



**P.O. Box 1135, Midland, MI 48641**  
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**www.sosanimalrescue.org**

SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 11, Issue 2 • April 15, 2011

## National Spay Day Update

SOS Animal Rescue and Midland VetMED partnered in recognition of National Spay Day on February 22 to promote the lifesaving benefits of spay/neuter. Sixteen pets were helped as part of this program. We'd like to thank Dr. Kim Blasko and her team for making this event possible. Pictured from left to right are Noma Defever, Amy Rappuhn, and Dr. Kimberly Blasko.

SOS also participated in the Humane Society's 2011 Spay Day Photo Contest, and we had 29 animals rooting for us. It was a very successful fund-raiser for us, bringing in over \$1450 in donations. More than 29,000 pet lovers entered the 2011 Spay Day Online Pet Photo Contest. Max, representing SOS Animal Rescue, received 782 votes to finish in 22nd place.



## SOS EVENTS

**Saturday, April 9**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Craft Show  
 Midland Community Center

**Sunday, April 17**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Monday, April 18**  
**6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
 SOS Meeting  
 GAD Library Room B

**Friday, April 29**  
**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
 National Adopt-a-thon

**Saturday, April 30**  
**Sunday, May 1**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 National Adopt-a-thon

**Thursday, May 5**  
**1:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  
 SOS Rummage Drop-Off

**Friday, May 6**  
**9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
 SOS Rummage Sale

**Saturday, May 7**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
 SOS Rummage Sale

**Sunday, May 15**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Monday, May 16**  
**6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
 SOS Meeting  
 GAD Library Room B

**Saturday, May 21**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Parade Your Pet at Tridge

**Sunday, June 5**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Wednesday, June 8**  
 Bark in the Park

**Saturday, June 11**  
**10:00 a.m. – dusk**  
 Craft Show in Freeland  
 Tittabawassee Twp Park

**Sunday, June 19**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Monday, June 20**  
**6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
 SOS Meeting  
 GAD Library Room B

**Wednesday, June 22**  
 Bark in the Park

**Sunday, July 10**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Wednesday, July 13**  
 Bark in the Park

**Sunday, July 17**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

**Monday, July 18**  
**6:30–7:30 p.m.**  
 SOS Meeting  
 GAD Library Room B

**Saturday, July 23**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
 Geocache at City Forest

**Wednesday, July 27**  
 Bark in the Park

**Wednesday, August 10**  
 Bark in the Park

**Saturday, October 8**  
 Dirty Dog Trail Run

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

## What You Should Know About Pet Dental Disease

It's not normal for pets to have bad breath! Plaque and tartar form on the teeth of dogs and cats from an accumulation of food particles, organic material, mineral salts, and bacteria. Without regular removal from the tooth surface, this buildup will progress to thick calculus deposits which cause pressure and inflammation of the gums, allowing bacterial infection under the gum tissue. The result of this infection is destruction of bone that holds the tooth in place and spread of bacteria into the blood stream. The bacteria are likely to become lodged in the heart, liver, kidneys, or lungs; damage to these organs will shorten your pet's lifespan.

To give your pet the best life possible, prevention of dental disease should begin at home with use of pet toothpaste or rinses beginning by six months of age, when all adult teeth will be present. Expect that your pet will need a complete dental cleaning (prophylaxis) as early as one to two years old. Your veterinarian will perform this exactly as human dentists clean teeth, by scaling, polishing, and applying fluoride treatment under general anesthesia. By taking this approach to keep teeth clean and prevent disease, you can avoid painful infections and loss of teeth, and you can enjoy your pet's kisses odor-free.

