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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 12, Issue 2 • April 15, 2012

2011 Year in Review

Our 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.

Placement

We placed 25 cats in new homes, and we officially launched our pet food assistance program in 2011. We provided food and supplies to 216 personal pets last year. All of the food donations were much appreciated by families that needed a little extra help for their pets. Our goal for 2012 is to double the number of pets we feed because helping a pet stay in their current home is the easiest placement of all.

Public Education

We provided education materials to the public at over 40 events and programs in 2011. Educating people on responsible pet ownership is a cornerstone for long-term success.

Spay/Neuter Assistance

We provided spay/neuter assistance to 147 pets in 2011. The program to date has helped 1452 pets. If each surgery prevents one unwanted litter we have saved over 600 puppies and kittens in 2011 and over 5800 since the program began in 2004. Due to generous donors and successful fund-raisers, we will increase funding of this program to \$20,000 for 2012. Special thanks to Midland VetMed which donates many surgeries to the program.

Support for the Efforts of Local Animal Welfare Groups

In 2011 we invited animal groups to our Bark in the Park event, donated extra supplies to other rescues, and held three joint adoption events at Family Fare and Tractor Supply. We will continue to find ways to collaborate with local animal welfare groups as it will take all of us working together to address the needs in the community.

*Sporting new signs, we are more visible these days.
Hope you see us out and about saving animals!*

Many thanks go to donors and volunteers who helped this organization accomplish so much in 2011. We expect 2012 will be even better!

Joann Taylor
President, SOS Animal Rescue



SOS EVENTS

Saturdays

12:00 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Adopt-athon
Saginaw PetSmart

Sundays

12:00 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Adopt-athon
Midland PetSmart

Monday, April 16

6:30–7:30 p.m.

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

May 4–6

National Adoption Weekend

Friday, May 11

Saturday, May 12

Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 12

12:00 Noon Registration

Parade Your Pet Pageant

Monday, May 21

6:30–7:30 p.m.

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

June, July, August

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

Monday, June 18

6:30–7:30 p.m.

SOS Meeting
GAD Library Room B

Saturday, October 13

tentative date

Dirty Dog Run

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

SOS ANIMAL RESCUE PERSONAL PET ASSISTANCE FUND

To provide grants to benefit residents of Midland County who cannot afford the cost of providing primary care for their family pet. Primary care includes but is not limited to spay/neuter surgery, routine or emergency veterinary care, food, and supplies.

Alice Adams
Lisa A. Bywater
Jason Crockett
Jared & Mary Hughes
Michael & Joy Marchione

Pet Health Spring Checklist

The sun is peeking through the clouds, temperatures are rising and the flowers are starting to show their heads; spring has finally sprung! For you this means dusting off the sunscreen and sandals, but springtime can also be a good time to go through a spring pet health check. Here are some things to be mindful of in order to keep Fido fit and happy this season:

Start heartworm preventatives: If your pet isn't on heartworm preventatives year round, it's time to start up again! Heartworm disease is a potentially devastating disease that can cause heart failure and potentially death if left untreated. Treatment is costly and can be difficult. Prevention is the key in heartworm disease. If you have never had your pet on a preventative before, your veterinarian will likely want to run a quick blood test to ensure your pet is heartworm negative prior to prescribing any medications.

Start a flea and tick preventive: Some areas of the nation require year round prevention of external parasites, but if you stop during the cold winter months, now is the time to start back up. Ticks can carry many diseases, some of which can be dangerous and difficult to treat, such as Lyme Disease. Flea infestations in your home can be very costly to treat and often require an exterminator. Some cat and dog insurance companies will even help to cover a portion of flea, tick and heartworm prevention with their routine care plans. By preventing fleas and ticks, your pet and your home will be healthier.

A trip to the groomer: Spring time means warmer temperatures and usually that translates to shedding! Dogs and cats naturally like to be clean, but sometimes they need a little help. Grooming can be done at home or with a professional groomer. In the winter you may have had less outside time with your dog, which can mean their nails didn't wear down like they do in the summer. Be sure to keep nails trimmed to prevent splitting and breaking.

