

PET SAVERS

Improving the lives of companion animals



THE FIRST CAT

Spring 2008

No, this is not a story about the cat in the White House. This is a story about how you can help prevent more and more kittens.

Everyday shelters get telephone calls from residents who



have litters of kittens and cats roaming in their yards, hiding under their sheds or living at their favorite restaurant. These are the results of people feeding strays because they "feel sorry" for them and don't want

them "put to sleep" at the shelter. "I've been feeding a stray and guess what, she had a litter of kittens", or "I didn't call because I was afraid they would put her to sleep" is what they hear, after the cat has had a litter of kittens. If the cat had been taken to the shelter, IN MOST CASES, she could have been spayed and put up for adoption.

That was easy, the first cat will not be having kittens, she is spayed and the shelter has found her a wonderful home.

If that unsplayed cat does not go to the shelter, she will go into heat and attract a stray male cat that will impregnate her. After two months, she delivers a litter of six very cute kittens. If you take her kittens from her and find them "good homes" the problem is solved, right?

Not so fast...some of those "free kittens" will not get spayed or neutered, and they will go on to have kittens. The Mommy cat will go into heat right away and become

pregnant again. Another litter of kittens...you are contributing to the problem!

If you do nothing, because "it's not my cat", the kittens that survive will become feral and not able to be handled. The Mommy will come into heat, sometimes while still nursing the first litter, and become pregnant again. When the first litter is 4 months or older, they will breed with each other, their mother or father, or new strays that have smelled the unsplayed females in heat. Yes, female kittens can come into heat as young as 4 months and yes, they can breed with their brothers and their fathers!

Some of the kittens will die of upper respiratory disease, worms, fleas, etc. The Mommy can get feline leukemia, aids or distemper from the Daddy or another stray and pass those viruses on to the kittens. They can live the rest of their short time on this earth in the freezing cold of winter, the sweltering heat of summer, trying to find food and water anywhere they can and huddling together for

protection...WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE!



Every year, animal control officers must trap colonies of cats and kittens in restaurant parking lots, shopping centers or other commercial businesses.

Because most of these cats are feral and deemed "unadoptable" they will be euthanized. Sometimes, if people want the cats out of the area, they will put poison out for them and they will die horrible deaths, suffering for hours, sometimes days until the end.

(Continued on back page)

ADVICE ON LOST PETS

Losing your pet is very frightening so take every precaution to minimize the possibility of it even happening. If it does happen in spite of your care the first thing to do is carefully search your neighborhood. Be sure to check all ditches, wooded areas, garages and shacks.

Your pet may be frightened or injured and try to hide. Tell everyone in your neighborhood your pet is missing. Concentrate on children, mail carriers and newspaper delivery people. Make a flyer with a photo of your pet. Copy it and post around your neighborhood, in local stores, supermarkets, schools and veterinarians to see if your pet has been brought in injured. Check all the local shelters often. No one knows your pet like you do. Don't send someone in your place to look for

your pet. If you do not find your pet at the shelter, fill out a lost report so the shelter has a description on record if someone calls who found it or it is taken to the shelter.

If your pet is wearing a rabies tag and you have moved or changed your phone number, call the veterinary office and tell them where you can be reached. Once you get your pet back make sure you add a tag with your name and number making it easier for you to be reached in case it happens again.

Place a lost pet ad in as many newspapers as possible, including neighborhood papers. Keep checking the shelters and searching the found ads in the paper. Above all, don't give up hope. Lost pets sometimes show up months later.

KELLEY'S SHEPHERD



Jaq at home with his favorite toys.

We've asked you to share stories of your animals and Kelley sent us this delightful tale of a shepherd she rescued from the Gloucester County Animal Shelter.

My husband and I went to PetSmart and saw a German Shepherd who needed rescuing, along with his buddy. We filled out an application and said we couldn't take both dogs as we already had a miniature pinscher and a shar-pei. The shelter soon called to let us know the brothers had found a good home and there was a new shepherd available.

My husband (who's more objective) visited the dog at the shelter without

me. We soon decided to bring him home and named him Jaq (pronounced Jack). Jaq fit right in and is the best behaved shepherd I ever owned. He came to us knowing all his commands, but you could tell he'd been neglected.

There was evidence he'd been left on concrete and his teeth showed he tried to chew through a chain. I still find it hard to believe someone could treat this sweet dog like that.

After a year his behavior changed and he went from a healthy 98 lbs down to 76 lbs in two months. He was doing things he had never done before like swiping food off the counter, knocking over the trash can and having accidents in the house.

