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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 09, Issue 2 • April 1, 2009

Thank You, Chestnut Hill

Thanks to the Chestnut Hill Student Council for making SOS Animal Rescue their fund raising project this year. Those contributing received an "I Gave" sticker from Student Council Representatives and got a paw print pencil. The total collection was matched by the student council for a \$600 donation to SOS.

Presenting the check (below) are Chestnut Hill Student Council Officers Vice President Makenzie Rajewski, Secretary Haley Sisitki, SOS Vice President Shelly Cluff Park, Treasurer Jordan Gonder, and President Cam Wing.



Man's Best Friend Deserves the Best

No one wants to cut back on spending for their pet- and only one out of seven of us does, according to an Associated Press survey conducted in December. But a recent Consumer Reports article suggests that expensive pet food is not necessarily more nutritional.

"I think it's safe to say that not all inexpensive brands are bad, but there are some that pet owners should stay away from," says Iveta Becvarova, a veterinary nutritionist with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

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SOS EVENTS

Sunday, April 5

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, April 19

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, May 3

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Saturday, May 16

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bay County Humane Society
Pet Walk

Sunday, May 17

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Sunday, June 7

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, June 10

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

June 12-13

SOS Rummage Sale

Sunday, June 21

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Adopt-a-Thon at PetSmart

Wednesday, June 24

All Day

Bennigan's Fund-Raiser for SOS

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

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

Tips for finding a nutritional food at the best price:

Stick to the correct life stage. Dog and cat foods are labeled for life stage. Puppies and pregnant animals need extra calories and fat for growth. Becvarova warns you to stay away from food labeled "for all life stages," because those blends often include too many calories for a healthy adult dog or cat. "Obesity is such a problem for animals now. Normal adult dogs really don't need the same nutrient and calorie intake as puppies," she says.

Look for wording about feeding trials. Every pet food package will have an American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) statement. This regulatory group tells consumers how the food is formulated. The statement on preferred foods will include wording about feeding trials, which means that the food has been tested on animals for digestibility and nutritional balance.

The order of ingredients matters. Labels are required to list the ingredients in weight order. The first ingredient is the one that constitutes the most weight in the formula. Becvarova says the first or second ingredient should be a protein source- water will always be first for canned foods. Quality protein sources include whole meats and chicken by-product meal. Organ meats, such as liver, are also good. Pet

owners should stay away from foods that list meat and bone meal and meat meal tankage as main ingredients.

Be careful when making your own pet food. Homemade pet food is a growing trend, but Consumer Reports experts and Becvarova warn that it's difficult to plan a balanced diet. "There are 40 specific nutrients that your dog needs in order to have a balanced diet. Making your own food is very elaborate. It takes time, and the food is harder to store because there are no preservatives," Becvarova says.

If you would like to make your own dog or cat food, you should work with your veterinarian and a nutritionist to set up a balanced plan. Becvarova warns that simply consulting Internet and magazine sources can be dangerous because most of the recipes do not contain all of the nutrients the animal needs. The veterinary school at Virginia Tech will work with local veterinarians to plan balanced homemade meals. To participate, ask your veterinarian to call the school at 540-231-4621. Nutritionists at the school will need to speak to the veterinarian directly to discuss the animal's medical history and current conditions.

by Nicole Paitzel, Daily Press (Newport News, Va.), distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services, RISMedia

Make Mine Chocolate!™

Rabbits are a familiar symbol of the Easter holiday. In the days leading up to it, they appear on commercials and packages of candy, and stores are filled with stuffed rabbits. It's no surprise that children beg their parents for a bunny of their own. Ill-prepared to care for these unique creatures, their owners often quickly tire of them. After Easter, local humane societies and rabbit rescues are flooded with rabbits, former Easter gifts whose owners no longer want them. The unlucky ones are dumped outside where predators, cars, illness, and injury virtually guarantee an early death.

The goal of Columbus House Rabbit Society's Make Mine Chocolate!™ campaign is to break the cycle of acquisition and relinquishment by educating the public about the responsibilities involved in keeping a companion rabbit before a rabbit is brought home. For more information, visit www.makeminechocolate.org.

Are you are considering getting a rabbit? Visit The Interactive Bun at www.makeminechocolate.org/learning.php to find the information to help you decide if a rabbit is the right companion for you.



Purina Weight Circles

Do you feed your dogs and cats Purina products? If so, please save those weight circles and mail them to us or drop them in the SOS donation canister at Soldan's.

Charity with Ebay

If you buy things on Ebay or on the Internet, here is an easy way to raise money for SOS. Using the iGive.com program, a percentage of the proceeds from each Ebay auction you win or each Internet purchase made will be donated to your favorite charity. Join iGive.com and list SOS Animal Rescue as your cause, then use www.iGive.com as the gateway to Ebay or your other Internet shopping and let the fund-raising begin. Thanks to current members using iGive.com, SOS is already receiving these valuable funds.

BENNIGAN'S PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER!

