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SOS Animal Rescue Newsletter • Volume 14, Issue 3 • July 15, 2014

Railway Family Center Partnership

Our newest partnership is with the Railway Family Center in Coleman. This win-win relationship allows cat food to be stocked at the Railway Family Center pantry so clients have a local source for pet food assistance. SOS Animal Rescue provides the food, Railway Family Center provides the storage space. Thank you, Railway Family Center, for partnering with us to help the animals.



The pet food assistance program is funded entirely by community donations and is intended to service limited income homes, senior citizens on a fixed income, and other hardship cases.

Understanding Dog Body Language and Verbal Clues

Have you ever wondered why your dog makes those strange muttering sounds at the dinner table? Or why he lays his ears back when confronted with a stranger? Dogs speak to us, but in a different language. Unfortunately, there's no Rosetta Stone DVD to help us learn "dog talk." So, instead, we must analyze it ourselves, keeping it in context, avoiding asserting our own interpretations, and remembering that dogs were once wild animals.

The best way to start is to look to the dog's ancestor, the wolf. Wolves live in packs and dogs do the same with other pets in the household and their humans. There must be a leader of the pack and that leader should be you. And to be an effective canine leader, you need to know what your dog is trying to tell you.

Dogs communicate in many ways with each other, using verbal cues, body language and facial expressions. They also try to communicate with humans using these methods. Humans, of course, communicate with dogs with commands and phrases. Dogs can learn hundreds of human sounds but they can't string them together. Thus, the need for short commands such as "Sit!" and "Come!" Many of our communication tools are lost on dogs, such as sarcasm (to indicate frustration) or closed body language (to indicate you're uncomfortable) or a look of surprise. To enhance our communication with our canines, we must learn to get back to the basics and speak "dog."

Dog Body Language/Facial "Expressions"

Confident and Relaxed: Stance erect; Tail wagging slowly; Ears pricked up but with a relaxed look; Eyes small pupils; Mouth closed or slight parting of lips.

continued on Page 7

SOS EVENTS

Adopt-athon

PetSmart Saginaw
Saturdays
1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

July 9
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Pat's Food Center Freeland Adoption Event

July 11
1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Tractor Supply Adoption Event

Midland
July 12
12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Family Fare Spay Neuter Awareness Event

July 19
12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Monthly Meeting

Grace A. Dow Library
Conference Room B
July 21
no August meeting
September 15
6:00 p.m.

Bark in the Park

July 23
August 13
August 27
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Dirty Dog Run

October 4
8:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Race

10 Reasons Why You Should Adopt an Elderly Animal

Sure, puppies and kittens are super cute, but older animals need a home too!

The sad truth is that elderly animals are often overlooked, with many spending the rest of their lives at the shelter waiting for the perfect forever home.

If you're considering adding a new member to your family, then check out these top ten reasons why you should adopt an elderly animal:

1. **Easier to Train** – Forget the corny old saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Senior animals have a greater attention span and impulse control, making them easier to train. Yes some senior animals can be stubborn and stuck in their ways, but dogs in particular are great at reading human behavior and are quick to figure out what you're asking them to do.
2. **Less Likely to Mess** – Elderly animals tend to be house trained as they've already got years of experience under their belt. This is good news for you as you won't have to waste endless rolls of paper towels cleaning up poop. Trust me, your floors and furniture will thank you!
3. **Already Spayed or Neutered** – Many elderly animals will already be spayed or neutered, which means fewer trips to the vets and worrying about who your new family member can or cannot come into contact with.
4. **What You See is What You Get** – From the start, you know exactly what you're getting into when adopting an elderly animal. They are already fully grown and have already developed their personality, which makes choosing the perfect companion for your lifestyle a whole lot easier.
5. **They're Not a 24-7 Job** – Puppies and kittens require constant monitoring, care and attention, meaning you won't get a minute's peace. If you have a busy lifestyle or you have children, elderly animals may be a better match.
6. **They Like To Take It Easy** – Senior animals are content to kick back and relax in your company, unlike juveniles who are always getting up to mischief. Of course elderly animals will still need exercise and mental stimulation, but they are not as likely to run you ragged.
7. **Great Napping Buddies** – Speaking of relaxing, elderly animals make the ideal napping buddies, so if you're looking for a friend to snuggle up with, then an older companion might be a match made in heaven.