## Upcoming Craft Shows!

**Saturday, April 9**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
Midland Community Center

**Saturday, June 11**  
**10:00 a.m. – dusk**  
Tittabawassee Twp Park  
Freeland



## Geocache for Critters

**Saturday, July 23**

**8:00 a.m. Registration**  
**9:00 a.m. Geocache**  
**at Midland City Forest**  
**\$20 per person • \$25 after July 15**

**989.492.0042**

**[www.sosanimalrescue.org](http://www.sosanimalrescue.org)**

*check our website after May 1 for  
more details and registration form*

*Sponsored  
by*



Shelley Park  
Park Place Homes

# THANK YOU!

Mary Adams

Allen and Elizabeth Archer

Sharon Brady and Bentleye

Brownie Girl Scout Troop 50401  
for cat food, dog food, and toys

Chris Calkins

Wilma Lee Cook

Thomas and Vicki Cox

Terri Fryzel

Michele James  
of Shelley's Bed and Biscuit

Isabella Jansen

Sheila Johnroe

Jennifer Krevinghaus

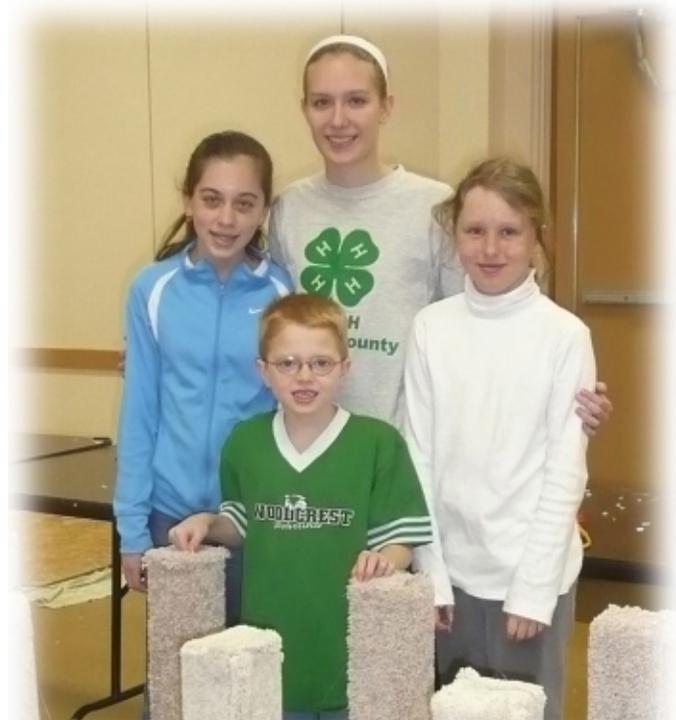
Bob And Stacey McIntyre  
in memory of "Calvin" Near,  
canine companion  
of Dave and Karen Near family

Leslie Russell

Luanne Stickley  
for the great catnip toys

Joann Taylor

Sarah Wiley



The Grey 4H group came through again for SOS Animal Rescue by making eight cat scratching posts. This is the sixth year they have made the posts as part of their community service day. What a super group of kids doing great things:  
Brianna Lewis, Lea Hitchcock, Jenna Oskvarek, and TJ Neuenfeldt.



Daisy Girl Scout Troop 50339 made catnip socks and donated pet food and toys after a pet education visit from SOS volunteer Kimberly.



**Codi Pound, congratulations on recently being selected as United Way's VolunTEEN of the week!**

**VolunTEEN of the Week**

# CODI POUND

Codi attends Central Middle School. She has been volunteering with SOS Animal Rescue for several years. She has helped with adoption and fundraising events, worked as an advocate for homeless pets and has even fostered one of that cats that couldn't find a home.



*"Codi is a very hard working volunteer who loves animals. We are lucky to have her!"*

—Joann Taylor, SOS Animal Rescue

**Congratulations Codi!**

To explore great ways to volunteer, or nominate a deserving teen, call United Way at (989) 631-3670 or visit: [www.unitedwaymidland.org](http://www.unitedwaymidland.org)

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED**



Proudly sponsored by Midland Daily News, Domino's Pizza & Midland Cinemas

# SOS ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

**PLEASE DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS!**

**Thursday, May 5  
1:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**COME AND SHOP!**

**Friday, May 6  
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 7  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
405 N. Saginaw Rd.  
Midland**



