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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 09, Issue 1 • January 15, 2009

Top Ten Reasons to Adopt a Rescue Dog

- 10. In a Word, Housebroken.** With most family members gone during the work week for eight hours or more, house-training a puppy and its small bladder can take time. Puppies need a consistent schedule with frequent opportunities to eliminate where you want them to. They can't wait for the boss to finish his meeting or the kids to come home from after-school activities. An older dog can "hold it" much more reliably for longer time periods, and usually the rescuer has him housebroken before he is adopted.
- 9. Intact Underwear.** With a chewy puppy, you can count on at least ten mismatched pairs of socks and a variety of unmentionables rendered to the "rag bag" before he cuts every tooth. And don't even think about shoes! Also expect holes in your carpet (along with the urine stains), pages missing from books, stuffing exposed from couches, and at least one dead remote control. No matter how well you watch them, it will happen – this is a puppy's job! An older dog can usually have the run of the house without destroying it.
- 8. A Good Night's Sleep.** Forget the alarm clocks and hot water bottles; a puppy can be very demanding at 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. He misses his littermates, and that stuffed animal will not make a puppy pile with him. If you have children, you've been there and done that. How about a little peace and quiet? How about an older rescue dog?
- 7. Finish the Newspaper.** With a puppy running amok in your house, will you be able to relax when you get home from work? Will your kids feed him, clean up the messes, take him for a walk in the pouring rain every hour to get him house-trained? With an adult dog, it will only be the kids running amok because your dog will be sitting calmly next to you, while your workday stress flows away and your blood pressure lowers as you pet him.
- 6. Easier Vet Trips.** Those puppies need their series of puppy shots and fecals, then their rabies shot, then a trip to be altered, maybe an emergency trip or two if they've chewed something dangerous. Those puppy visits can add up (on top of



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SOS EVENTS

Sunday, January 18

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, February 15

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, March 15

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, February 1

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, March 1

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

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

what you paid for the dog!). Your donation to the rescue group when adopting an older pup should get you a dog with all shots current, already altered, heartworm negative, and on preventative at the minimum.

5. **What You See Is What You Get.** How big will that puppy be? What kind of temperament will he have? Will he be easily trained? Will his personality be what you were hoping for? How active will he be? When adopting an older dog from a rescuer, all of those questions are easily answered. You can pick large or small, active or couch potato, goofy or brilliant, sweet or sassy. The rescuer and its foster homes can guide you to pick the right match. (Rescue facilities are full of puppies who became the wrong match as they got older!)
4. **Unscarred Children (and Adults).** When the puppy isn't teething on your possessions, he will be teething on your children and yourself. Rescues routinely get calls from panicked parents who are sure their dog is biting the children. Since biting implies hostile intent and would be a consideration whether to accept a “give-up,” rescue groups ask questions and usually find out the dog is being nippy. Parents are often too emotional to see the difference. A growing puppy is going to put everything from food to clothes to hands in their mouths, and as they get older and bigger it definitely hurts (and will get worse, if they aren't being corrected properly.) Most older dogs have “been there, done that, moved on.”
3. **Matchmaker, Make Me a Match.** Puppy love is often no more than an attachment to a look or a color. It is not much of a basis on which to make a decision that will hopefully last 15+ years. While that puppy may have been the cutest of the litter, he may grow up to be super-active (when what you wanted was a couch buddy); she may be a couch princess (when what you wanted was a tireless hiking companion); he may want to spend every waking moment in the water (while you're a landlubber); or she may want to be an only child (while you are intending to have kids or more pets). Pet mismatches are one of the top reasons rescuers get “give-up” phone calls. Good rescuers do extensive evaluating of dogs and applicants to be sure that both dog and family will be happy with each other until death do them part.
2. **Instant Companion.** With an older dog, you automatically have a buddy that can go everywhere and do everything with you NOW. There's no waiting for a puppy to grow up (and then hope he will like to do what you enjoy.) You will have been able to select the most compatible dog: one that travels well; one that loves to

play with your friends' dogs; one with excellent house manners that you can take to your parents' new home with the new carpet and the new couch. You can come home after a long day's work and spend your time on a relaxing walk, ride, or swim with your new best friend (rather than cleaning up after a small puppy.)

1. **Bond, Rescue Dog Bond.** Dogs who have been uprooted from their happy homes or have not had the best start in life are more likely to bond very completely and deeply with their new people. Those who have lost their families through death, divorce, or lifestyle change go through a terrible mourning process. But once attached to a new loving family, they seem to want to please as much as possible to make sure they are never homeless again. Those dogs that are just learning about the good life and good people seem to bond even deeper. They know what life on the streets, life on the end of a chain, or worse, is all about, and they revel and blossom in a nurturing, loving environment. Most rescues make exceptionally affectionate and attentive pets and extremely loyal companions.