8. **No 3:00 a.m. Wake-Up Calls** – While it's fun to watch excitable kittens and puppies crazily playing and racing around the house, it's important to remember that these activities can happen at all hours, including when you want to sleep!
9. **They are Super Loving** – Older animals just want someone to love and to love them in return. They have been through so much in their lifetime that they make for sincerely grateful and devoted companions. Just ask anyone whose adopted an elderly animal and you are sure to hear glowing recommendations.
10. **You Might Save Their Life** – When you adopt a senior animal, chances are you're saving their life. As old animals are the least likely to get adopted, they are often the first to be euthanized.

It's important to remember when considering adopting a senior animal that there are certain worries involved. Elderly animals are more likely to be prone to health problem, which means increased vet costs so you need to ensure you have the means to properly care and support them through these potentially troubling times. Elderly animals can also carry emotional and physical traumas with them from their previous lives, meaning you may have to work hard initially to gain their trust and help them overcome their fears. Lastly, you need to be fully aware and prepared for when you adopt an elderly animal, you will inevitably have less time with them before they pass (but there's more reason to make their last years count).

Unfortunately for elderly animals, most people gravitate towards the adorable kittens and puppies. Young animals are never short of admirers, but for the older animals, you might be their last chance of happiness.

Written by Abigail Geer. Reprinted from www.care2.com.

Spay/Neuter Statistics

If each spay/neuter surgery prevents two litters of unwanted puppies or kittens from being born the program has saved over 16,000 from a life of hunger, cruelty and disease. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many.

Spay/Neuter	thru 2013	2014	Total
female cats	806	82	888
male cats	491	91	582
female dogs	388	22	410
male dogs	267	19	286
total	1952	214	2166

Your donations help these animals receive medical care.

They are either still in treatment or waiting for their forever homes.



Hopper came to us with an injured leg that required amputation. Hopper is doing great and is ready for adoption.

Chico is a rescue from Animal Control and was not house broken. We are still working on his issues.



Paulie had an eye infection that was left untreated for too long. His eye was removed and now he is ready for a new home.



Will was found severely underweight. He was eating gravel to survive. Once we got his system stabilized and on a proper diet, he is doing much better.

Lucy was rescued from Animal Control and we discovered a thyroid issue. She is undergoing treatment to stabilize her thyroid hormones and should be ready for a new home in mid-July.



We also lost some special pets these past few months. Kroger (above) was found in the Kroger garden center. Despite the best efforts to save, him he passed after a week in our care.

Tigger (right) was a newborn brought in with his siblings. Despite tender loving care and bottle feeding, Tigger passed after two weeks.

Saturday, October 4
9:00 a.m.

SOS
Dirty Dog
Trail Run

Sign Up Online:

sosanimalrescue.org/dirty-dog-trail-run



All events start and finish at the City Forest Trail head located at 2840 E. Monroe Rd. (1/4 mile west of Eastman Ave.), Midland. The course is a combination of unpaved two-track and single-track trails that twist and turn over flat land and steep hills in the scenic woods of City Forest Park, just north of the City of Midland. City Forest is a 520-acre preserve of woods, creeks, marshes, and bridges, making for an enjoyable and challenging off-road run. The social area is open from 8:00 a.m. to the end of the race. The divisions are men, women, and under 13. Dogs are welcome, but not required to participate! All racers 13 and under get a medal.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens
9:00 a.m. 10k Run Begins
9:10 a.m. 5k Run Begins
9:15 a.m. 5k Walk Begins
After Race 1 Mile Children's Walk

SOS Milestone: 2,000th Spay/Neuter Surgery

Reprinted from Midland Daily News. Monday, June 2, 2014.

SOS Animal Rescue's spay/neuter assistance program recently assisted with its 2,000 spay/neuter surgery. The program helps low-income residents in Midland County pay for the costs of spaying and neutering dogs and cats.

"This is a positive milestone in our efforts to help control the animal population." Spaying and neutering is just as important as rescue and adoption, if not more, because we're preventing a lot of these animals from going into shelters, said President Joann Taylor.

"The 2,000 surgeries have prevented thousands of unwanted cats and dogs from being born into abuse, neglect and a life of misery," Taylor said. "In addition, the animals lead healthier lives after surgery and the community benefits by having significantly fewer homeless animals roaming the streets. There are not enough homes for them all so no birth is the first step to a no kill community."

To date, SOS Animal Rescue has provided more than \$120,000 in assistance to low income families to get their pets fixed. Assistance is also provided for feral or community cats. The program is funded by donations from the community and the fund-raising efforts of the volunteer organization.

"Spay and neuter is good for you, your pet, and our community," said Taylor. "Not only will you avoid the mess and frustration of heat cycles, but also the cost and hassle of an unwanted litter. Surgical sterilization will help your pet avoid certain health risks and eliminate some nuisance behaviors."