## Spay/Neuter Statistics

From January 2004 to March 2011, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 1277 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Female Cats	41	90	93	109	90	64	74	4
Male Cats	26	64	57	70	49	32	40	4
Female Dogs	14	31	32	30	44	28	39	2
Male Dogs	13	17	30	41	20	6	21	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>12</b>

The economic downturn in 2009 and early 2010

resulted in reduced funding for our spay/neuter assistance program. Thanks to generous donors and successful fund-raisers, SOS Animal Rescue restored the program to previous levels in November 2010. We are once again able to fund surgeries for male dogs and increase our assistance to three female pets per family per year. If each surgery prevents one unwanted litter, the spay/neuter program has reduced the number of unwanted pets by over 500 in 2010 and 5000 since 2004.

This program has a huge impact on our community and is needed now more than ever. Last year 100 puppies and 500 kittens were turned into Midland County Animal Control. Where will these unwanted litters end up in 2011? If you know anyone who needs spay/neuter assistance, please contact us at [info@sosar.org](mailto:info@sosar.org) or 989-492-0042 to apply for assistance. Be a part of the solution and spread the word – Prevent a Litter, Fix Your Critter.

## THANK YOU FOR DISPLAYING SOS DONATION CANISTERS!

Auto Technicians  
 B-Xtreme Cycle & Sport  
 Countryside Vet Clinic  
 Eastman Animal Clinic  
 Elvira's  
 The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe  
 HQ Bicycle  
 Larkin Food Store  
 Northern Animal Clinic  
 One Hour Cleaning  
 Surrey Vet Clinic  
 Service Express Cellular  
 Soldan's  
 Wall & Webb

# Update on 10 Christmas Puppies

In 2009, SOS Animal Rescue had an addition of ten beagle-lab mix puppies that were born on Christmas Day. The mother was a beagle named Bea who was rescued from Midland Animal Control by volunteer foster Sara Green (pictured at right). The large litter was quite a



surprise to Sara, and I am sure it was a really big surprise to mom Bea! Sara had to supplement around-the-clock feedings with goat milk as there was not enough mother's milk to go around for all ten pups! Sara says having her female goat producing milk during the raising of these newborn puppies was truly a blessing!

By the end of March, all of the pups were ready for the SOS adopt-a-thons at Petsmart and an additional adopt-a-thon at Soldan's. The adopt-a-thons took a group effort from SOS volunteers in all areas of involvement, such as set-up, transport, and clean-up, in addition to hauling them all in an exercise pen to veterinarian visits. A few of the pups were subfostered by SOS volunteers. Kirsten Smith subfostered Charlie and Liz Shook subfostered Holly and Molly.

All the pups were placed, including mom Bea! One of the pups, Mini Cooper, was even adopted by an SOS volunteer who helped with the adopt-a-thons. Many of the SOS volunteers knew this adoption was going to happen as Andrea was always holding and looking after Mini Cooper (now called Daisy) at the adopt-a-thons.

Many of you have asked for an update of the Christmas puppies and here are the wonderful stories from these happy families that have adopted these pups into their forever homes!

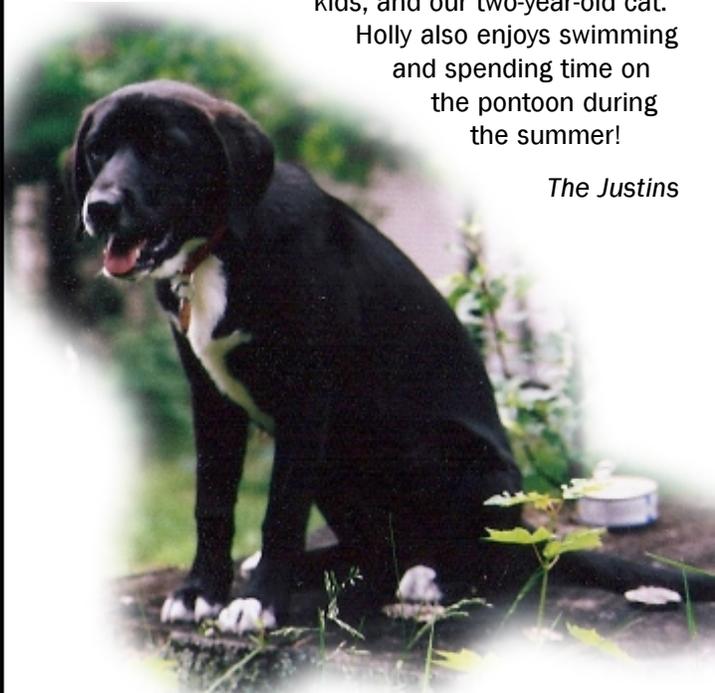
Enjoy seeing their photographs and reading their stories on the following pages.