Update vaccines: There is a good chance warmer weather will mean more excursions to places where dogs are



welcome. If you and your furry best friend frequent the dog park or other public places, be sure they are up to date on all required vaccinations and deworming.

Limit exposure to spring toxins: Spring is a common time to fertilize your lawn. Be sure to use pet-safe products and keep your pet off the grass for the recommended time. Spring blooms can be pretty, but some plants and flowers are toxic to pets. Easter often brings lily flowers; these are EXTREMELY toxic to cats, less so to dogs, but exposure should still be avoided. Because accidents and illness can happen at any time, even with the most careful of pet owners, it's a good idea to consider dog and cat insurance. Pet health insurance may help pet owners afford the best level of care in otherwise-dire situations.

Ease into activity: If you and your pet have been inactive all winter, ease slowly into activity. Start with leash walks, and shorter play sessions and gradually work up to maximum activity. Starting all at once can lead to injuries and sore muscles.

Springtime brings the promise of longer days and more opportunity for you to spend time with your furry loved ones. By having a small check list of health reminders, you can help keep your pet happier and healthier for many more spring seasons to come.

By: Dr. Fiona Caldwell, Idaho Veterinary Hospital for Pets Best Insurance. Reprinted from www.petsbest.com.

Sophia is a Midland resident who filled 20 SOS sharing tree tags a day before Christmas Eve, and we wanted to highlight her story of what motivated her to be so generous.

Dear SOS:

I am a third-year medical student at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. After graduation I hope to pursue a residency in Internal Medicine. My ultimate goal is to purchase several acres and operate an animal rescue of my own. I would like to take in abused and unwanted cats, dogs, farm animals, really animals of any kind. I have loved animals my entire life. It breaks my heart to think about all the animals in need in this world – starving, abused, and unwanted animals. I believe that all animals deserve to be loved.

My mom and I were taking our 12-year-old chocolate lab, Scout, to VetMed for surgery and I saw the giving tree at Soldan's. It made me so sad to know that there are so many animals in need in our county whose wishes may go unfulfilled this holiday season.

As an undergraduate, I volunteered at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. In November 2010, I adopted a 6-year-old cornish rex from the Humane Society of Huron Valley, and his name is Henry Moses (pictured). He is so amazing and so loving. He loves to cuddle and he walks on a leash! If it weren't for people like you and organizations like yours, he wouldn't have been given a second chance and he never would have found his forever home. I am grateful every day for him and for organizations that help animals in need.



Sophia Meagan Johnson
MSU COM Class of 2013

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. 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. Blasko.



2nd and 4th
Wednesdays
June, July, August
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



Mallery and Ali (pictured) presented SOS Animal Rescue with donations collected during the Members First Credit Union Fundraiser. Their volunteer task force mission is to make a positive difference for our members and community.



The Grey 4H group came through for SOS Animal Rescue again by making 12 cat scratching posts. This is the seventh year they have made the posts as part of their community service day. What a super group of kids doing great things! Pictured are Ashley Neuenfeldt and Beau Matthews.

SOS ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE!

Friday, May 11 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

NEW LOCATION: 104 W. Wackerly St.

corner of Jefferson and Wackerly, next to Sylvan Learning Center

DONATION DROP-OFF: Wednesday, May 9 • 6–9 p.m. & Thursday, May 10 • 12–9 p.m.

please no adult clothes or large exercise equipment

For possible donation pick-up, call 989-492-0042.

BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS ERSKINE

It's Raining Cats and Cats!

By Jeanne Prevost

Ages 4-8

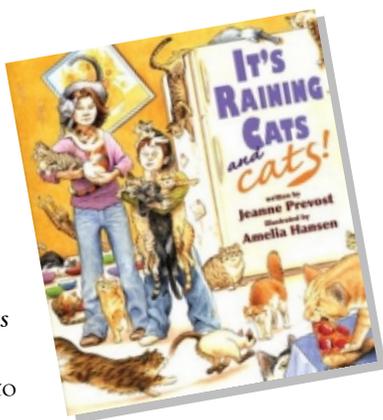
It's Raining Cats and Cats! demonstrates to children the importance of spaying and neutering in a format that is easy for kids to understand while entertaining with humorous and cute illustrations by Ameila Hansen.