To participate, individuals must submit an application. Once their eligibility has been verified, the applicant will receive a voucher to present to a local veterinarian that will cover a portion or all of the spay/neuter surgical cost.

Applications are available at www.sosanimalrescue.org or by calling (989) 492-0042.

Rescue Me Magazine

Rescue Me is a magazine all about rescue animals. It is well written with all kinds of feel good stories and suggestions for taking action to help the homeless.

The amount of \$19.95 of the \$29.95 subscription fee goes to the designated rescue of your choice. If you want to choose us, our ID is D145.

If you don't want to subscribe but do want to read the great information, visit their website at www.rescuemecentral.com. Happy reading!

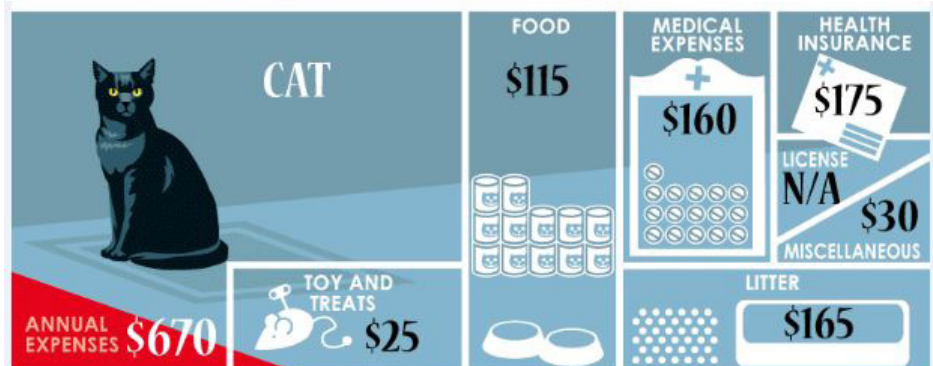


You can view all the Parade Your Pet photos we took at this event on our facebook page. There is also a video on our YouTube channel. It was great fun. Thanks to our volunteers for helping at the event.



\$ ANNUAL PET COST

People love their pets, but how often do they think about the costs?



Thank You for Displaying SOS Donation Canisters!

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M-20 Animal Hospital
Northern Animal Clinic
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Surrey Vet Clinic
Wall & Webb

THANK YOU, GIVE LOCAL MIDLAND DONORS, FOR 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.

Linda Bader
Phyllis Beehr
Ralph Brozzo
Tricia Eidsmoe
Deb Fugate
Rose Kagarise
Jennelle Maki
Joan Marshall
Nichole Toth
Betty Shangle
Joann Taylor

Pet Food Assistance Program	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Families helped	50	40	77	138	38
Dogs		56	121	180	42
Cats		149	159	210	75
Other animals		11	2	6	0
Pounds dog food out			2458	6386	1191
Pounds cat food out			1627	2824	892



continued from Page 1

Fearful or Anxious: Stance lowered; Tail tucked under; Ears down; Eyes a wide-eyed look with the whites showing; Mouth panting.

Aggressive: Stance rigid; Tail straight up or out behind, very rigid; Ears pricked up; Eyes intense, focused stare; Mouth lips are pulled back and some teeth show; Hackles this is a line of hair that starts at the base of the neck and runs down the shoulders. It is raised if a dog is feeling aggressive and lowered if he is relaxed.

Fear-Aggressive: Stance dog is pulled into himself; Tail tucked completely under; Ears lying down; Eyes wide-eyed and trouble focusing; Mouth lips pulled back slightly or heavy panting.

Relaxed: Stance lying down or standing without any alertness; Tail up and wagging or lying naturally; Ears at their normal state, depending on the breed (terrier's would be up but relaxed, hound's would be down); Eyes normal pupil dilation, focused but not staring; Mouth open and lightly panting or closed.

Dog Verbal Cues

The Howl: This is an attempt to locate someone, perhaps you or the dog down the street. When you leave for work, it's very possible your dog howls in an effort to get you back. When one dog starts howling in the neighborhood, usually many others join in it's sort of like a conference call.

The Growl: This means "back off." You'll see a dog growl when another dog gets interested in his food. Your dog may growl at a stranger he doesn't like or he may growl at you when you try to take his toy away. It's actually a very effective way of communicating and actually signals that you can probably negotiate that toy away. When a dog is in an aggressive stance and silent, there is the most danger.