by Liz Shook

<p>Please Don't Litter</p>  <p>Fix Your Critter</p>	
<p><b>T-SHIRTS!</b></p> <p>only \$15 each</p> <p>contact SOS to order</p>	
<p>ADOPT...</p>  <p>FURRR EVERRR FRIENDS!</p>	

Holly is a wonderful loving dog, living in Traverse City. She loves her walks in the woods, playing with the kids, and our two-year-old cat. Holly also enjoys swimming and spending time on the pontoon during the summer!

*The Justins*



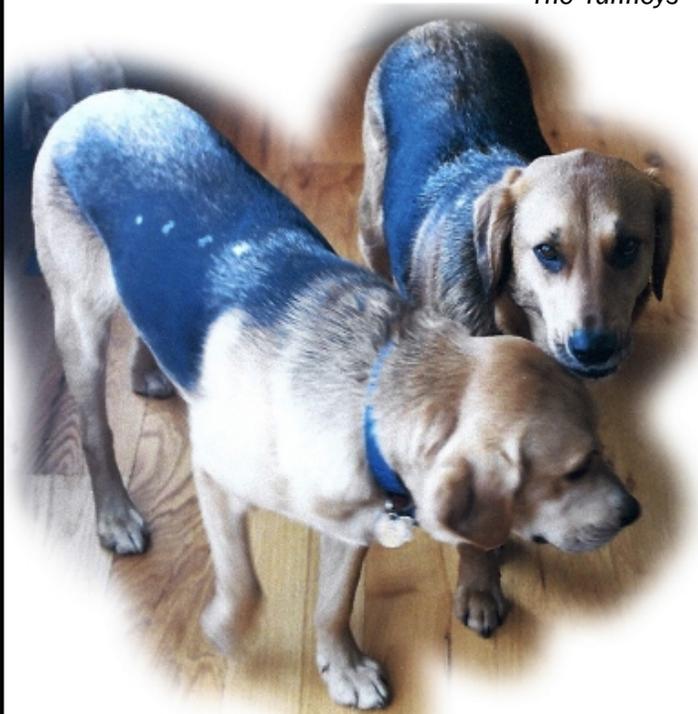
Birdie has been a great addition to our home, replacing a beagle-lab mix which we had for 14 years. We kept her given name *Birdie* and added a middle name of *Sue*, as it seemed to fit. Birdie is extremely mild mannered and easy to get along with. She loves kids and most other dogs. She becomes excited over squirrels and when seeing birds on the lake in the summer months. We imagine she would make an excellent bird-hunting dog. She is a natural retriever, and when arriving home for the day, she always brings one of her toys to the door when greeting us. Her favorite treat is ice cubes; when she hears the ice dispenser working, she jumps up and heads for the refrigerator. She attends a dog daycare center when we go on vacation, and usually two days a week routinely, so that she can get plenty of exercise. She is the most popular dog at the daycare center, and seems to lead the pack there, running around most of the day. Overall we think she has been a great addition to the family!

*Chuck & Colleen Parrott from Neenah, WI*



Wally is the inquisitive one, always having to know what is going on. Charlie is more of a runner and likes to chase things. Wally barks at things across the road, while Charlie barks at things in back of the house. Once they smell something, they are off. They love children and are wonderful with our little grandson. Wally and Charlie are great buddies to each other and companions to us. People ask us what kind of dogs they are, and we tell them *Beagadors*.

