



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641
989-689-6198
www.sosar@charter.net
www.sosanimalrescue.org

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 08, Issue 2 • April 15, 2008

Freeland Students Donate to SOS

Freeland Middle School students were treated to a sled dog assembly by local Pinconning family, Dave and Linda Hoffman (pictured below), and their two high school daughters, Anna and Katie, who are involved in MUSH (Mid-Union Sled Haulers). Measuring sleds for a math project, hearing about kennel care for dogs, learning about cold weather gear and dog sledding equipment, and petting dogs were all on the agenda. Prior to the assembly, students were busy collecting "wish list" items for SOS. Bags of food, collars and leashes, kitty toys, crates, and blankets were all rounded up to help benefit animals in need.



Charity with Ebay

Do you use buy things on ebay? If so, here's an easy way to raise money for SOS. Using the iGive.com program, a percentage of the proceeds from each auction you win on ebay will be donated to your favorite charity. Join iGive.com and list SOS Animal Rescue as your cause, then use www.iGive.com as the gateway to ebay and let the fund-raising begin. If you have any questions about how it works, send an e-mail to us at sosar@charter.net, and we'll do our best to answer you.

SOS EVENTS

Sunday, April 20

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, May 4

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, May 10

Pet Parade

Sunday, May 18

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, May 21

All Day

Bennigan's Night

Sunday, June 1

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, June 11

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Sunday, June 15

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

June 20-21

SOS Rummage Sale at
St. John's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, June 25

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

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

Spay/Neuter Statistics

From 2005 to January 2008, SOS Animal rescue has spayed/neutered 911 cats and dogs (see charts).

2008

Female Cats	22
Male Cats	9
Female Dogs	5
Male Dogs	6
Total	42

2007

Female Cats	109
Male Cats	70
Female Dogs	30
Male Dogs	41
Total	250

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

DO YOU FEED YOUR DOGS PURINA PRODUCTS?

Save those weight circles and drop them in the SOS donation canister at Soldan's or mail them to SOS Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641. Just another simple way to help the animals!

Tips on How to Help a Stray or Feral Cat

QUESTION: Help! There is a cat in my backyard! She's not letting me get close and scoots away when I come outside. I am feeding her. What can I do to help her?

ANSWER: Congratulations for taking an important first step to help an outdoor cat by providing food and water. If you're like me, you won't call animal control to pick up the cat because you know that its chances for adoption are slim. However, it is important to report the cat to your local animal control if the department tracks lost pets.

The cat is lucky to have found you. The minute you see a stray or feral cat, the clock is ticking for you to schedule a spay/neuter appointment. Regardless of an outdoor cat's sex, it must be neutered (or spayed as it is called for a female cat). Check to see if low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter resources are available in your area.

Female cats are extremely prolific. They mate frequently and can have several litters of kittens a year — even in cold weather. I have even found kittens in icy January here in Washington, D.C. The gestation period for a cat is between 60 and 63 days. And it can be difficult to tell if a cat is pregnant. So, that cat in your yard could give birth in a couple of weeks, maybe under your porch or where you can't find her and the kittens.



The most important thing you need to do is trap the cat with a humane box trap and take her to a veterinarian for spay surgery and vaccinations. Then, bring the cat back to her outdoor home where she can return to her normal routine while you feed and care for her. This scenario is called trap-neuter-return.

As soon as feral cats are spayed or neutered, they become good neighbors. The fighting and howling that you might have heard outside at night will stop. The male cats won't spray to mark their territory or fight over mates, and they will be healthier and happier. The females will not endure two or more annual pregnancies and litters of kittens.

To learn more about trap-neuter-return or how to build an inexpensive cat shelter, visit Alley Cat Allies' website. You also can find tips on how to protect the cats and access Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network to connect with individuals in your area that can give you hands-on help and advice.

By Becky Robinson, www.CatChannel.com expert on feral and stray cats.

An inside cat is a safe cat.

— Anonymous

THANK YOU!

Kathy Baker

Stu & Roberta Bush

Kaite Cook

Wilma Lee & Bob Cook
in memory of Tank Bryson,
loving companion of Lin
Bryson

Diana & Michael Dalton

Ilmars & Margaret Dobulis

Peggy & Ronald Dunham

Marshall Giant

Maggie Graves

Debra Hale

**Freeland Middle School's
Seventh Grade Class**
for dog food, cat food, cat
litter, leashes, pet collars,
blankets, towels, pet crate,
brushes, toys, and funds

David & Mary Haslam

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Heiny

Judy Hensler

Greg & Sallly Hoffman

Tom & Beverly Holtham

Deb Lambesis

Sam MacCutheon

MDL Investments

Harriette Miller

Stephanie Nearman

Julia & John Nosal

Lyuba Pace

in memory of Theresa Priest
from family & friends

Shelley Reid

Hazel B. Rogers &

Linda L. Allen

in memory of Gloria Rogers

Delilah Schwaner

in memory of Edith

Bondarchuk

Jean Spalding

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**Send comments or
interesting rescue stories
to darandrews@gmail.com.**

Pet Food Cookbook

Five dollars buys you an SOS cookbook filled with yummy recipes for feeding your cat (like this sample), dog, bird, and gerbil/hamster. Pet health tips are also included. Pick one up at any of our regular events. They make great gifts too.

