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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 09, Issue 3 • July 15, 2009

Fred & Buddy

The Withrows were the proud owners of two delightful female cats, Fred and Buddy. Scott and Pat's son Evan had come up with the names as a youngster, not really caring about whether the cats were male or female. Buddy was a friendly and affectionate orange tabby, and Fred was a loving calico who thought she was a dog. She would follow Scott around the house and often would be waiting outside the bathroom door while he took a shower. Fred would do her "cat bark," which was more like a chirp.

Fred was six years old and Buddy ten years old when Evan began to experience serious allergic reactions to the pets. Scott searched high and low for a home for the cats but to no avail. He knew it would be difficult to find a home for two older cats. But after time, his search led to SOS Animal Rescue.

Scott spoke with Liz to begin a search. That same day, Corey Churchfield called, looking for adult cats for an adult foster home. The chosen cats would be serving as companions and therapy aids. Scott spoke with Corey and the match was made with Fred and Buddy! When Scott brought the pets to Corey's home, he knew right away how safe, comfortable and loved Fred and Buddy would be in their new home. This is a terrific success story, thanks to the great efforts of SOS Animal Rescue!



Evan Withrow and Buddy, Scott Withrow, and Corey Churchfield and Fred.

SOS EVENTS

Wednesday, July 8

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Sunday, July 19

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, July 22

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Sunday, August 2

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, August 12

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Sunday, August 16

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, August 26

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Sunday, September 6

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, September 20

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Monday, September 21

All Day

Bennigan's Fund-Raiser for SOS

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

Pet Parade

This summer's pet parade event at the Farmer's Market brought out many owners and their pets. A good time was had by all who attended.



Protect Your Pet From Falls and Accidents

By Janet Tobiassen Crosby, DVM. Reprinted from vetmedicine.about.com.

As temperatures rise, many people open their home and car windows to let in the fresh air. Most pet owners assume that dogs and cats have a natural sense and sure-footedness to protect them from falls, but this is not always the case. Prevent a tragedy and protect your pet from accidental falls this summer by securing your windows.

Open Windows and High Ledges

One hazard are open windows or other open places such as fire escapes and roofs. Most people assume that cats will land on their feet and that animals will automatically sense danger and be able to "grab on" and not fall from high ledges. However, in what is commonly called "high rise

syndrome," pets, most often cats, have fallen out of windows and been severely injured and/or died from the fall. Contrary to the name, the cat doesn't need to live in a high rise building; a two- or three-story suburban home is tall enough to have a pet experience high rise syndrome.

Cats are known for their ability to land on their feet, a phenomenon called the "cat righting reflex," but this does not mean that they are safe from falls out of windows. A simple, well-secured screen across your window is a worthwhile investment in safety. It is important to note that cats (and other small indoor pets) can slip through amazingly small openings, so be sure to get a strong, complete screen.

Riding in the Car

Years ago, a client came in who had obviously been injured (she had bandages on her hands and she was limping). She mentioned that she was driving along when her large black dog had jumped across her lap to bark at something outside of the driver side window. She lost control of the car and had an accident. Keeping pets "secured" in cars protects not only the pet, but as in this case, the driver too.

Pet Safety Products

Pets are unpredictable, and several products on the market help to keep your pet safe in moving vehicles and open windows, like pet seats, seat restraints, and crates.

Tally Up Tabby's Age

Cats age more quickly than people do, and it can take some pet owners by surprise to learn their pets are already getting old. Your little kitty is a full-grown adult by the time she reaches her first birthday. And if she's age seven or older, veterinarians agree that (for a cat) she's a senior citizen. This list will show her relative age in human years:

Age	Age in Human Years
1	15
2	24
3	28
4	32
5	36
6	40
7	44
8	48
9	52
10	56
11	60
12	64
13	68
14	72
15	76
16	80
17	84
18	88
19	92
20	96

Anonymous Pet Owner Makes Generous Donation to SOS Animal Rescue to Honor Dr. Susan Johnson

Dear SOS Animal Rescue:

I have two black Labradors that I am fortunate enough to have share their lives with me. One has had serious medical issues throughout her life. Dr. Susan Johnson of the Midland Animal Clinic is instrumental in helping my pet have a healthy, high-quality life. Dr. Johnson works constantly to possess the most current veterinary care techniques and medication knowledge. She understands the importance to her patients in having a worthy life experience and applies new medical advances where appropriate.