Molly the cat was brought home after her spay surgery. The little boy, Jim, asks his mother about Molly's sutures on her tummy, upon which the mother replies "If she hadn't had this special surgery operation, Jim, she'd have litters of kittens every year." Jim thinks that having kittens would be fun. His mother suggests that they imagine what would happen if Molly did not have the surgery. Jim imagines a house full of kittens and cats, starting with Molly and then multiplying and multiplying and multiplying.

Now with so many cats and kittens, Jim and his mother take an imaginary journey to try and find homes for all of them. They soon learn that cats are never easy to adopt out and shelters are full.

It's Raining Cats and Cats!, although lighthearted and humorous, could be an important first step toward educating your child about responsible pet care. The book also includes a back page of information on why pets should be spayed and neutered and some of the consequences when we don't.

Winner of the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award, this is a lovely book that touches on a very serious and tragic ongoing problem that is easily fixed if people would just spay and neuter. With kitten season just around the corner, this book holds even more significance. A must read!!!



Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Tale, or How I Learned About Love and Life with a Blind Wonder Cat

By Gwen Cooper

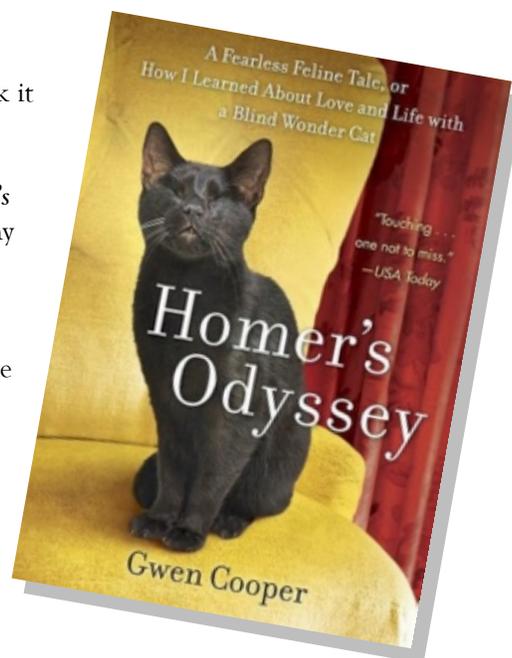
Gwen Cooper, a young professional, had hit a crossroads in her life, professionally and personally. Her job was leading nowhere and her long-term relationship had ended.

While all this was going on, her vet clinic friend, Patty, informed her about a four-week-old black kitten that had a virulent eye infection requiring removal of both eyes. The original couple that had brought him in did not want him, and other people did not want to adopt a 'handicapped' kitten. Although Gwen immediately fell in love with the little guy, she was apprehensive, not quite sure how to care for a little blind kitten. Thus, Gwen's true account of her journey with Homer begins.

Homer's Odyssey is the true account of Gwen and Homer's lives together, moving in with her parents after losing her job, relocating to New York City, her first hand account of the devastating day of September 11, and making a new life and finding new relationships.

This book has those 'cat' moments and situations that any cat guardian can relate to. Even if you are not a cat fancier but still have a bond with animals, you will understand many of Gwen's concerns and life choices. She was well aware of her responsibilities as guardian of her brood of felines, always trying to put their welfare first.

Prior to reading this book, I did not think it would live up to its accolades. However, upon reading *Homer's Odyssey*, I realized why it had been on *The New York Times'* Bestseller List. It is a tribute to Homer, the little black cat without eyes who captured the hearts of everyone he met due to his personality, his resilience to his blindness, and his attitude that life did not give him lemons, but allowed him to make lemonade.



THANK YOU!

PLATINUM

Morley's Portraiture
Park Place Homes
Midland VetMed

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Coca-Cola
Northern Animal Clinic
Prime Lending
Soldan's

SILVER

Coastal Pet Products
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Linda Anderson
in honor of Dale Anderson & family
anonymous donor for cat carriers

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Hermann Family
in loving memory of their Nala
for dog crate and supplies

Isabella Jansen

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Messiah Lutheran Preschool
for SOS food drive

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in memory of Pickles

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Joyce & James Russell
in honor of Pam Burns Holbrook

Leslie Russell

Debra Smith

John Tabor

Joann Taylor

Mary Turton

Cathy Tway

Diane Wirsing

Arnold & Sally Young

Sharon Young in memory of Socrates

Soldan's Feed and Pet Supplies
for hosting an SOS Sharing Tree.
And to the staff and patrons of
Soldan's for their generous
donations to the SOS Sharing Tree.

