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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 07, Issue 3 • July 15, 2007

Meet Jake

Jake is a German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP) mix that had been turned over to Animal Control by his previous owners just before Thanksgiving last year. "Too active," they said. Even though he was only one and a half years old, it was were already the fifth place to reject him. Fortunately for Jake, Animal Control posted his information on the Internet, and one of the SOS Animal Rescue foster volunteers took an interest.

A visit to the shelter showed him to be a friendly, relatively calm fellow with a very expressive face. One flash of his "you really COULDN'T leave me here, could you?" pose and the volunteer was hooked. After the animal control adoption paperwork was completed, he was on his way to his new (foster) home.

After a brief quarantine to ensure he wasn't carrying any communicable diseases and a good health check by the veterinarian, he was able to interact with foster mom's other dogs and found a new best friend with her one-year-old GSP. In the house, he was well behaved (no chewing) and housebroke almost immediately, even though the last owner had told Animal Control that he was not a house dog. He also already knew some basic commands like *sit*, *stay*, and *come*.

In addition, Jake turned out to be quite the entertainer. The previous owner had said that Jake liked playing with balls—what an understatement! Not only did he like having them thrown to chase and bring back (practically a given for any dog with GSP in its background), he was also capable of tossing them up in the air (by himself) and catching them, or flinging them behind his back and then turning around and catching them before they hit the ground!

Although it took a few months to find a permanent home for Jake, the perfect match finally came along. Now he lives in a beautiful house with an adoring mom and dad.

Stories like the one above are why I am a fostering volunteer with SOSAR. If you have room in your home and in your heart to foster a homeless pet, please contact SOSAR today to find out how you can get started. There are lots of good pets out there like Jake that just need a little TLC and a little extra time to find their "forever" home.

By Ann Gulau.



SOS EVENTS

Sunday, July 15
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, July 16
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

Saturday, July 21
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Wednesday, July 25
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park at Midland Dog Park

Saturday, August 4
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, August 5
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, August 8
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park at Midland Dog Park

Saturday, August 18
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, August 19
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, August 20
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

Wednesday, August 22
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park at Midland Dog Park

Saturday, September 1
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, September 2
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, September 15
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, September 16
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, September 17
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

*Adopt-a-Thons may be cancelled
if no pets are available for adoption.*

Why Spay or Neuter? They can't read. They can't write. But they sure can multiply!

Companion pet overpopulation is an overwhelming, yet preventable tragedy across the United States. Millions of dogs, cats, kittens, puppies and other animals that would otherwise be adoptable are euthanized each year simply due to the lack of available homes. Please do your part and have your pet sterilized (spayed or neutered).

Many health, behavior, and other benefits to having your pet sterilized include:

- You are not adding to the pet overpopulation problem. Because the companion pet population grows much more rapidly than the human population, there simply are not enough homes. In just seven years, one unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens!* In six years, one unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies (source: Humane Society of the United States)! This results in the euthanasia of millions of loving, healthy yet homeless pets.
- Preventing unwanted behaviors. Sterilized male dogs and cats are less likely to fight with other males or mark their territory.

Sterilization will eliminate many undesirable behaviors in female cats who would otherwise frequently be in heat. Pets are also less likely to slip out of the house or yard to find mates. Each year, thousands of roaming animals in search of mates become lost or are hit by cars, resulting in needless suffering or death.

- Positive effects on your pet's personality. Sterilized animals tend to be less aggressive, better socialized and more affectionate since all of their attention will be focused on you, rather than on the urge to breed.
- Preventing many illnesses and large veterinary bills. Spaying females before they ever go into heat greatly reduces their chances of developing mammary, ovarian or uterine cancers or uterine infections. Neutering male pets virtually eliminates the risk of testicular tumors or prostate problems. All of which could lead to expensive veterinary bills.

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem! There simply are not enough homes. Please spay or neuter your pets.

Reprinted from the Michigan Humane Society.

Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of its tail.