Unfortunately, many folks think dogs that end up in rescue group are all genetically and behaviorally inferior. But, it is not uncommon for rescuers to get \$500 dogs that have either outlived their usefulness or their novelty with impulsive owners who considered their dog a possession rather than a friend or member of the family, or who simply did not really consider the time, effort, and expense needed to be a dog owner. Not all breeders will accept “returns,” so choices for giving up dogs can be limited to animal welfare organizations, such as rescue groups, or the owners trying to place their own dogs. Good rescuers will evaluate the dog before accepting him/her (medically, behaviorally, and for breed confirmation), rehabilitate if necessary, and adopt the animal only when he/she is ready and to a home that matches and is realistic about the commitment necessary to provide the dog with the best home possible.

Choosing a rescue dog over a purchased pup will not solve the pet overpopulation problem (only responsible pet owners and breeders can do that), but it does give many of them a chance they otherwise would not have. But beyond doing a “good deed,” adopting a rescue dog can be the best decision and addition to the family you ever made. Rescue a dog and get a devoted friend for life!

This article has been modified from its original format. The original article was written by Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc. Permission has been granted to freely reprint and distribute this document as long as LRR, Inc at www.lrr.org is credited.

THANK YOU!



Anne Applegath

Dr. Blasko and the staff at Vetmed partnered with SOS to provide low cost surgeries for 22 male cats in 2008.

Gayle Blues

Deb Boots

Mary Byrkit on behalf of Trip

Elizabeth Congdon
in honor of Callie

Jackson & Sara Criswell

Michael & Diane Dalton

The Dow Chemical Company Customer Service Center sponsored a "Pants for the Pantry" drive in which the employees could donate food or money to wear jeans to work for 10 days. One of the days was themed "Pets for the Pantry" with SOS Animal Rescue as the recipient of many donations.

Leslie Foote

Marshall & Julie Giant

J. Hawrelak
in memory of Sandra Dargie

Tom & Beverly Holtham

Michele James
Shelly's Bed & Biscuit
Shelly's Collectibles Norfolk Terriers

Deb Lambesis

Dave & Chris Landon

Larry G. Marshall

Joan Marshall

Michelle McCormick

Harriette Miller

Alison Moldovan

Joan Monahan

Terry & Carleen Moore

J.R. Nosal

Lyuba Pace

Suzanne Paveglio
in memory of Virginia Wroblewski

Teresa Pennington

Deb Perry
in memory of Helen Hudock

PetSmart sponsored Pet Photos with Santa. A portion of the proceeds went to SOS.

Berniece Potter
Charles & Madeline Sasse
Linus & Sylvia Gilvydis
in memory of Lawrence Potter

Ed Ricks

MaryAnne Riffert

Leslie Russell

Cheryl Siegel

Soldan's promoted Pet Photos with Santa in their Bay City, Midland, and Mt. Pleasant stores. We appreciate the fund-raising opportunity. Also a special thanks to Adam Paveglio for being the best Santa in the area.

Special Education - Special Services Midland Public Schools
James Wilson, Katie Cook,
Barb Camp

Sharon & Don Tobias
in memory of
Jonathon Bryce Walters

Alison, Jeff, Shawn, Kylee Voorhis

Sarah Wiley & Drew
Colenbrander

Arnold & Sally Young

A special thanks to everyone who made extra donations while sending in their membership renewals.



SPAY/NEUTER STATISTICS

From January 2004 to December 2008, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 952 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Female Cats	41	90	93	109	88
Male Cats	26	64	57	70	45
Female Dogs	14	31	32	30	41
Male Dogs	13	17	30	41	20
TOTAL	94	202	212	250	194

Dear Abby's Ten Worst Excuses Not to Spay or Neuter Your Pet

1. Just one litter and then we'll have Fluffy spayed. (Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation stems from "just one litter.")
2. My dog doesn't run loose, so he doesn't need to be fixed. (Murphy's Law says otherwise.)
3. We always find homes for the kittens/puppies. (And that means that an equal number of kittens/puppies at the pound will be killed.)
4. I want the children to witness the miracle of birth. (Rent a video.)
5. My dog is so cute and unique, there should be more of her. (The shelters and pounds are full of cute and unique dogs.)
6. It's not natural. (There hasn't been anything natural about dogs since we began to develop breeds thousands of years ago.)
7. I just couldn't look my dog in the eye if I had him castrated. (Watch it, you're anthropomorphizing.)
8. A female dog or cat should have at least one litter for health reasons. (Medically, factually, and ethically indefensible.)
9. Neutering my dog will make him fat and lazy. (Too much food and not enough exercise make a dog fat and lazy.)
10. Fixing my pet will change his personality. (The primary influences on an animal's personality are the kindness and care with which he is raised.)