Zach's Grooming & Family Fare
for hosting SOS Sharing Trees



Daisy Girl Scout Troop 50339
for pet food, kitty litter, and pet toys

PET FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Many Animals Have Been Helped:

2011

**56 dogs • 149 cats
6 birds • 4 rabbits • 1 horse**

2012

30 cats • 30 dogs

Spay/Neuter Statistics

Since January 2004, SOS has spayed/neutered 1452 cats and dogs. If each surgery prevents one unwanted litter, the spay/neuter program has reduced the number of unwanted pets by over 5800 since 2004.

SPAY/NEUTER	to date	2012	total
Female Cats	619	13	632
Male Cats	369	7	376
Female Dogs	251	13	264
Male Dogs	175	5	180
TOTAL	1414	38	1452



Stop Theft – Tips to Safeguard Your Pet

What steps can be taken to ensure you're beloved pet is not a victim of dog theft? PetPartners, Inc., the provider of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan asked the AKC Companion Animal Recovery for tips on how to safeguard your pet. Listed below are tips to keep your pet safe.

In Your Neighborhood

- Don't let your dog off-leash – Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves.
- Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard – Dogs left outdoors for long periods of time are targets, especially if your fenced-in yard is visible from the street.
- Be cautious with information – If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

On the Road

- Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked – Besides the obvious health risks this poses to the dog, it's also an invitation for thieves, even if you are gone for only a moment. Leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only encourage break-ins and possibly allow the dog to escape, even if the thieves don't decide to steal it too.
- Don't tie your dog outside a store – This popular practice among city-dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.

- Protect your dog with microchip identification – Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Thieves will not know the dog has a microchip until a veterinarian or shelter worker scans it so keep contact information current with your microchip recovery service provider. For more information, enroll your pet in a 24-hour recovery service and sign-up at www.akccar.org.
- If you suspect your dog has been stolen – Immediately call the police/animal control officer in the area your pet was last seen and file a police report. If your dog has a microchip, ask to have that unique serial number, along with the dog's description, posted in the "stolen article" category on the National Crime Information Center.
- Canvass the neighborhood – Talk to people in the immediate vicinity where your pet went missing for possible sightings of the actual theft.
- Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing – Keep several current photos (profile and headshot) of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.
- Contact the media – Call the local TV station, radio station and newspaper and ask to have a web post put out about your missing pet.

If you would like more information on AKC Companion Animal Recovery, please visit their website at www.akccar.org or microchip information or on additional tips to safe guard your pet.

In the event that your dog does end up missing, listed below are steps you can take to recover your dog:

Preprinted from www.barkingbulletin.com. The Barking Bulletin is a service of PetPartners, Inc. a founding member of the Association of American Pet Owners.

Feline Hyperesthesia

Does your cat suddenly bolt from the room, looking back like something's chasing her? [One] thing that is very unusual about our kitty companions is their tendency to develop a weird disorder called feline hyperesthesia. This is a medical term for what is more commonly referred to as 'rippling skin syndrome,' 'rolling skin syndrome,' or 'twitchy cat syndrome.' Other technical names for the condition include neuritis and atypical neurodermatitis.

Signs and Symptoms of Feline Hyperesthesia

The word hyperesthesia means abnormally increased sensitivity of the skin. It's a condition in which the skin on a cat's back ripples from the shoulders all the way to the tail. The rippling is visible in some cats but more difficult to see with others. What many pet owners notice first is the kitty turning toward her tail suddenly as though something back there is bothering her. She may try to lick or bite at the area. And most cats with this condition will take off running out of the blue as though something scared them or is chasing them. Kitties with hyperesthesia also have muscle spasms and twitches and twitching of the tail.