*The Tunneys*



Eddy is a high-energy, sociable, and playful dog. He weighs about 35 pounds. Eddy enjoys his daily visits to the dog park, playing and running with the other dogs. A favorite dog park playmate is a 170-pound mastiff. Eddy is very good with small kids, including our three grandchildren, ages nine, six, and three. Eddy has become a wonderful member of the Takahashi family.

Special Note: I never thought Eddy was a photogenic dog, but the owner of the kennel where he stays while we are out of town selected his photo for the front page of their new brochure!

*The Takahashi Family*



Bubba and his older sister Dakota enjoy each other's company. Dakota is a black lab-beagle mix. Every morning Bubba kisses her to wake her up, and then they go outside to play. Bubba weighs about 40 pounds, and his favorite treat is Frosty Paws (dog ice cream). His bedtime is about 9:30 p.m., when he simply falls asleep and stays asleep all night. He loves getting baths and being brushed. I think he believes he is Mr. GQ. His personality is very loving and cuddly, but at times he can be a little stinker.

*Donna Lasley,  
Bubba's adoptive mom*



Leslie (Double) is built and looks similar to her sisters Molly and Daisy. She was adopted into her forever home in the Midland County area. Look for her picture and bio in the July SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter.



Tucker (Little Guy) is a wonderful family dog. Our daughter was about 18 months old when he arrived, and they have grown up together. He does well at rabbit hunting, and he loves to swim in a nearby lake. Tucker is a wonderful addition to our family.

*The Bahms*



We discovered Molly through SOS Animal Rescue online and made an appointment with foster mom Liz to meet Molly. From there, we thought she would make a great addition to our family. After being scrutinized by our cat Mal, Molly has since made herself at home and loves to spend time in the yard, watching squirrels and chewing sticks. She has met the extended family and everyone loves her.

*The Hughes*

Daisy (Mini Cooper) joined our family in April 2011. Since then she has been a joy for all of us! Her main goal in life is to please us. She loves to run in the yard and play, go for walks, and chase balls. And she is an avid "counter surfer"!

Daisy also loves to cuddle and snuggle with us. She has also helped our ten-year-old dog Nunzio, a retriever-husky mix, come to life again. They love to play and romp together. Nunzio does let her know, however, that he is the boss and she respects that. We are so glad we adopted her. Thank you, SOS.

*Andrea & Joe Fiordaliso  
and Julie Leto*



## Vet's View: Xylitol Can Be Deadly to Dogs

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that “every sweet has its sour.” Nowhere in the world of dog medicine is this quip more apropos than with respect to xylitol, an increasingly ubiquitous sugar substitute found in everything from cupcakes to toothpaste. After all, it’s currently considered the most canine-toxic “human food” on the planet. Yet few dog owners seem to have gotten the message.

By now, everyone knows chocolate is toxic to dogs. It seems that every vet’s office is adorned with posters telling cautionary tales of pumped puppy stomachs, with the sad eyes and foil wrappers to prove them. Meanwhile, xylitol’s power languishes in pet owner obscurity, even as its reach expands. According to the ASPCA’s Poison Control Center, more dogs than ever are being poisoned by products containing xylitol. That’s partly because xylitol use is more widespread than ever but also because of a low awareness of its harmfulness among pet owners. This, despite the efforts of veterinarians working hard to inform all U.S. consumers that xylitol is a menace to dogdom.

How menacing? A few sugar-free Tic Tacs, a pack of Trident gum, a spilled tin of Starbucks mints, a sugar-free Jell-O dessert cup. It takes only a little of this toxin to send a dog into hypoglycemia-induced seizures and sometimes fatal liver failure. All dogs are susceptible, some more than others. Indeed, it has been calculated that as little as a gram of sweetener can kill a 10-pound dog.