The Grunt or Mutter: This is usually to indicate that your dog wants something. It's an interesting sound because it's almost manipulative your dog knows if he barks, he'll get into trouble but the more subtle "grunt" might get him what he wants. It is also heard when dogs greet other dogs or humans.

The Whimper: Dogs whimper when they're anxious or hurt. Sometimes they figure out that they get attention when they whimper and use this to their advantage.

The Whine: This indicates frustration. They are in a sense "complaining" about something.

The Bark: There are many different types of barks. A high pitched bark indicates excitement and happiness. A low pitched bark indicates aggression and is possibly a threat. Dogs bark to get attention, to respond to other dogs, to indicate that they're happy, and to alert their human to a problem. Unfortunately, your dog may detect a "problem" that you can't see or hear, such as a siren miles away or the neighbor's cat hiding in the tree outside the window.

Remember when Lassie sprinted off down the road to find help because Timmy had fallen into a well? Through her verbal cues and body language she was able to lead the rescuers back to the disaster scene. By understanding our dogs' language, we can better communicate with them and avoid common misunderstandings. And you can be assured that your dog isn't going crazy when he's muttering to himself all the time.

Reprinted from www.dogster.com.



Keep in mind the Morley Portraiture event in November. Fantastic photographer capturing your pet in an amazing photo. Stay tuned for details.

Groups Offer Reward for Information in Dog Shooting

*Reprinted from Midland Daily News.
Thursday, June 5, 2014.*

SOS Animal Rescue and the Humane Society of Midland County are offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the individual or individuals that are responsible for shooting a young dog seven times and leaving it on state land at the end of Dublin road, north of Airport Road. This occurred sometime between winter and April. The dog was a young, white, medium sized dog.

Anyone with information can email the groups at dublinkdogreward@gmail.com. Information will be confidential and given to law enforcement.


The Most Popular Pet in America?

The answer depends on how you look at the numbers. According to the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) there are about 43 million households that own dogs and about 38 million households that own cats. However, if you look at the number of "owned pets," our precious ones rank first with 81 million cats, followed by 75 million fish, then 72 million dogs.

Our New Website

Check out our new website at www.sosanimalrescue.org. It has many new features including an online application for our pet food assistance program, information on where your donations go, Saving the Sick and Injured page, and Happy Tails page. If you have a Happy Tail story to submit from an adoption with us, send us some info and we'll post it. Thank you to Steve Cronk at Aberro Creative for help in building the website.

United Way



United Way Designation

We are coming up on the United Way campaign. Remember that you can designate your donations to SOS Animal Rescue by writing in our name on the donation form. Our tax ID number is 38-3562588. Thank you!



Azteck was found in a snow bank with injured back legs. Watch her success story video on our youtube channel at www.youtube.com/sosanimalrescue1.

THANK YOU!

Mike Bartos
Sue Broughton
Big Rick's bike run in memory of
Rick Bouliew, Sr

Lily Cheng
Chris Erskine
Amy Falkowski
Carrie Fisher
Gabriele Golombeski
Michelle James
Elizabeth Marshall
Rose Miller
In memory of beloved Chocolate
Labe, Bo by Adam, Stephanie &
Makenzie Nearman
Cathy Price
Madeline Sasse
Judy Scheuffele
TV5
In memory of JoAnn Waltz
by John, Julie and J.R. Nosal

In memory of Gary Leddy
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Kevin Murphy & Michelle Leddy
& many cash donors

Memorials from Rena Marx:
Mother of Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Rinke
Mother and brother of James &
Jennifer Wise
Grandmother of Teal Christoffersen
Husband of Mary Winter
Father of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wise
Aunt of Dairia Ray
Grandparent of Mr. & Mrs. James
Baker

Thank you, Scrapbooks Galore &
More and Carol Arnosky for all the
help with our rummage sale.
Thank you, Todd Bennett and Tyler
Snyder of Ayre Rhinehart, for the
rummage sale location.

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Texan
Ways to Wellness



M-20 Animal Hospital,
thank you for your continuing
the Neuter Palooza events
that were held each month
this year, providing free male
cat neuters to pets in low
income families or feral cats.
The next event is July 10.
If you are interested, contact
us at 492-0042 for an
application or fill one out on
line at our website
www.sosanimalrescue.org.
Thank you, Olive Garden,
for providing lunch at the
June Neuter Palooza.

Bark in the Park

Bring your dog to the Chippewassee Dog Park in Midland (across the Tridge) on the second and fourth Wednesdays in July and August for an evening of fun and free doggie prizes! The event is from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and is sponsored by SOS Animal Rescue.