- Josh Billings

Pet Food Recall Update: ASPCA Believes Fear of Acetaminophen in Pet Foods to be Unfounded

Pet parents justifiably alarmed by the recent news of acetaminophen contamination in cat foods can rest easy. ASPCA experts have kept close contact with veterinary toxicologists at the University of California (Davis), who conducted independent tests on cat foods to analyze for this contaminant. Based on their negative findings—which support those of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as reported in the press—we believe that fears of widespread acetaminophen contamination are unfounded.

“A few weeks ago, we received three cans of cat food supplied for testing by an individual pet owner,” says Dr. Robert H. Poppenga, a board-certified veterinary toxicologist running the Toxicology Section of the California Animal Health and Food Safety System at UC Davis' School of Veterinary Medicine. “We were told that this was the same food that had tested positive for acetaminophen and cyanuric acid at a private laboratory in Texas. We immediately began conducting our own rigorous tests on these foods, and all the samples came back negative for this type of contamination.”

Adds the ASPCA's Dr. Steven Hansen, a board-certified veterinary toxicologist and Senior Vice President, ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, “The bottom line is that neither did the FDA's tests confirm the presence of acetaminophen, nor did those conducted by UC-Davis—nor has the APCC managed any clinical cases to date. As a result, we want to reassure the public that, based on this information, we believe any fear of acetaminophen contamination in pet food is unfounded, and pet parents should rest easy on that account.”

For more information about pet food recalls, visit www.ASPCA.org and click on “Pet Food Recall Resource Center.”

Reprinted from www.ASPCA.org.

Is Something Bugging Your Pet?

Q: *Are Japanese beetles poisonous to dogs? My dog loves to search for bugs and often catches these insects.*

A: No. *Popillia japonica*, the Japanese beetle, is not known to be toxic to pets. However, these iridescent pests do have very hard exoskeletons, and physical irritation to the gastrointestinal tract can occur in addition to general stomach upset from ingesting the insect. The bottom line? While eating a Japanese beetle might make your dog vomit, you need not be concerned about him becoming poisoned as a result.

Q: *My cats play with and then eat crickets. Could this cause problems?*

A: While we have no data demonstrating that common cricket species are toxic to pets, the ingestion of insects can produce mild gastrointestinal upset. Whenever possible, discourage your cats from consuming crickets.

Reprinted from www.ASPCA.org.

SOS Needs Foster Families!

With the warm weather and limitless outdoor activities, this is a perfect time of year to consider helping out pets in need.

SOS needs foster families to fill the void between the number of pets needing forever homes and the number of pets that are euthanized annually. This year, Midland County Animal Control euthanized 1853 animals and placed only 217 into new homes. SOS helped to place over 100 additional pets in homes in 2006. As you can see, there is room for improvement.

In Midland, SOS hosts Adopt-a-Thons every other Sunday from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at PetSmart, in addition to the alternate Saturday Adopt-a-thons at the local Petco. Animals are being adopted faster and the demand is higher due to increased exposure to the public through these adoption events. In order to keep up with the demand, volunteers are needed to become foster families for either dogs or cats. A foster family works with an SOS director to find pets that are most in demand and most easily adopted. The family then houses the animal, cares for it, and helps to learn about its social skills during the two-week quarantine period. After that, the pet is available to travel to the Adopt-a-Thons and begin the search for a suitable home. Expenses are reimbursed; the thrill of saving an animal by placing it with a loving family is free and forever!

Another benefit? Animals can help put a spring back in your step. Statistically, pet owners have lower stress, fewer medical bills, lower blood pressure, less heart disease, and better mental health. Also, having a dog is a reason to walk outside and enjoy our imminent warmer weather (Scruffy needs that exercise, too!) and help with any weight-loss goals.

Contact SOS Animal Rescue at 689-6198 or sosar@charter.net. Visit SOS on the web at www.SOSAnimalRescue.org. Help to make this a great new year for you, a loving family, and a pet need.

THANK YOU!

Ron Lard

Mary Turner

To all who supported SOSAR with donations, pet parade, annual rummage sale, and various events. Without you and your support, we could not assist those in need.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM!