If your cat has the syndrome, he may show sensitivity when any point along his spine or back is touched. He may chase his tail, bite at himself, turn toward his tail, and hiss, vocalize, run, and jump. He may also seem to be hallucinating (following movement of things that are not there), and he may have dilated pupils during these episodes. In severe cases of feline hyperesthesia, cats will self-mutilate by biting, licking, chewing, and pulling out hair. These poor kitties suffer not only hair loss, but often severe skin lesions from trying too aggressively to seek relief from the uncomfortable sensations they experience.

Causes of 'Twitchy Cat Syndrome'

No one knows for sure what causes hyperesthesia in cats, but one of the first things you should do if your kitty is having symptoms is to rule out other causes for itching and twitching. It's important to investigate flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) as a cause or contributor to your cat's behavior. In pets with a severe flea allergy, the bite from a single flea can cause serious, long-term itching and skin irritation. A bad case of FAD can cause your cat to lick and scratch so aggressively – most often at the base of the tail or hind quarters – that he loses a significant amount of hair on that part of his body.

Sometimes dry, itchy skin can induce or aggravate a hyperesthesia condition. This is more common in cats fed a dry food diet.

Another cause of the condition might be seizures. Or more precisely, feline hyperesthesia may be a type of seizure disorder. Some kitties experience grand mal seizures during an episode of hyperesthesia or right afterwards. Experts theorize the syndrome might be caused by a problem with electrical activity in areas of the brain that control grooming, emotions, and predatory behavior.

It may also be a form of obsessive compulsive disorder, with the obsession being fearfulness and/or grooming and/or aggression. Also, seizure activity is known to lead to obsessive compulsive behavior.

Another theory is that certain breeds are predisposed to develop mania as a result of stress. Oriental breeds seem to have more hyperesthesia than the general population of felines, and stress often seems to be the trigger for these kitties.

Also, cats with the condition have been found to have lesions in the

muscles of their spine. It's possible the lesions cause or contribute to the sensations and symptoms that are a feature of hyperesthesia.

Diagnosis

A diagnosis of feline hyperesthesia is arrived at through eliminating other conditions and diseases that cause similar symptoms and behavior, including:

- Skin conditions (allergies, parasites, infections)
- Underlying painful conditions of the back, spine, joints, or muscles; also pain associated with bite injuries, abscesses, anal sac disease, organ damage, or cancer
- Hyperthyroidism
- Problem in the brain (trauma, tumors, infection)
- Poisoning
- Nutritional deficiency

It could be beneficial for you to record your kitty during an episode of what you suspect is hyperesthesia and [show your vet]. The vet should perform a physical exam on your kitty, take a behavioral history, and order a complete blood count, chemistry profile, and T4 (thyroid) hormone level test. Other diagnostic tests might also be required, for example, skin tests, and x-rays. It's possible your vet will make a referral to another DVM who specializes in dermatology or neurology. When all other potential causes for your pet's symptoms have been ruled out or treated, feline hyperesthesia can be confidently diagnosed.

Treatment of True Feline Hyperesthesia

The treatment for feline hyperesthesia syndrome involves reducing stress on the cat. However, I recommend looking at what you're feeding your

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cat first. She should be eating a balanced, species-appropriate diet that contains no carbs, moderate amounts of animal fat, and high levels of animal protein. This will help eliminate any food allergies she may be dealing with and will improve the condition of her skin and coat. You can also consider supplementing with a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids like krill oil.

To address stress-related triggers, you'll need to take steps to make your cat as comfortable as possible with his living arrangements. This means building a great deal of consistency in your cat's daily routine, while at the same time enriching the five key areas of his environment, including:

- Safe, secure food, water, and litter box locations
- Own places to climb, scratch, rest, and hide
- Consistency in all your interactions with him
- Appropriate sensory stimulation
- Company of another or other non-adversarial cats



Set aside time each day to play with your cat. This helps him get aerobic exercise and gives him the chance to flex his hunter muscles. Use interactive toys like a feather wand or a toy at the end of a string. Many cats also love chasing laser toys, ping pong balls and even rolled up bits of paper. Since cats have very short attention spans, try to break up playtime into three or four short sessions a day.

