters, but they will fill up immediately, and we will not gain ground unless these improvements are supplemented with an affordable, accessible, high volume spay/neuter program targeted toward low income pet owners and

supported through public funding.

In 1993, New Hampshire initiated a statewide spay/neuter program targeting low-income pet owners. The program is funded entirely by a \$2 surcharge on dog licenses, and every dollar spent on this program has saved \$3.15 in reduced impoundment costs. By 2000, the state reported that the state’s euthanasia rate had declined to 2.2 animals per 1,000 of human population (second only to Ithaca’s), proving that spay/neuter saves lives *and* taxpayer dollars.



The groundwork has been laid in New Hampshire, and Maine recently followed suit with its own statewide program. Implementing a spay/neuter program in Springfield should be a piece of cake by comparison.

It *can* be done...if we work together.

~ Kathi McDermott, Executive Director

To learn more about New Hampshire’s program, visit www.bestfriends.org. Go to No More Homeless Pets/Regional Programs/Model Programs.

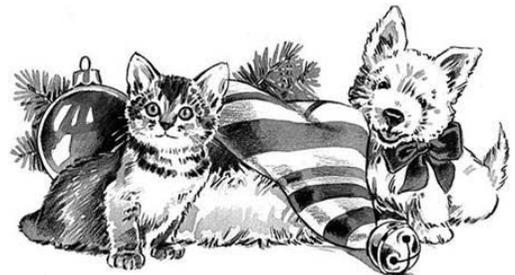
All I Want for Christmas....

Dear Santa (or anyone else who is reading this),

SNAP volunteers have worked SO hard this year to try to end pet overpopulation and give us a chance for happy lives. But there are still many pet owners out there who need to fix their pets. If you can help, then we won't have to compete with so many kittens and puppies for good homes. Please bring SNAP the following items. They're doing such a great job, and they can do even more with your help!

- Cash donations (these help save lives, plus they're tax deductible!)
- Empty printer cartridges - SNAP gets money for recycling them!
- Gift certificates for office supplies (Office Depot, Office Max, Staples)
- Gift certificates from local fabric stores for the Sewing Circle
- Long distance pre-paid calling cards
- Best Choice UPC codes, Price Cutter Community Bucks & Summer Fresh grocery receipts
- Clear stackable plastic storage bins
- 4-drawer filing cabinet
- Envelopes and postage stamps
- Pre-paid monthly rental on a storage unit in Springfield (for SNAP's stuff)

Sincerely,



Southwest Missouri's Homeless Animals

P.S. SNAP doesn't have a house or a chimney, so if your gift is too big to fit into their post office box, can you please call them to arrange pick up? Thank you...and Happy Holidays!

Extremely Useful Dog Training Tip

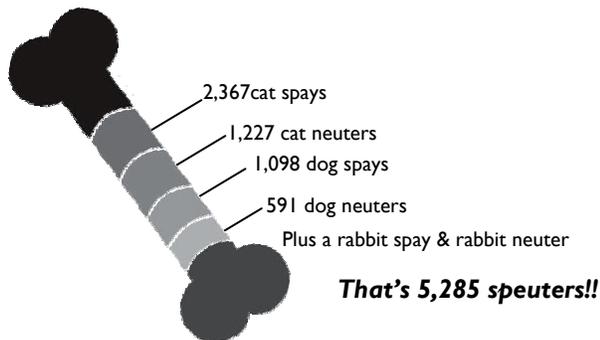
A rolled up newspaper can be an effective training tool when used properly. For instance, use the rolled-up newspaper if your dog chews something or has a housebreaking accident. Take the rolled-up newspaper and hit yourself over the head as you repeat....

"I FORGOT TO WATCH MY DOG; I FORGOT TO WATCH MY DOG."

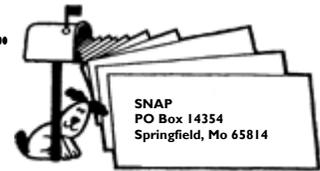
This is the only time a rolled-up newspaper should be used in training.

If your dog laughs at you when you do this, praise him.

Where The Money Goes!



To Contact Us...



Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.
P. O. Box 14354
Springfield, MO 65814
Phone: (417) 823-SNAP (7627)
E-mail: snap123@att.net
Web address: www.snap123.org

93% of SNAP's budget pays for spay/neuter surgeries, and 7% goes toward operating costs. SNAP pays no salaries or rent.

SNAP is a Missouri 501c3 not-for-profit corporation.

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

End Pet Promiscuity...Sponsor a Spay!

The guardians of the pets named below are just a few of those who have asked SNAP for assistance in fixing their flirtatious felines and philandering Fidos. Visit our web site for a complete listing of the 100+ pets currently awaiting sponsors. If you would like to sponsor one of these pets (or two or twelve or twenty...), we thank you! Your \$25 donation will sponsor a cat; \$40 will sponsor a dog. Your generosity truly *saves lives!*

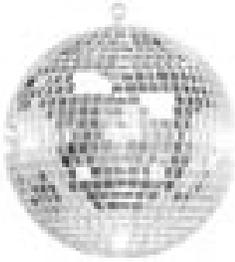
Kittens and cats awaiting sponsors:

- ☛ Mouse, 3MO/F Siamese Mix
- ☛ Clown, 8MO/F tortie
- ☛ Felicity, 8MO/F, black feral (wild)
- ☛ Kiara, 2YO/F, Siamese w/ dark points
- ☛ Silk, 2YO/F, long haired, gray
- ☛ Dusty, 6MO/F, short haired, gray
- ☛ Bob, 2YO/F, long haired, orange
- ☛ Baby Kitty, 4MO/F, short haired, black
- ☛ Mama, 1YO/F, short haired, black
- ☛ Fluffy, 8MO/F, long haired white/dark points
- ☛ Coon, 1YO/M, short haired, white
- ☛ Ghost, 5YO/F, short haired, gray calico

Puppies and dogs awaiting sponsors:

- ☛ Betsy, 5MO/F, Beagle/Blue Tick
- ☛ Harley, 3YO/F, Rottweiler
- ☛ Squirrel, 4MO/F, Lab/Rottie
- ☛ Sissy, 8MO/F, Rat Terrier, white & brown
- ☛ Patches, 2YO/F, Chow/Border Collie
- ☛ Taz, 2YO/M, Collie/Lab
- ☛ Blacky, 6YO/F, Lab/Chow, black
- ☛ Orphan, 1YO/F, Chow Mix, black & white
- ☛ Mischievous, 1YO/F, Chow Mix, B&W
- ☛ Dufus, 3YO/M, Hound/Boxer, brindle
- ☛ Einstein, 5YO/M, Chow mix, roan
- ☛ Sadie, 4YO/F, Boxer, fawn

Sponsored by Winery; People in Finery... SNAP Fundraiser Raises \$3,700!



On November 21, more than 200 SNAP supporters, decked out in their finest finery, gathered at a wine tasting fundraiser at the Vandivort Ballroom. That morning, SNAP elves, fairies, and a hobbit or two had festooned the ballroom with Christmas garlands, ribbons and wreaths. In the center of the grand ballroom, under the mesmerizing glitter of a spinning mirrored ball, was a bejeweled 12-foot Christmas tree. Intermingled with Victorian baubles were 89 hand-crafted, individualized spay/neuter requests from the many hounds and harriers, cats and catlings on SNAP's ever-growing "pets-most-in-need-of-a-fix" list. Guests were encouraged to help penniless pets of their choosing by plucking the ornamented envelope bearing the name, sex, age and breed of a speuter wannabe and inserting a donation to fund that pet's spay or neuter. Partiers eagerly searched the tree to find that special Fox Terrier mix or exceptional calico cat they most wanted to help. By the end of the flurry of activities, 27 enveloped pleas for assistance had been answered by bighearted donors surrounding the yuletide tree.

SNAP simultaneously displayed three silent auction tables, laden with exquisite African wooden carvings and bowls, antique silver table service pieces, original artwork, a handmade quilt, and countless other choice items, all generously donated by SNAP supporters. Among the most coveted was a generous donation by local veterinarian and SNAP Board member Dr. Mike Divine—a certificate entitling the highest bidder to a full year of premier quality pet care!



Dr. & Mrs. Mike Divine

Whispering Oaks Vineyard and Winery provided eight of their tantalizing wines for our tasting pleasure. Local restaurateurs supplied delectable cheeses, hors d'oeuvres, appetizers and desserts for guests to enjoy as they sipped fine wine and listened to the dreamy swing band music of The Moonlighters.

The final fundraising component consisted of a 50-50 raffle. Guests bought tickets in hopes of winning half of the proceeds. Nearly every partier purchased at least one ticket, and many obtained \$10-\$20 worth, hoping to increase the "kitty" whether they won or not. All agreed that it was a win-win idea, since half went to the lucky ticket holder and the other half will fix needy pets.

After the gala affair had ended, as SNAP volunteers converted the Vandivort Ballroom back to its original elegance, all agreed that our first annual wine tasting was a huge success. Next year's event promises to be even more spectacular. So, on behalf of many appreciative pets and their grateful owners, thank you, one and all, for your gifts, donations, contributions and above all your ongoing support. You've truly embodied the spirit of the holiday by joining SNAP in our resolve to lead the way to the day when there are no unwanted pets.



Partiers pose for our photographer



The Moonlighters & the Angel Tree

Our thanks to Laurel Bryant, Susan Smith, and Susan Tolliver for making it happen!!

Make 2004 a Happy Holiday for Family and Furry Friends ~ Opt to Adopt!

As most proud owners of purebred or mixed breed pets adopted from shelters, rescue groups or city pounds will attest, choosing one of these “unwanted” animals for a lifelong companion has unlimited rewards. While walking that old dog somebody dumped on campus, a proud owner frequently hears, “What a cute girl!” Adoptive parents of a cat that was abandoned because he was no longer the “precious little kitten” the original owner wanted are informed by guests that their friendly feline is about to be catnapped because he has become such an adorable lap-sitting purrbody.

As the holiday season nears, rather than buying a high-priced pooch or pussycat, “opt to adopt” from your local pound, rescue group or shelter. You can even find your furry friend online by visiting www.petfinder.com. Just take a leisurely look at the adorable creatures waiting to be whisked away into a life of luxury and love. Then make a dream come true!

When deciding on your new best friend, be sure to take into account your lifestyle and the energy level of the pet. Then insure the good health of your new family member with a trip to the vet for a check-up, vaccinations, and that all-important spay or neuter surgery!

The friend you’ve been waiting for is waiting for you, too, and you will find that *nothing* matches the love or loyalty an older pet has for his rescuer. So, best wishes to you and your adoptive pet for the holiday, the new year, and many happy years to come.



Solutions!

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