Sandra Simmons

Paul and Pam Vammer

Sarah Wiley



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO
SOS ANIMAL RESCUE
ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!**

**Fill out and mail this form with your
tax-deductible contribution today!**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to
SOS Animal Rescue
P.O. Box 1135
Midland, MI 48641

This is a gift in honor of _____

This is a gift in memory of _____

Please notify the following of this honor/memory gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____



Bark in the Park

Don't miss Bark in the Park from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, August 8, and August 22 at the Dog Park in Midland. The program includes brief educational presentations on pet related issues, door prizes, and plenty of time for your dog to run and enjoy the park with other dogs. No pre-registration is necessary.

Feline Diabetes

What Is Feline Diabetes?

When a cat ingests food, the digestive system breaks down that food and then converts part of it to glucose, which enters the bloodstream. The cells of which the body is composed absorb this glucose for energy. Insulin is the hormone that signals the cells to take up the glucose – without it, the glucose stays in the blood.

In a normal system, the arrival of food stimulates the pancreas to dispense insulin. More food, more insulin. At its simplest, diabetes is a disorder in which insulin is not produced by the pancreas. There are forms of diabetes where insulin is produced and dispensed, but the cells don't "hear the message"—though the mechanism is different, the outcome is similar.

Damage Caused By Feline Diabetes

Some of the damage diabetes does to the body is due to the glucose staying in the blood, but a lot is due to the fact that for lack of glucose, the cells malfunction. The body begins to die of starvation because cells cannot reproduce themselves when their life span is complete (a matter of days or weeks).

If a diabetic cat does not receive the necessary treatment, the cells of the muscles die off and cause nerve damage, causing the cat to have an irregular gait or the inability to stand, sit or lay down properly. Then the major organs are attacked, killing the cells required for normal organ function. The organs begin to fail, one by one, usually starting with the kidneys. It can be a matter of days or into weeks before death mercifully occurs for untreated cats and can be considered a slow torture.

How Feline Diabetes Is Diagnosed

Diabetes is sometimes diagnosed as the result of a routine blood test, and the luckiest cats are treated before symptoms show up. Most are diagnosed because the owner noticed one or more of the primary signs:

- PU/PD
PU = polyuria (frequent or excessive urination)
PD = polydipsia (frequent or excessive drinking)



- Weight loss despite eating well. The diabetic is hungry, eats more, but loses weight anyway. Some organs will attempt to correct the problem—the kidneys, for instance, try to clear the excess glucose from the blood and go into high gear. They use a lot of water for this, so the diabetic feels thirsty all the time, and urinates huge amounts of dilute urine with sugar in it.

Because of this extra effort, the kidneys are usually among the first organs to show damage from diabetes, although one tends to notice eye and nerve damage first due to their sensitivity. If there is damage at the time of diagnosis, the diabetes has been there for quite a while and is severe.

Diabetes, although simple in concept, turns out to be extremely complex and variable in practice. There are experts who have studied this disease in depth, but most veterinarians rely on guidelines based on average results achieved with large numbers of animals. It's rare for an individual animal to fit nicely into that picture, so both you and your vet have to have an understanding of diabetes and it's treatment so that your pet can be treated effectively and live many more happy years. Sadly, there are still a few who don't recommend that treatment be attempted.

What Will Treatment Of Feline Diabetes Do To Help My Cat?

The object of treatment is controlling the blood glucose so it stays in (or near) the normal range, as it would be if the pancreas were still doing its job. When food is given, insulin has to be available for cellular uptake. Unfortunately, injected insulin doesn't act quite like

natural insulin, and it isn't practical to just shoot a little in every time the cat is going to be eating soon.

Some vets will try dietary control, insulin pills, or oral antihyperglycemics—none of these seem to work well with cats, so most go straight to injected insulin. There are several insulins to choose from, and each cat responds differently to each insulin. Feeding has a huge effect on blood glucose levels, too. It's hard to predict what will work, so the early weeks of treatment are trial-and-error. A few vets will regulate the cat in their office. Most simply choose an insulin and dosage that they figure might work and send the cat home to be regulated by the owner.

Diabetes can be permanent or temporary, stable or variable, or even intermittent—it's a "honeymoon" when the diabetes disappears briefly.