But it is not just the medical expertise that makes Dr. Johnson a great veterinarian, it is also the deep level of caring and compassion she has for every one of her patients, both the four legged ones that come in on leashes or in carriers and also for their two-legged companions. Dr. Johnson cares as much about how life is lived as much as the medical conditions with which it is lived.

Working in a veterinary setting can produce some very long and tiring days. Regardless of how long the day has been or how many scheduled patients or emergency calls occur, Dr. Johnson gives each of her four-legged patients the attention and focus they need, while also providing their two-legged companions the time to explain, understand, and ask questions about the health and care of their furry family members.

Every day Dr. Johnson provides outstanding medical veterinary care to her patients, and does so in a deeply compassionate and caring manner that strengthens the ties between people and pets. Thank you, Dr. Johnson!

Anonymous

Bark in the Park

On the second and fourth Wednesdays in July and August, join us for fun and companionship at the dog park just west of the Tridge.

If you have any suggestions regarding topics of interest or games for one of the evenings, drop us an e-mail at sosar@charter.net. Drawing for free prizes will also be held at the end of the evening. See you there on July 8, July 22, August 12, and August 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.!



Spay/Neuter Statistics

From January 2004 to June 2009, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 1019 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Female Cats	41	90	93	109	90	33
Male Cats	26	64	57	70	49	11
Female Dogs	14	31	32	30	44	13
Male Dogs	13	17	30	41	20	1
TOTAL	94	202	212	250	203	58

THANK YOU!



Ryan Pelletier and Joe Pelletier
for assembling and mailing the
newsletter

Joelle English and Mary Pudell,
our newest telephone volunteers

Chris Erskine
in memory of Nancy Kocsis

Leslie Foote

Ann Gulau

Jeff Hall

Richard Heiny

Sheryl Hnizda
for putting together the newsletter

Krogers Employees

Jonathon Laundra

Kathleen Laundra

Deborah Michalak
in memory of Rachel Estep

Toni Nelson

For Rosie's medical bills,
thanks go to

George Cooper

John Lastovica, Jr.

Tina Lastovica

Sarah Peterson who donated her
Rotary Club service award

Tad Sumner

Leslie Russell

Arloa Shreve

Kimberly Shreve

Memorials for James Stephenson

Luanne Stickley
for making catnip toys

Sandy Tomczak for printing
and donating mailing labels

To everyone who helped make our
annual rummage sale a success!



For having SOS donation
canisters, thanks go to
Auto Technicians on Bayliss
D&R Automotive

Elvira's

The Gourmet Cupcake Place

Larkin Food Store

Midland Animal Clinic

Northern Animal Clinic

One Hour Cleaning

Service Express Cellular

Soldan's

Surrey Vet Clinic

Preventing Heatstroke in Your Pet

By Janet Tobiassen Crosby, DVM. Reprinted from vetmedicine.about.com.

Hot weather creates additional hazards for your pet. Unlike humans, animals can't change their wardrobe or turn on the air conditioning like humans do. Follow these common sense tips to prevent a heat-related pet emergency.

