

PET SAVERS

Improving the lives of companion animals



PetSmart Charities Feline Forum

by Gina Megay and Tana Sammons

Nearly 600 people attended the first ever PetSmart Charities® Feline Forum in Chicago in September 2009. Attendees came from 43 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, as well as 2 Canadian provinces. This was the first national conference focused entirely on cats. Keynote speakers emphasized how far we've come in raising people's awareness of cats and their issues, but also how far we need to go. The forum provided attendees with the information and contacts to continue on that journey.

Presented by PetSmart Charities®, "Feline Forum: Practices and New Perspectives" featured 36 conference workshops, presented by subject-matter experts, that turned the spotlight solely on the special needs of homeless cats across North America.

Workshops were divided into six tracks:

- Free-roaming Cat Issues
- Adoptions
- Shelter Issues
- Keeping Cats in their Homes
- Social Issues
- Saving Cats Now and in the Future

The Social Issues track focused on how cats are perceived – even within the shelter and rescue communities. For example, although likely a necessity, do the small cages send the message that cats don't need space to play, stretch, explore, etc.? Why are dogs featured more often in fundraising appeals? Why are most of the people pictured with cats female? Does this send the (incorrect) message that cats and men don't mix?

"Re-branding Felix" explored unique, creative and effective ways to change the perception of cats and their needs. The information and ideas exchanged ranged from complex plans to address long term issues to simple things that can be done quickly and easily at low or no cost.

PET SAVERS has begun to incorporate the learning from this conference to improve the lives of cats in and around the South Jersey area. One very simple thing we did was to rearrange the front of the cat cages at the Deptford PetSmart. We realized too many items were hanging in front so the cat could not be seen. We are currently focusing on creative ways to "market" the cats now that the holidays are over. We also hope to periodically have promotions to entice more people into the Adoption Centers.

If you have an idea that will help us find more families for our cats, or would like to work with us at the adoption center, please contact PET SAVERS.





WHY YOU MUST SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS

by Barbara Spector

1. To prevent pet overpopulation and the resultant euthanasia of millions of unwanted animals

Between 3 and 6 million homeless animals are euthanized in this country each year. In fact, euthanasia of healthy animals is the biggest cause of death for domestic animals. Most of these animals could have been loving, adoptable companion animals for someone. Sadly, they are killed because there are not enough homes for all the unwanted animals.

2. To prevent serious and sometimes deadly health problems for your pet

Spaying and neutering prevent serious health problems. Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine and ovarian cancer. It also greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, especially if it is done before the first estrous cycle.

Health problems and death related to pregnancy are, obviously, eliminated. Neutering eliminates the chance of testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate cancer.

3. To protect your pet

Sterilizing your cat or dog makes him a better pet, reducing his urge to roam and decreasing the risk of contracting diseases or getting hurt as they roam. Surveys indicate that as many as 85% of dogs hit by cars are unaltered. Intact male cats living outside have been shown to live on average less than two years. Feline Immunodeficiency Syndrome is spread by bites and intact cats fight a great deal more than altered cats.

It's time to stop solving the overpopulation problem by killing the unwanted animals! Please, spay and neuter!

“The True Meaning of Jasper”

by Michelle Biehl

The official meaning of the word Jasper is supposed to be: an opaque form of quartz, red, yellow, brown or dark green in color, used for ornamentation or as a gemstone.

For our story, this is the name that was given to a tiny, sneezing dachshund mix when he was adopted from the shelter by his forever family.

Jasper became as valuable to the family as a gemstone. A shining symbol of joy, trust, loyalty and comfort. The love he gave the family was as colorful as the reddest Valentine heart.

He shed the light of hope for the family that shined as brightly as the most yellow of suns as he warmed their souls. Jasper had brown in the longer of his fur and looked as unique as was his gentle and obedient nature.

Jasper helped the family grow stronger together, branching out like the greenest of trees; and he made them laugh, always.

Sadly, on a cold February day, Jasper was called to a far away, yet colorful place. In an instant his tiny body was weakened. But, his spirit was larger than

life as Jasper stood between his boy and a ferocious stranger, another dog that was nothing like the gentle Jasper.

Jasper fought with courage and loyalty for the family that saved his life, and while badly hurt, he waited for them to arrive by his side so he could make his journey in peace. He earned his place in the hearts of his forever family and has traveled to his new forever home, where he will be perfect always.

The name Jasper now has a new meaning. He reminds us that we are never in control, that every moment is precious and we shall not take them for granted. He shows us that in a short time a life time of love can be delivered when we keep our hearts open.