Drug Therapy

Giving your cat anti-depressants, anti-convulsants, or drugs to curb obsessive behavior should be considered only as a last resort. A species-appropriate diet, environmental enrichment, and natural remedies should go a long way toward alleviating the stressors in your cat's life that may trigger episodes of hyperesthesia. I have had good success in reducing symptoms using adjunctive therapies. Acupuncture can commonly reduce the 'nerve wind up' many of these cats experience. Chiropractic care can also reduce the dermatome neuritis hyperesthetic cats are plagued with. Ttouch, a special form of massage, can also help reduce skin sensitivity in some cats. I've also had good success with kitties using homeopathic Aconitum and Hypericum orally to help dampen emotional and neurologic reactivity that can lead to physiologic symptoms.

By Dr. Karen Becker. Reprinted from healthypets.mercola.com.

Pet Bite Advice

My pet bit me. Should I be concerned about my health?

If you get a dog or cat bite, don't panic. But do get that bite checked out. Each year, animal bites send hundreds of thousands of people to doctors. Flesh and bone damage are usually the biggest problems, but tetanus and rabies are also potential complications.

Bacterial infections are another concern. When pet's bite, no harm is done if the skin isn't broken, but if the bite breaks your skin, beware of bugs. Dog and cat bites have, on average, five kinds of germs. So if the wound becomes infected, you may need a broad-spectrum antibiotic to battle the bugs.

If you do get bitten, report the incident to local health officials and check the animal's vaccination status. Then ask your physician about precautions against rabies and tetanus.

Dr. Larry McDaniel, DVM for the "Purina® Animal Instincts" Podcast Series. Reprinted from www.purina.com.

THANK YOU!

Thank You for Displaying SOS Donation Canisters!

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Elvira's
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HQ Bicycle
Larkin Food Store
Northern Animal Clinic
Service Express Cellular
Soldan's
Surrey Vet Clinic
Tractor Supply
Wall & Webb



Dirty Dog Run

tentative

Saturday, October 13

Teaching Basic Commands

Good manners are as necessary for dogs as they are for people. A dog that jumps, pulls, barks, or lacks self-control often finds itself left out of family activities.

Teach your dog a few basic obedience commands (such as sit, down, come, and stay) using positive training methods, and you will be rewarded with a well-behaved dog who can handle most everyday social situations.

Timing is Everything

Timing is very important. You must mark your dog's behavior the instant he complies with the command. Saying a single word such as "Yes!" or using a clicker is a good way to mark a correct behavior. It lets your dog know immediately that he's been successful.

Bribing Versus Rewarding

Rewarding your dog's good behavior with a treat is an excellent training tool, but if rewards are overused, they can become bribes.

To avoid the treat becoming a bribe, stop luring your dog with the treat as soon as he begins to catch on to what you're asking him to do. Ask him to "sit," wait two or three seconds for him to comply, then give him the treat if he sits.

Life Rewards

Food is the easiest reward to use when you are just learning to train your dog, but it is not the only reward you can use. A toy, a game of fetch, or going for a ride in the car can be a reward.

For example, you want to train your dog not to run out the door when you open it. Tell your dog to sit-stay by the front door of your house. If he complies, praise him, open the door and let him go outside. Going outside is the reward.

If he gets up as you open the door, close the door and try again. Repeat the process until he stays in position while you open the door. Only then does he get the reward of going outside.

Use the same technique for opening the car door so your dog can go for a ride. If he remains in position, he is rewarded by getting into the car and going for a ride.

Mind Your P's and Cues

Your posture and body cues tell your dog a lot. Your dog learns to read your body language much as you learn to read his. Stand up when you give your dog a command. If you only give commands while sitting or squatting on the floor, your dog will learn to respond only when you're in that position.

Keep your hands out of your pockets. If his treats are in your pockets, hands in the pockets becomes the cue that he will get a treat if he does what you ask. You want your command to be the cue, not the hand in the pocket. If your hands are always in view, you can keep him guessing.

Similarly, don't hold a bag of treats in your hand while training. Your dog will learn he only needs to comply with commands if he sees the treat bag, not every time you ask him.

Train your dog everywhere, not just in one room of your house. If you only practice in the kitchen, your dog will learn he only needs to do a command in the kitchen.