Besides the obvious (provide shelter and shade, fresh water, and good grooming), here are some tips to help keep your pet cool in the summer heat:

- If your pet is left indoors, is air conditioning available? Will the house stay cool through the heat of the day? Basement access will provide a naturally cool area to keep your pet comfortable.
- For indoor or outdoor animals, a cool water "bath" before leaving for work will provide additional cooling for your pet.
- Is fresh, cool water available at all times? Can your pet spill the water source? Consider installing an automatic pet waterer.
- Do not plan long walks or go jogging in the heat of the day. This can be life-threatening for some dogs. Plan exercise and outdoor activities in the relative coolness of morning and evening time. Be sure to bring along fresh water or a collapsible drinking bowl to allow your pet to get a cool drink when needed.
- Be aware of ways that your pet could accidentally be caught without shade. Is your pet on a tether and could potentially get caught out in the full sun? Will the shade be available all day? While the shelter provides shade, is it hotter inside the shelter? If possible, utilize shade from trees in addition to the dog house, ensuring that there is sufficient shade all day long.
- NEVER leave your pet in the car, even if it is only for a "quick errand." This is very dangerous, even on days that are only mildly warm. If you see a pet locked in a car, please call local animal authorities immediately. You may save a life!

Rosie's Story

Rosie is a black Labrador now available for adoption. She loves people of all ages, dogs, and cats, and most of all cuddling. Contrary to most Labs, her energy level is lower, and she favors slow leisurely walks and the occasional game of fetch. We are looking for a home that will provide Rosie with lots of love and a fenced yard and one that is willing and able to keep her on doctor-recommended medications.

Before Foster

Rosie was picked up as a stray in Midland County in April. No one had claimed this little girl, so she was due to be euthanized in a couple of days. Rosie had several counts against her – she was an older dog (we estimate five to six years old) who obviously had had too many litters of puppies, she had a large growth on her hip, and she was black (any rescue will tell you it's harder to place black dogs). But Rosie stood out from other dogs with her sweet disposition. After a desperate e-mail plea from the Humane Society of Midland County for a foster home, an SOS volunteer pulled Rosie from Midland County Animal Control and began foster care.

Helping Rosie

As with any new dog, a trip to the veterinarian was highest on the list. Tests revealed that fortunately she was heartworm negative and in pretty good shape overall, but she did need to be treated for intestinal worms. She was put on flea and tick and heartworm medications then scheduled her to be spayed and have the hip growth removed.

Unexpected complications during spay surgery plus the cost of removal and biopsy of the growth on her hip (which turned out to be a benign skin tag) led us to seek sponsors to help offset the increased costs for Rosie's medical care. During the initial weeks of foster, Rosie also exhibited a limp which upon x-ray revealed she has severe arthritis in one elbow and moderate arthritis in the other. Even more disturbing was that x-rays showed Rosie had been shot with

a shotgun or BB gun at some point in her past. While the shot did not need to be removed, Rosie was put on pain and anti-inflammatory medication to make her more comfortable walking and negotiating stairways. She'll be on this medication the rest of her life.

Because Rosie wasn't the typical "bounce off the wall" energetic Lab, we tested her thyroid levels. The results were inconclusive; some thyroid indicators were within normal boundaries while others were low. Given the stress of being homeless (possibly shot during this time), spending a couple of weeks at animal control, two more weeks in isolation at a foster home, followed by very difficult surgery and integration into a family with three other dogs, the veterinarian's recommendation is to repeat this blood test later on when Rosie's life is a little less stressful.



Waiting for a New Home

After integrating easily into her foster home with three Golden Retrievers, Rosie has been a stellar foster dog. She's never had an accident in the house, never chewed on anything but dog toys, and wants nothing more than human companionship. Following her foster Mom wherever she goes, Rosie is getting plenty of attention and love. This is a special dog that will make a great pet for the right person.

Bennigan's wants to help us raise money
by donating a 15% of guest checks
back to SOS Animal Rescue!

**Join us at Bennigan's
on Monday, September 21**

All Day, Open to Close

to enjoy great food in a fun, family atmosphere
(curbside and take-out included),
all while helping to make money for SOS!



I am a proud member or friend of SOS Animal Rescue and would like to have 15% of my 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 _____



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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!



Shelley Park • Park Place Homes



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