Jasper demonstrated thanks to a family that saved his life and he left a legacy of love. He will never be forgotten, he is forever adored, and remains with his family as an ornament of hope, a shining gemstone of LOVE, and an expression of peace...

Note from layout staffer: I never met Jasper, but Michelle's story brought him to life for me. Having lost my own pets I empathize with Jasper's family. Therefore, in his memory, I am making a donation to PetSavers on behalf of Jasper and his family. He will not be forgotten.

2010 Bark 'n Bid Dinner and Auction-Don't Miss It!

Last year the 2009 Bark 'n Bid was a resounding success! Profits made from the Silent and Chinese auction allowed PET SAVERS to do wonderful things for both the community and the many deserving animals that came to our attention.

For the 2009 Girl Scout Jamboree volunteers from PET SAVERS attended the event, complete with informative coloring books and a presentation on how to take good care of pets.

PET SAVERS volunteers also took along our official mascot "Ollie" who is a well-loved shelter rescue to interact with the scouts.

PET SAVERS continued to support the adoption efforts at the PetSmart stores by incorporating valuable marketing information learned by attending PetSmart Charities® Feline Forum in Chicago, IL.

With your continued support given by attending our functions, your generous donations and response to our calls for help, we will keep working on behalf of the animals.

Please come out and join us on April 23rd for an evening of good will and friendship on behalf of the companion animals already in our lives and those we've yet to meet.



COMING EVENTS

PET SAVER'S 3rd Annual Bark 'n Bid Auction

Fri. April 23rd 7:00 pm-11:00 pm

Adelphia's

1750 Clements Bridge Rd, Deptford

Tickets \$30
Dinner & Drink

(tickets must be bought in advance, see website for purchase info)

Save Our Seniors!

During March PET SAVERS is featuring senior cats for adoption. When you adopt any cat 6 years of age or older from the Gloucester Co. Animal Shelter (GCAS) or PetSmart locations, PET SAVERS will give you a \$25 rebate on your first veterinarian visit.

Each month PET SAVERS will use a different criteria to feature the adoptable cats eligible for the \$25.00 rebate. Our hope is you'll find a wonderful companion during our adoption promotions.

For April we're using a special promo for any cat who has been at the shelter for over 4 months. Spring does bring out the babies! In May adopt a "Mommy" cat for Mother's Day. In June we'll focus on finding you a wonderful "Daddy" cat in honor of Father's Day.

Weekly we'll also have a specially selected "volunteer's favorite" that will be eligible for the rebate. We're determined to find you a forever friend out of all these fun choices!

CRAIG HARRIS
KLAYMAN, ESQUIRE
WILL DRAFT A SIMPLE WILL
FOR ANYONE WHO DONATES
\$75 TO PET SAVERS
70 S. Broad St.
Woodbury, NJ 08096
856-853-1918

PET SAVERS, INC
PO BOX 546
WOODBURY, NJ 08096
856-796-0361
PETSAVERSNJ.ORG



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!!!

Help us save animals in our community. PET SAVERS needs volunteers, donations and caring foster homes for animals who will give you hours of companionship and love in return for a little of your time. There are many ways you can help. Visit us at any local PetSmart store where our volunteers care for animals waiting adoption. You'll find us on the web at www.petsaversnj.org; you may reach us at PET SAVERS, Inc., PO Box 546, Woodbury, NJ or call us at 856-796-0361. Help us make a difference in a companion animal's life!

“KIND NEWS” SCHOOL UPDATE

PET SAVERS has been supplying a select group of elementary school classrooms with issues of “Kind News” published by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). In our efforts to keep animals out of the shelters we want to educate the children and their parents. The “Kind News” is one of the tools we believe will work, especially after getting a positive response from the school’s director.

We always want to make donation dollars bring the best value and help the most animals. Before increasing the number of children who get the newsletters, we must make sure they’re being used and helpful. So we asked. In response to the PET SAVERS question, we received the following from Bobbi Marciano, the Director of Elementary Education for the Washington Township Public Schools:

“I checked with the principals regarding the use of KIND News. The teachers are receiving the KIND News issues, and they find it beneficial. They use the issues during their Reader’s Workshop. They scan the paper and find the articles fun. It generates conversation between students about some of the articles. It is also a nice addition to our literature unit of non-fiction text.

“We are certainly interested in continuing to receive the news during the 2010-11 school year. Thank you for all of your efforts that have made this program a reality and a success.”



HELP NEEDED! The Gloucester County Animal Shelter needs Kong treats, Kong paste and peanut butter. Please drop your donations at the shelter during business hours.

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