Tests soon gave us the answer. Jaq had a disease called EPI, a rare pancreatic disease, most common in shepherds. Since finding the necessary medicine he is back up to 100 lbs and doing well.

He has been with us for 6 years, he's somewhere between 10-11 years old now. We are so happy to have been able to love and take care of him all this time. Some people think we are crazy to go to the lengths we do for our animals, but we think it's worth it for that unconditional love. ♥♥♥

COLLARS AND TAGS

Identification tags are important for cats and dogs. Tags indicate the animal is owned, and if he's lost, the owner can be notified through the tags. A dog license is strong evidence you are the owner of the dog. You should also attach to the collar an I.D. tag giving the pet's name, your name, address and telephone number.

In the cases of puppies and kittens you must pay particular attention to the fit of the collar and adjust it or replace it with a larger one as the pet grows. Feline collar should be stretchable or be made of "Poppet" beads so that the cat won't strangle if the collar should be snagged by a bush or an object if it gets out of the house.

For short haired dogs flat leather or nylon collars are best. Long haired dogs are better off with a round leather collar. Dog collars should be loose enough so that you can slip your fingers between the collar and the dog's neck, but be sure the dog cannot "slip" his collar by turning and twisting against the leash. An untrained dog who slips his collar may attack another dog, cat, human or run into the street and be hit by a passing vehicle.

MICROCHIP YOUR PET FOR SAFETY



If your pet is like 95% of the animals who end up at a shelter he will have no identification on him.

Over a million pets are lost every year! The microchip was developed to make sure your pet never slips out of the house without identification.

The microchip was developed by a veterinarian. It is so tiny it fits in a hypodermic needle and is injected into your pet, just like a vaccination. It's injected under the skin in your pet's shoulder blade area where it remains safely for life.

Shelters check every animal that come into their facilities with a special scanner to see if there is a microchip. If one is found they call the hotline and after a quick search the pet owner is called, your alternate or your vet, to quickly reunite you with your pet.

More than 17,000 scanners have been distributed in the United States. The microchips can be used for dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, exotics...any pet you love. Thankfully, it won't fade or fall off. If your pet is ever lost and found you have positive identification that the pet belongs to you.

The cost is about \$50 for each animal. A reasonable cost to protect your pet from being permanently separated from you.

LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS AND RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Animal Welfare Assoc. - 856-424-2288
Animal Adoption Center - 856-435-9116
Camden County Shelter - 856-401-1300
Animal Oasis Sanctuary - 856-262-1222
Furrever Friends Rescue - 856-845-8554

Animal Orphanage - 856-627-9111
Almost Home Shelter - 856-663-3058
Cumberland SPCA - 856-691-1500
Paws and Claws - 856-498-9010
Save Animals Foundation- 856-582-3661

TO BREED OR NOT TO BREED?



Responsible pet owners have their pets neutered. Unless you are a professional breeder of champions, have your dogs and cats, both male and female, spayed and castrated so they cannot reproduce and add to the pet population explosion. Humane societies and shelters everywhere are inundated with an endless overwhelming tide of unwanted animals. Hundreds of thousands are taken into shelters each year with many of them killed annually. Isn't it kinder to prevent their birth?

CRAIG HARRIS KLAYMAN, ESQUIRE

WILL DRAFT A SIMPLE WILL FOR ANYONE WHO DONATES \$75 TO PET SAVERS

CALL: 856-853-1918

THE FIRST CAT (continued from front page)



YOU, the resident and animal lover can help prevent most of this suffering by dealing with the first cat. Take action that will help SAVE thousands of kittens and cats from death! If you deal properly with the first cat, only

one home needs to be found, if you wait until there are kittens, many more homes need to be found. Even if you find "good homes" for your kittens, because there are NEVER enough home, another litter of kittens will be euthanized somewhere in a shelter!

Don't sit back and say "I don't want to take them to a shelter, I'm afraid they will be put to sleep"...you are the reason kittens get "put to sleep".

PLEASE...help all the strays by dealing with the first cat. Call your local shelter or rescue for help NOW!



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Bark 'n Bid silent auction benefit
Friday, April 4th, 7-11 pm
\$30 in advance or \$35 at door
Dinner, Wine & Beer
Music with DJ Jeff Mazzola
Kelly Ann Ballroom
419 Highland Blvd, Gloucester City
Call Deborah Stoyko for more
information or purchase tickets
856-796-0361