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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 07, Issue 4 • October 15, 2007

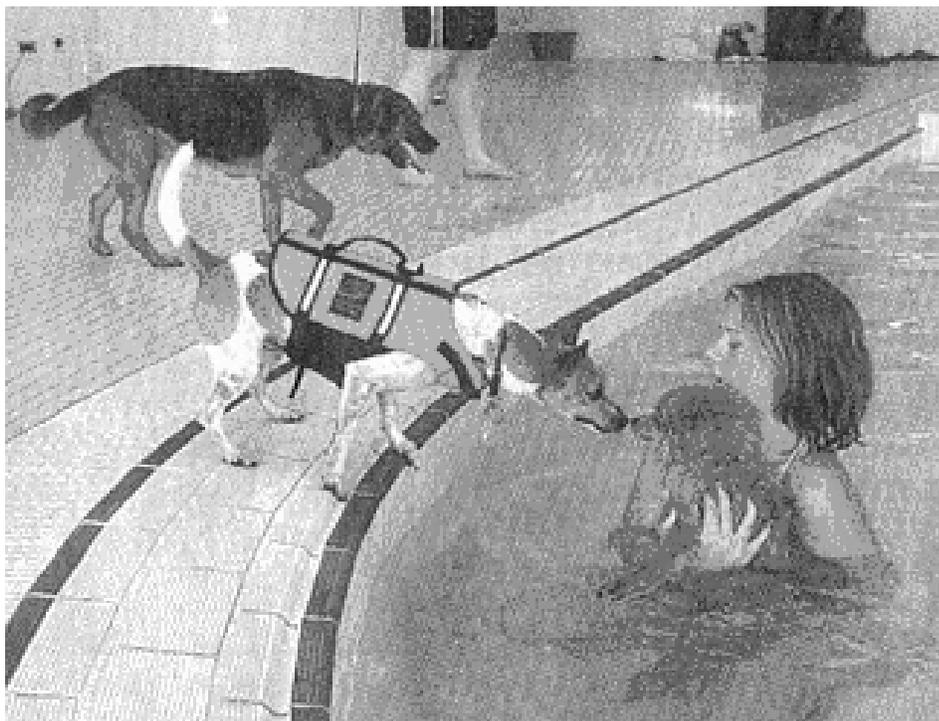
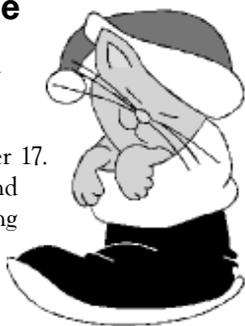
Dog Swim

The Midland Community Center and Northern Animal Clinic sponsored the third annual dog swim at MCC's pool. About 90 dogs participated and proceeds were donated to SOS Animal Rescue.

*Picture reprinted from The Saginaw News.
Photographer and Writer David A. Sommers*

Santa Parade

Come out and join us for the Midland Santa Parade on Saturday, November 17. Meet in the Midland High School parking lot at 9:00 a.m. We need you to walk with us!



SOS EVENTS

Saturday, October 6
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, October 7
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, October 15
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

Saturday, October 20
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at Petco

Sunday, October 21
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, October 27
1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Howl-A-Day Special Event

Sunday, November 4
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, November 17
Santa Parade

Sunday, November 18
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, November 19
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

Sunday, December 2
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, December 16
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, December 17
6:30 p.m.

Monthly SOS Meeting at Library

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

Spay/Neuter Statistics

From 2005 to September 2007, SOS Animal rescue has spayed/neutered 554 cats and dogs (see charts at right).

2007	
Female Cats	54
Male Cats	40
Female Dogs	20
Male Dogs	29
Total	143

2006	
Female Cats	90
Male Cats	57
Female Dogs	32
Male Dogs	30
Total	209

2005	
Female Cats	90
Male Cats	64
Female Dogs	31
Male Dogs	17
Total	202

Differences Between Indoor Cats and Outdoor Cats

Cats have become one of the most popular pets in the world, but indoor cats are sometimes much different from cats that live outside or that are allowed to come and go as they please. In addition to certain physical differences because of being confined to the inside of someone's home, indoor cats typically react much differently to the presence of other animals, and they will usually shed year-round while cats that live outside usually shed only once in the spring.

It is also not uncommon for indoor cats to fluff up and try to appear mean if a strange animal enters the home. This isn't so much because he's a guard cat as the fact that cats are naturally very territorial. In fact, cats don't just claw things to sharpen their nails; they also do it to mark their territory. Not only do claw marks on a tree or sofa indicate the presence of another cat, they also deposit scent from a gland in their paws on whatever they scratch so other cats will know who the boss is. This is a very strong instinct in cats, even if they live indoors. Scratching issues can be taken care of by training indoor cats to use a scratching post or by having them declawed, although veterinarians prefer you simply train them to use a scratching post.

Shedding is a mystery to many owners of indoor cats. It would seem that cats, like other animals, should put on a heavy winter coat and shed in the spring. Instead, most indoor cats shed continually. Actually, cats that live outdoors do shed just once, but indoor cats shed constantly because they are confined indoors. Indoor cats don't shed because they are too warm; it has more to do with exposure to artificial light instead of natural sunlight. Outdoor cats shed in the spring because they are exposed to a certain amount of sunlight, which is a cue to its brain that it is warm enough to lose the winter coat, so they shed. However, indoor cats are in artificial light, which doesn't register the same to the cat's brain. Because the cat's brain detects some kind of imbalance, it sheds constantly.