- June 11 Meet and greet, prizes for everyone.
- June 25 The great costume promotion.
- July 9 Make a paw print of your pet.
We provide the supplies, you provide the paws.
- July 23 Pool party.
- August 13 Activity to be determined.
- August 27 Doggy Olympics.



Bark For Life Highlights

Thank you to everyone for a successful event. See all the photos on our facebook page. Thank you Michael's for hosting the kids activity and face painting at Bark For Life.



Top Ten Reasons for Vet Visits:

Top 10 Canine Claims

1. Ear infections
2. Skin allergies
3. Pyoderma (hot spots)
4. Stomach upsets
5. Intestinal inflammation/diarrhea
6. Bladder diseases
7. Eye infections
8. Arthritis
9. Hypothyroidism
10. Sprains

Top 10 Feline Claims

1. Lower urinary tract diseases
2. Stomach upsets/gastritis
3. Renal failure
4. Intestinal inflammation/diarrhea
5. Skin allergies
6. Diabetes
7. Colitis/Constipation
8. Ear infections
9. Upper respiratory virus
10. Hyperthyroidism

SOURCES: AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, PETINSURANCE.COM

R. TORO / ©

veterinarian **DEPOT**.com



BOOK REVIEWS BY CHRIS ERSKINE

Saving Audie: A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a Second Chance

Written by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Photographs by William Munoz

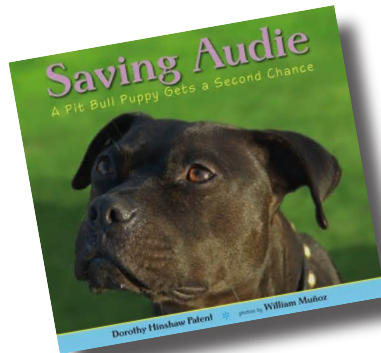
Ages 6-9

In April 2007, NFL quarterback Michael Vick was arrested and charged with organizing a huge dog-fighting ring that included a multitude of cruelty charges. This case became big news, continuing on for months. Over 50 dogs were rescued from Vick's Bad Newz Kennels. These dogs were then held for safe keeping in several locations as 'evidence' until the end of upcoming trials.

Saving Audie is a photographic narrative of one little dog that was about to be thrown into the pit, so to speak. This little black puppy was discovered in Vick's woods chained to an old car axle. That was his whole existence. Dogs used for dogfighting are never treated as living beings, only as a money source for gambling and other illegal activities.

At the time of the rescue, there was much media attention and debate as to whether the Vick dogs could be salvaged. Some authorities thought they should all be euthanized, that these dogs were 'broken' beyond repair. Other groups held the belief that many of these dogs could be rehabilitated. Audie was one of the dogs that got his second chance to live in a home with a loving family.

This book does not show horrific photos of mangled dogs, but does a pretty good job explaining the dog-fighting industry so that children can understand. Most importantly, it illustrates the power of kindness, hard work, and dedication. The book includes photos of so many of the other Vick dogs that are now healthy, happy, and well adjusted.



Mrs. Crump's Cat

Written by Linda Smith

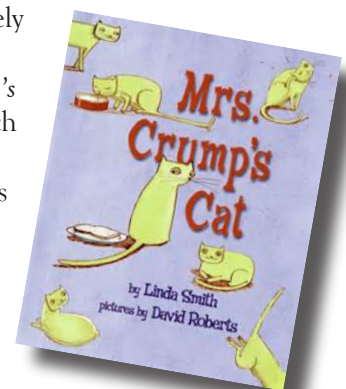
Illustrated by David Roberts

Ages 4-8

'One rainy day, Mrs. Crump opened her front door to fetch the paper and discovered an exquisite golden cat shivering on her porch step. "Shoo!" she cried. "Shoo! Go away!" But the cat did not go away. "I'll have you know," Mrs. Crump said, "I have no use for a cat."

Thus the story begins. Mrs. Crump is sort of a grump; however, her demeanor slowly changes with each passing day. Mrs. Crump tells herself that she will send the yellow cat on its way when etc., etc. Yet every day there arises another logical reason why she should wait.

With a lovely story line, *Mrs. Crump's Cat* has such delightful illustrations that it will make even the most die-hard grump smile.





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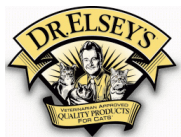
Mission Statement

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.

Board of Directors

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THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM, GOLD, & SILVER SPONSORS!

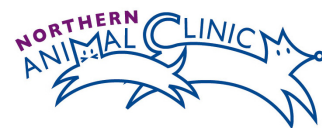


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