As your dog learns to do a command reliably in one location, move to other rooms of the house and the yard. Practice wherever you can, even on your daily walks.

Reprinted from www.humanesociety.org.

TRAVEL TIPS!

Traveling with a pet can be quite an adventure. Here are some tips to make the trip safe and comfortable.

Pets can suffer from heatstroke when left in a confined space or in a hot vehicle. Take extra care to be sure there is ample ventilation. When in a car or motorhome, leave at least two windows open slightly to provide fresh ventilated air and park in the shade.

Consider a solar powered fan, one that fits snugly into the window and is powered by the sun.

Be sure that you have provided at least one bowl of water for your pet to drink and, if you're going to be out for an extended period, add one or two more, just in case.

Make a definite point to always clean up after your pet. Places that allow pets are making a special

accommodation and if we want to feel that our pets are welcome, we must not abuse the privilege. Treat the areas where you walk as if it were your own yard. Your courtesy will spread to others.

When traveling with your pet, and especially when sending them via cargo on an aircraft, freeze water so that it will not fall out during loading, but will melt by the time your pet is thirsty.

The Adoption Process: What to Expect

Shelters and rescue groups ask a lot of questions of prospective adopters for two main reasons: to ensure long-term homes for the animals in their care and to facilitate good matches between customers and their adopted companions.

Getting to Know You

Most shelters require adopters to complete an application. In addition to basic contact information, the application is likely to include questions about the following areas:

- Your housing situation (renting vs. owning)
- The number and ages of any children in your household
- The number and type of other pets you may own
- The name and contact information of your veterinarian
- Your previous experience with pets
- Your activity level, lifestyle, and expectations for a new animal

Shelters and rescue groups each have their own particular approach to rehoming animals, and organizations vary widely in the amount of detail they request in their adoption applications. Ideally, the adoption process is structured more like an open conversation than a series of yes-or-no, right-or-wrong questions. The goal is to balance the interests of two

different sets of customers: the animals and the adopters.

Why Pets End Up in Shelters

Consider why pets are surrendered in the first place. Among the top five reasons that people give up their pets, three are common to both dogs and cats: landlord issues, moving, and the cost of pet care. For dogs the other most common reasons include lack of time and inadequate facilities. For cats it's allergies and having too many cats to care for.

Many animals lose their homes because their owners weren't prepared to invest the necessary money and time to care for a pet. In other cases, families and pets are mismatched. Consider these common scenarios:

- A high-energy dog is adopted by a family that doesn't have time for extensive daily exercise
- A skittish kitten is chosen by rambunctious children whose

parents aren't inclined to actively supervise their kids

- A bunny with a predictable fondness for chewing catches the eye of someone who has no interest in rabbit-proofing her home.

To prevent such painful situations for both the pets and people involved, shelters and rescue groups carefully evaluate adopters in the hope of avoiding these mismatched relationships.

Do Your Homework

Many shelters and rescue groups have information about their adoption process on their websites so you can know in advance what to expect. If possible, it's helpful to examine the adoption process thoroughly before going to the shelter.

You'll have a relationship with your pet for many years to come, so it's worth being patient and taking your time to carefully consider what kind of pet—big or small, energetic or relaxed, older or younger—is right for you. Before you head to the shelter, ask yourself some questions that will help you figure out exactly what kind of critter will best fit your lifestyle and personality.

Reprinted from www.humanesociety.org.



Make sure the crate that your pet travels in is in top condition and is labeled in multiple places. It is a good idea to tape around the bottom of the kennel. It will keep people from opening the door and you never know if your dog will push or jump against the door and spring it open.

After you're sure that your pet is welcome at the hotel or resort you are staying at, request a room at the end of the hall and away from the ice

machine and/or pool area. The quieter the room, the fewer errant barks to worry about.

Be sure to carry a current copy of your pet's health certificate from the veterinarian in addition to their food and toys!

Do not let your dog put his head out of a moving vehicle, this can lead to eye injuries.

Here is a handy checklist:

- Bowls
- Food
- Leash
- Collar and tags
- Toys
- Doggie scoop
- Veterinarian's telephone number
- Familiar blanket, bed, or rug
- Papers and health certificate

Reprinted from www.travelingpets.com.



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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.

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