Some Assistance For Diabetic Cat Owners

Diabetes is complex, and trying to understand it all in one big gulp won't work. Once you've made the decision to be a diabetic's caregiver, focus on one thing at a time – follow your vet's advice and get the basics straight in your head. Doubt everyone: lots of people will give you good advice (like me), but no one thing works for every diabetic, and no one technique works for every owner.

As you learn more, keep going back and reviewing the things you already know then fitting the new stuff into the "big picture." The big picture is different for everybody, and you have to create your own. Study everything you can get your hands on, both veterinary and human. Pick up brochures at vets, pharmacies and hospital metabolic centers; take out library books; cruise the web. Question everyone—vets, nurses and doctors, human diabetics, other owners of diabetic animals. Ask the same questions of many people, because you will get widely disparate answers and have to choose for yourself what will work best for you and most importantly, for your cat.

Reprinted from TheCatsite.com. Written by Anne Moss, the founder and owner of TheCatSite.com. She is a cat behaviorist and a member of the Cats Writers Association.

Keeping Cats Inside is Not Just for the Birds

Many people believe that cats must go outdoors to be happy. In fact, cats can be perfectly content living indoors, and those who do have a life expectancy three times longer than a cat allowed outside. There are other compelling reasons to keep your cat safely inside:

- Millions of cats are hit by cars each year.
- Encounters with dogs, other cats, wild animals, and even cruel humans can result in serious injuries or death.
- Unsterilized, free-roaming cats are the single greatest cause of cat over-population, which results in the euthanization of untold millions of cats, as well as suffering and death for countless stray and feral cats.

- Outdoor cats kill hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals each year.
- Outdoor cats are at risk of debilitating parasites such as worms, ticks, mites and fleas, as well as many dangerous and even deadly diseases.

Here are some tips to keeping your cat house-happy:

- Window shelves and secure enclosures such as a screened porch provide endless hours of entertainment and let your cat “monitor” the world outside while remaining safe.
- Quality time playing with your cat every day and activities such as catnip toys, rubber balls, and cardboard boxes will

help keep your cat stimulated when you’re not available.

- Cats love to “graze” on kitty grass planted in indoor pots
- Cats need buddies, too. Two or more cats living in a home can be playmates and provide comfort for each other.

Any cat, even one who “never goes outside,” can easily slip out an open door or window. It is extremely important to keep proper identification on your cat at all times. Even cats who initially resist can become used to a collar and tag and this may be your only hope of finding your pet if he or she should become lost.

Reprinted from the Michigan Humane Society.

SPAY/NEUTER STATISTICS

2005

Female Cats	90
Male Cats	64
Female Dogs	31
Male Dogs	17
Total	202

2006

Female Cats	90
Male Cats	57
Female Dogs	32
Male Dogs	30
Total	209

2007

Female Cats	28
Male Cats	21
Female Dogs	5
Male Dogs	9
Total	63

Midland County Spay/Neuter Program

The Midland County Spay/Neuter Program offers a voucher to help offset the cost of sterilization and is intended to service limited income homes, senior citizens on a fixed income, and other hardship cases. Spaying and neutering all pets is an integral part of any effort aimed at reducing the number of animals destroyed each year. Our program provides assistance to owners who cannot take this important step due to lack of funds. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Midland County Spay/Neuter Program, please fill out the contribution card below.

Midland County Spay/Neuter Program Contribution Card	Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a gift in honor of _____
	Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a gift in memory of _____
	City, State ZIP _____	Please notify the following of this honor/memory gift:
	Contribution Amount \$ _____	Name _____
	Please make check payable to Midland County Spay/Neuter Program P.O. Box 2323 Midland, MI 48641-2323	Address _____
	City, State ZIP _____	



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Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Adam Pavaglio, Vice President
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Carol Arnosky, Treasurer

Mission Statement

SOS Animal Rescue is a non-profit
501(c)3 organization whose mission is
to reduce the number of unwanted pets
in Midland County through placement
and public education.

Board of Directors

Chris Erskine
Shelley Park

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