You’d think it would be easy to simply eradicate this product from the market given its extreme dog toxicity, but here’s the trouble: Xylitol is a great product. It’s natural, just as sweet but less caloric than sugar, doesn’t raise insulin levels and seems to reduce the kinds of oral bacteria associated with dental disease. Diabetics rave about it. Dentists do, too. All of which is why consumer product manufacturers have been slowly replacing their sweeteners with xylitol. And that’s absolutely OK. That is, if only dog

owners knew a) xylitol was toxic, and b) which products contained xylitol so they could take all necessary precautions. Sadly, both points elude veterinarians who find it hard enough to preach to a) when b) is such a moving target.

When I first started writing about xylitol years ago, the number of

consumer products containing the sweetener numbered fewer than 100 in the USA. Moreover, they were largely restricted to sugar-free gums, oral care products and baked goods. Fast-forward to today and the list is way longer and much more diverse. You can find xylitol in everything from Flintstones vitamins to omega-3 supplements to nicotine gum. These products never used to contain xylitol. In fact, I used to recommend Flintstones vitamins for my patients. Now I have to caution my clients to stick to pet-only brands and to be very diligent about reading labels.

What’s worse (for veterinarians, especially) is that the human versions of many drugs, especially the children’s elixirs, are now being formulated with xylitol for greater pediatric palatability. Unfortunately, these lower-dose preparations are exactly what some of our smaller patients require. Because there are no animal equivalents for many drugs we use every day, kids’ drugs are often the next best thing. But veterinarians have only recently become aware of this new change to many of the same pediatric drugs we’ve been prescribing for years. In fact, I nearly poisoned one of my patients last week after the pharmacist called to ask whether I might prefer a pediatric elixir format of Pfizer’s Neurontin since the smaller doses weren’t available in a capsule. Luckily I’d just read an advisory and knew to ask. But still...she might have died!

So now it’s not just good enough to reach every dog owner with news that xylitol is highly toxic. We have to teach them that labels must be dissected for every sweetened household item and that pharmacists must be specifically consulted whenever any flavored human drug or supplement is prescribed. Talk about an uphill trek.

But what really irks, say concerned pet owners, is the lack of transparency on this issue on the part of consumer products manufacturers. One of my blog’s regular readers, screen name Pai, objected on these grounds with this passionate comment: “I’m appalled that so many (if not all?) of the companies that switch their recipes to include this ingredient do not seem to see fit to TELL anyone about it! I fear we will need another rash of dog deaths...before this issue is given the publicity it deserves.” I couldn’t have said it better.

Now, I’m not necessarily one for mandatory labeling, nor would I press for the extinction of any safe and effective human product. Still, here’s one area where corporate responsibility is clearly lacking. They may be just animals, but they are, after all, family.

*Written by Patty Khuly, Special for USA TODAY;  
Reprinted from yourlife.usatoday.com*



## Parade Your Pet Pageant Saturday, May 21 • 12:30 p.m.

Strut your mutt and other family pets at the 7th Annual Parade Your Pet Pageant on Saturday, May 21 at the Farmer's Market, near the Tridge. Pets assemble and register at noon with the pageant starting at 12:30 p.m. Cost is free! Live pets only please. Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume, Best Trick, Most Unusual Pet, Smallest Pet, Largest Pet, Cutest Pet, Most-Looks-Like-Their-Owner, and Best of Show! Check our website for more information.



## March 9 Scrapbooking Fund-Raiser Highlights



*Scrapper,  
Scrapbooks Galore & More  
store guard*



Located at the dog park  
in Chippewassee Park  
and meeting on the  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
in June, July, & August



Bringing together  
canines & their  
humans for a  
chance to socialize  
& have fun



sponsored by



**Wednesdays • 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

**June 8**  
**June 22**

**July 13**  
**July 27**

**August 10**  
**August 24**

# What Happens to Your Pet if Something Happens to You

## Making a Plan

First, find the people in your life who would provide the best home for your pet (besides you, of course!) and obtain their permission to put them on your emergency list. Introduce these people to your cats or dogs to ensure a satisfactory match. It's a good idea to also find someone who will be able to take an animal on the spot if the chosen caretaker is not available. If not, someone may call Animal Control Services to take your pet to a shelter in the interim.