Young Givers

At Eastlawn Elementary School, Mrs. Hill's 4th- and 5th-graders (pictured above) traditionally have a gift exchange during their holiday party. This year they chose to donate money, dog food, cat food, treats, and other supplies to SOS because of their love for animals. The students understood that there is a need to assist people in our community who are having difficulty providing for their pets, as well as the need to help pets that are being fostered through SOS. The children were happy knowing that their donations will help many pets in their community.

Message from Howl-A-Day Pet Resort's General Manager Beth Albro

This holiday season was financially tough for everyone, but the clients of Howl-A-Day Pet Resort were generous in giving anyway! When told of the need for donations to support the winter food pantry and spay/neuter program, grooming and boarding clients alike bought lots of \$1 raffle tickets for a basket filled with holiday treats and Soldan's gift certificates. Regular Howl-A-Day visitor Hershey Smith was the winner, and a total of \$170 raised went straight to SOS to those in need. Thanks to Howl-A-Day's awesome clients for participating in our holiday fund-raising program. Thank you and good job to all!

Message from Dr. Sepesy & Staff

All of us at Dr. Sepesy's office are animal owners and/or animal lovers. During this holiday season, we wanted to show our support to your organization. We support your service of adoption and understand the cost involved in caring for an animal. We appreciate your services and were glad to help by donating dog food and cat food. Thank you for what you do!

Soldan's Giving Tree

In December, Soldan's let SOS set up a Giving Tree in their store. The Giving Tree is similar to Midland's Sharing Tree; however, the focus is on dogs and cats in need. The program was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone who donated items. We received much needed cat and dog food, kitty litter, food bowls, treats, and gift certificates to Soldan's and VetMed. We are very grateful to the generous donors for these items. We especially want to thank Soldan's for allowing us to set the tree up in their store.

Do you like to talk on the phone? Would you like to volunteer without leaving your home? Then helping with our voicemail system may be the right job for you. We are looking for eager, reliable volunteers with good phone skills to help distribute voicemail messages to the appropriate contact. Call 989-941-2585 and leave a message if interested.

SOS Donation Canisters

We'd like to thank area businesses for having SOS donation canisters:

- Soldan's
- Midland Animal Clinic
- Northern Animal Clinic
- Surrey Vet Clinic
- Auto Technicians on Bayliss
- Scrapbooks Galore & More
- Elvira's
- Larkin Food Store
- D&R Automotive
- One Hour Cleaning
- Service Express Cellular
- The Gourmet Cupcake Place

Toxic Plants

According to Purina Pet Insights, the following list of plants can be toxic to cats and should be removed or placed in areas not accessible to cats. Check with a veterinarian for more information.

English Ivy
Fiddle-Leaf Fig
Foxglove
Geranium
Gold Dust Dracaena
Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy
Hurricane Plant
Jerusalem Cherry
Lacy Tree Philodendron
Madagascar Dragon Tree
Marijuana
Morning Glory
Narcissus
Oleander
Oriental Lily
Peach (wilting leaves and pits)
Plumosa Fern
Poison Ivy
Primrose
Rhododendron
String of Pearls
Sweetheart Ivy
Taro Vine
Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem, leaves)
Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia

Aloe Vera
Apple (seeds)
Apricot (pit)
Autumn Crocus
Baby's Breath
Branching Ivy
Buddhist Pine
Calla Lily
Cherry (seeds and wilting leaves)
Cornstalk Plant
Cuban Laurel
Daffodil
Buckeye
Castor Bean
Chinese Evergreen
Corn Plant
Cutleaf Philodendron
Devil's Ivy
Eucalyptus
German Ivy
Glacier Ivy
Heartland Philodendron
Indian Rubber Plant
Japanese Show Lily
Lily of the Valley



Mistletoe
Mother-in-Law's Tongue
Needlepoint Ivy
Nightshade
Onion
Peace Lily
Pencil Cactus
Poinsettia (low toxicity)
Poison Oak
Red Emerald
Red-Margined Dracaena
Ribbon Plant
Sago Palm
Tiger Lily



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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 Vetmed