SOS ANIMAL RESCUE IS HAVING A BENNIGAN'S NIGHT

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

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

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2009

TIME: All Day: Open to Close

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

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

Name _____
Address _____
E-Mail _____



10 Ways to Welcome Your Rescue Dog

"Treat your new rescue dog like a two-year-old child and you'll make friends fast," says Jean Smith, coordinator of Collie Rescue of the Carolinas. "It is important to establish right away that this is his new home and he is staying."

Here are ten tips to help you welcome your rescue dog.

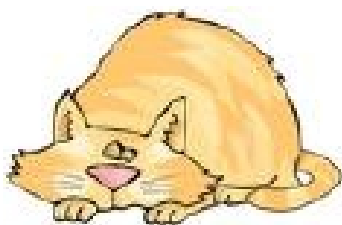
1. **Know your dog.** "Get as much information as possible from shelter or rescue organization personnel about his behavior and daily routine," says Emma Parsons, adoption intake coordinator for Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue. Continuing the feeding, exercise, and grooming routine he was used to gives your dog confidence in his new home.
2. **Clarify dog-care duties and limits in your home.** These duties include who will walk the dog and when, who will feed him, and whether any furniture or rooms will be off-limit to four paws. Make sure no duty goes neglected and that everyone enforces limits consistently.
3. **Check the dog's health.** "Take him for a veterinary exam, including a heartworm test," says Lori Blackburn, director of Purebred Rescue Organization of Ohio, Inc. Arrange for spaying or neutering, the Humane Society of the United States recommends.
4. **Take it easy.** Bring your rescue dog home when you have a few full days to get used to each other. For the first two days, let only immediate family have contact with him. "Slowly introduce the new dog to other pets during short supervised sessions," Parsons says.
5. **Give him security.** "If the dog is used to sleeping in a crate, continue making his crate available," Blackburn suggests. Your dog will feel protected there.
6. **Give him frequent potty breaks.** Assume the dog is not house-trained. Take him outdoors often to eliminate to help prevent accidents and learn how to signal to you that he needs to go. "Dogs don't know which door to go to in a new home," Parsons says.
7. **Walk, don't sit.** Your companion needs to run and play with you. Those activities not only boost his health, but also strengthen the bond between you.
8. **Go to school.** Enroll in obedience classes, even if your dog already knows the basics, the Humane Society suggests. Learning together establishes you as the leader.
9. **Keep him leashed.** "Don't let the dog run free too soon," Parsons says. If you must chase him, escapes become a game. "When people manage their dogs well, the dogs naturally fall into the kind of behavior people want from them," she says.
10. **Be patient.** Give the dog time to adjust to his new life, the Humane Society recommends. Just as with people, taking your time helps you both to ease into a happy lifelong relationship.

by Holly Ocasio-Rizzo

Cat Cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup whole wheat flour
1/4 cup soy flour
1 teaspoon catnip
1 egg
1/3 cup milk or cat's milk
2 tablespoons wheat germ
1/3 cup powdered milk
1 tablespoon unsulfurated molasses
2 tablespoons butter, vegetable oil, or canola oil



Directions: Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix dry ingredients. Add molasses, egg, oil, and milk. Roll out flat onto oiled cookie sheet and cut into small, cat bite-sized pieces. Bake for 20 minutes. Cool and store in tightly sealed container.

Bark in the Park

On the second and fourth Wednesdays of June, July, and August, come and 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 June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, August 12, and August 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.!



THANK YOU!

Ron and Darlene Andrews
Joan Chupp
in memory of Robert E. Rice
Jackson and Sara Criswell
Donna Helmreich
in memory of Kody Bangert
Michelle James
Joan Marshall

John and Sue McDonnell
in memory of Kevin and Jenny
Kendzeck's pet Ringo
Harriette Miller
John, Julie, and J.R. Nosal
in memory of Goldie the Goldfish
J.R. Nosal
PetSmart for hosting the
Santa Claws fund-raising event

Leslie Russell
Shelley's Bed and Biscuit
Shelley's Collectables
Norfolk Terriers
Ann Sigsby
Tricia Sommer
Brad and Lori Weeden
in honor of J.R. Nosal



Belated thanks to Soldan's for donating proceeds to SOS Animal Rescue from their "Paws for a Cause" fund-raising campaign. The idea was great and allowed for a visual picture of the number of people who participated in the fund-raiser. Thank you for continuing to support our group in such a meaningful way.

Pet Walk

Join us for fun and games at the Bay County Humane Society Pet Walk. It is on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bay County Fairgrounds.



Rummage Sale

As you do your spring cleaning, please think of us! The annual SOS rummage sale will be held on June 12-13 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 405 North Saginaw Road at St. Andrews Drive. Set-up will take place on June 11. Visit the SOS website at www.sosanimalrescue.org for more details.

Spay/Neuter Statistics

From January 2004 to February 2009, SOS Animal Rescue has spayed/neutered 975 cats and dogs.

SPAY/NEUTER	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Female Cats	41	90	93	109	90	6
Male Cats	26	64	57	70	49	4
Female Dogs	14	31	32	30	44	3
Male Dogs	13	17	30	41	20	1
TOTAL	94	202	212	250	203	14



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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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