You may decide to provide a small trust for your pet for food and other expenses. Don't make the trust so large, however, that your aunt's third husband decides to challenge the bequest!

If your pet is extremely elderly, in ill health or aggressive to others, you may need to make an alternative plan. Is it fair to saddle another person with the responsibility? Is it even possible? Don't leave a difficult decision to

others who may not have your pet's best interests at heart.

## Spread the Word

The person you name as caretaker may not be the same one who takes initial custody of your pet. Make sure your wishes regarding your pet have been documented and filed with your other important papers. Remember though, these files may not be reviewed until days or weeks after you can no longer care for your pet. In the meantime, your pet could suffer. To ensure that your pet is taken care of, give a copy of your wishes to your relatives, close friends, neighbors, and veterinarian.

Include a description and picture, name, age, medical history, permanent identification, and veterinarian contact information on the emergency paperwork for each pet. Provide information on feeding, medications, habits, idiosyncrasies, and anything that's pertinent to the comfort and well being of your pet.

Emergency planning is even more important if you have a multi-pet family. Someone may be willing to take one animal in an emergency, but not two or ten. Be prepared.

## In Short

- Name a caretaker in case of an emergency. Have a back-up caretaker just in case the first isn't available.
- Set up a small trust to cover your pet's medical bills, food and other expenses.
- Give a copy of emergency paperwork to friends and family and include a copy with your will or other important documents. Include your pet's feeding details, medication and behavioral habits.
- If your pet is elderly, ill or difficult to care for, take that into consideration before making your plans.

*Written by Chris Walkowicz, an award-winning author, President Emeritus of the Dog Writers' Association of America and an AKC judge. Reprinted from [www.bringpetshome.org/petsafety-wellness](http://www.bringpetshome.org/petsafety-wellness).*

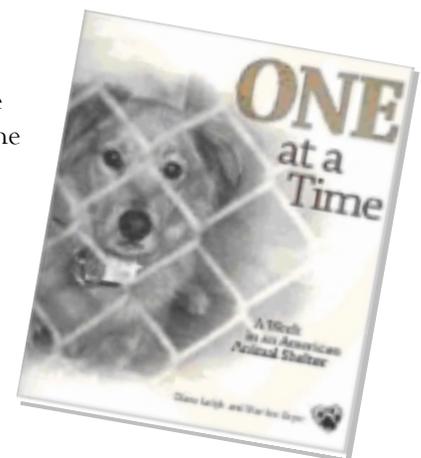
## BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

### ***One at a Time: A Week in an American Animal Shelter***

*One at a Time* is a good read, but it can be a difficult one because the authors take us where most do not attempt to go. As the title suggests, it is a true account of one week in a northern California animal shelter. It chronicles true life and death issues and some of the tragic decisions that confront these shelter workers. Although this book does contain a few disturbing photos, there are also heart-warming photos and portraits of the animals that, through no fault of their own, ended up in the animal shelter system. And there are some happy endings.

This book also touches on important issues as spaying and neutering, breed specific selection and legislation, and kill and no-kill shelters. It also promotes food for thought as to why there are millions of discarded animals. There is no fluff in this book.

*One at a Time* is a legacy to all of those people who are committed to the insurmountable task of giving our throwaway animals a second chance. Most importantly, it is a legacy to all of those animals in our country that are needlessly sacrificed every day. This is a gem of a book – thought-provoking, profound, and emotionally moving. I wholeheartedly recommend this one. Read it then pass it on to anyone willing to read it.





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[www.sosanimalrescue.org](http://www.sosanimalrescue.org)

[www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue](https://www.facebook.com/sosanimalrescue)

#### **Officers**

Joann Taylor, 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 the Midland area through placement, public education, spay/neuter assistance programs, and support for the efforts of local animal welfare groups.

#### **Board of Directors**

Dawn Carsten  
Liz Shook

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Sheryl Billmeier Hnizda

## **THANKS TO OUR SILVER, GOLD, & PLATINUM SPONSORS!**



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