FROSTY PAWS

1 qt yogurt
1 medium banana
2 Tbsp peanut butter
2 Tbsp honey

Blend ingredients, pour into
cups or trays, and freeze! They're
inexpensive and dogs love them!



Julia Schneider draws the winning ticket for our Kids' Day at the Mall drawing. Congratulations to the winner, Christian Wilkins.



BENNIGAN'S PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER!

SOS ANIMAL RESCUE IS HAVING A

BENNIGAN'S NIGHT

*...Okay, we'll make it all day!
... Okay, you can use it on our
"On the Go" Curbside and Take Out!*

Bennigan's wants to help us raise money by donating a percentage (15%) of guest checks back to us! Their *B Involved* program is designed to make fundraising simple – and fun! Join us at Bennigan's and enjoy great food in a fun, family atmosphere, all while helping to make money for our organization! Your help in making our fundraising efforts a success is greatly appreciated!

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2008

TIME: All Day: Open to Close

*We are a proud member or friend of the **SOS Animal Rescue organization** and would like to have 15% of our total guest check donated to this group.*

*Complete the information below and enter to win a \$10 Bennigan's Gift Certificate.
Drawing will be held the day after the event.*

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____



Warm Weather Wakes Fleas – How to Prevent Flea Infestations

Itch, itch, scratch, scratch. Like clockwork. Every year dogs all over perform this erratic dance to rid themselves of that blood-guzzling parasite—the flea. What is it about this pesky arthropod that makes it such a daunting foe to dogs and their owners? For one thing, fleas multiply faster than the average fourth grader.

One female can produce enough eggs to infest your entire house. When the eggs hatch the immature fleas, called larvae, go through a cocoon stage. The young fleas mature into the adult fleas we're so familiar with. This life cycle occurs in as few as 14 days, but if the circumstances aren't right—if the weather is too cold—the larvae can hibernate in their little white fortresses for up to five months. They wait for the right moment to break out and start the onslaught.

Fortunately, we have access to products that attack adult fleas (organophosphates, pyrethrins, imidocloprid, and fipronyl), prevent baby fleas from growing (methoprene, fenoxycarb, and pyriproxyfen), and are eaten by adult female fleas to keep eggs from developing (lufenuron). Some products are applied as shampoos, dips, sprays, and foggers, while others are monthly pills or spot-ons.

Which products should you use?

“To prevent flea infestation, start with one of the monthly spot-ons or pills,” said Dr. Carlo Vitale, DVM, a veterinary dermatologist in the San Francisco Bay area. “If you already have a big flea infestation...treat the carpets and the yard with products containing an insect growth regulator.”

Over-the-counter or veterinary products

There are many good veterinarian-prescribed flea products as well as over-the-counter products. Many over-the-counter (OTC) products contain the same active ingredients as those sold at the veterinary hospital, but not always in the same concentrations. Make sure you use the product as intended by the manufacturer.

“When choosing an [OTC] flea product, it's important to read the package label,” said Karen DeCarlo, a spokeswoman at Farnam, which markets OTC flea and tick control products and other companion animal products. “Specific products are meant to be used on specific animals. Using a product intended for a different species can jeopardize your pet's health.” Using a product incorrectly also can be ineffective and is one of the main reasons for treatment failure. The other common reason for treatment failure is neglecting to treat all of the household pets.

Got it straight?

Flea control can be confusing with the varying levels of infestation, number of pets in the household and different product-safety levels. But now you know the types of treatments available. Consult your veterinarian for a treatment regimen tailored specifically for your dog's needs.

Reprinted from DogChannel.com.



Amos: A Prototypic Cat

by Trudy L. Himes

A falling nut, a floating leaf,
A shadow of the sun.
As a prototypic scaredy cat
They put Amos on the run.

Chasing shadows in the yard,
Climbing up a tree,
He's found the secret to his youth,
To play is his decree!

Amos mocks what others do,
But finds that life's most fun
When lounging on the deck all day,
Soaking up the sun!

Amos doesn't nap alone.
To share a bed's more fun.
If you saw the way they sleep,
You'd think the two were one.

Amos studies brother Mo
And copies all he does.
As a prototypic copycat,
He does it just because!



P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641-1135
989-689-6198
sosar@charter.net
www.sosanimalrescue.org

Officers

Heather Kettelhohn, President
Shelley Park, Vice President
Darlene Andrews, Secretary
Karla Oldenburg, 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

Dawn Carsten
Liz Shook

Newsletter Editor

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



**MIDLAND
ANIMAL CLINIC**

PETSMART®