Indoor cats also live much longer than outdoor cats. In fact, the record for the oldest house cat is over thirty years, while outdoor cats are sometimes lucky to see five years old. Although there are many reasons for this, indoor cats are shielded from many risk factors that outdoor cats may be exposed to on a regular basis. In addition to dealing with the weather, outdoor cats may be attacked by other cats, predators, dogs, and may also be injured or killed by cars. They are also at greater risk because of diseases since many cats that live outside have not had the multitude of shots and immunizations that indoor cats receive.

Another big difference between indoor cats and outdoor cats is that the vast majority of indoor cats have been spayed or neutered. However, getting a cat spayed or neutered makes more of a difference than whether or not they are able to mate. It also determines on whether or not they have the desire to mate and do everything that goes along with the feline mating ritual. Many cats get into trouble because of the desire to mate and where that desire takes them. The need to find a mate causes many cats to become more aggressive than normal and to travel vast distances in hopes of finding a mate. These travels may lead them into areas they've never seen, and they may encounter busy roads, dogs, or any other number of obstacles.

Not getting a cat spayed or neutered has other behavioral repercussions as well. In addition to marking territory with the glands in their claws, cats that aren't fixed usually will spread their scent, sometimes in the form of urine, all over their territory, even if their territory is the inside of someone's house. However, perhaps the biggest difference between cats that are fixed and those that aren't is how they relate to people. Usually cats that have been spayed or neutered don't have a desire to mate or do any of the related activities. Because of this, they are more interested in people rather than darting out the door to find other cats that are in the mood. In many cases, getting a cat fixed makes it a more affectionate and loving pet, provided it is cared for properly.

Indoor cats are also larger than outdoor cats. This is primarily because indoor cats are better fed and cannot roam very far like outdoor cats. So although outdoor cats may be somewhat smaller, they are usually more lean and in better shape. However, this does not guarantee a longer life since outdoor cats will likely face many perils that indoor cats don't even know exist.

Perhaps the biggest difference between indoor cats and outdoor cats are the experiences they will have throughout their lifetimes. Indoor cats are likely to be pampered and well cared for, as well as develop a strong bond with people, especially their owners. However, indoor cats will never be able to roam free like their untamed ancestors. Instead of being faced with the problem of finding food and eluding predators, indoor cats should have very little to worry about, provided their owners are responsible and kind to them. Outdoor cats, even ones that are still pets and are fed by humans, are still much less sheltered than indoor cats and will have to face a dog, car, or predator sooner or later, which is why they have much shorter life spans.

By Jay Patterson from LifeScript Connect Network www.lifescrpt.com.

Keeping Your Pet Safe from Winter Woes

To protect your pet during the cold winter months, follow these safety tips:

- Keep an eye on the temperature. When it falls below 20°F, you'll need to keep all of your pets indoors. Shorthaired dogs, cats, and puppies should be kept indoors when the temperature dips below 40°F.
- Check your garage and driveway for antifreeze and other chemicals. Antifreeze tastes sweet to pets, but most brands can be fatal if consumed. Should your pet ingest any amount of antifreeze, contact your veterinarian immediately. Use a pet-safe antifreeze.
- Keep snow from piling high next to your fence. A packed snowdrift will provide a boost for your dog to jump over the fence and escape the safe confines of your yard.
- Use a damp towel to wipe your pet's feet and underside. Ice-melting chemicals can irritate and burn the pads of your pet's feet and will cause serious injury if ingested. Another way to protect your dog's feet is to spray the pads of their feet with cooking spray or you can purchase boots for your pet.
- Groom your pet's coat. Matted fur won't properly protect your pet from the cold.
- Provide a dry, draft-free doghouse if you must keep your dog outside for any period of time. It should be large enough to allow your dog to sit and lay down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The doghouse should be turned to face away from the wind and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Regularly check your pet's water to make sure it isn't frozen. When your pet is outside, make sure there is plenty of fresh drinking water available. Animals can't burn calories without a fresh supply of water and if they can't burn calories, they can't keep warm. Also, use a tip-resistant, ceramic or hard plastic water bowl rather than a metal one, as your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to cold metal.
- Get into the habit of slapping the hood of your vehicle before starting it. In their search to keep warm outdoors, cats often take refuge next to a warm car engine or tire.
- Consider the amount of exercise your dog receives during colder weather. If your dog stays indoors more, he's probably getting less exercise and may need less food. But if he is outside often he may need more food to burn the calories necessary to produce more body heat.

Howl-a-Day Pet Resort & SOS Animal Rescue
invite you to a special event
on Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 – 6:00 P.M.

THANK YOU!

Anne Applegath

**Andrew Colenbrander
& Sarah Wiley**

Kathleen & Rodney Cook

Wilma Lee Cook

Evelyn Ducker

Tom & Beverly Holtham

**Jefferson Middle School students
for donating from their
Husky Hut candy sale**

Deb Lambesis

**In honor of Nina McCormick
from all her OTP friends
at Midland Public Schools**

Tom Moran

Valerie Murphy

**In memory of
Kyle & Sandi's beloved dog Tank
from Stephanie, Adam,
Makenzie, & Bo Nearman**

Edward Ricks

John & Barbara Rothhaar

**Beth Smith &
Midland Community Center
for donating proceeds
from the Dog Swim**

**Luanne Stickley
for making catnip toys**

Mary Turner & Ron Lard

**In honor of Mary Varner
by her daughter Lori Varner**

October is SOS Membership Drive Month

October is the month to start or renew your SOS Animal Rescue membership. With this affordable membership, you will be helping stray or stranded animals find new homes, and you will also receive our quarterly newsletter to keep up on our progress, local events, educational articles, and memorials and donations for a special person or pet.

- Single Membership, \$15 annually
 Senior Membership, \$10 annually

- Mail newsletter to address at right
 E-mail newsletter to _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Please make check payable to
SOS Animal Rescue
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Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Adam Paveglio, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
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

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

