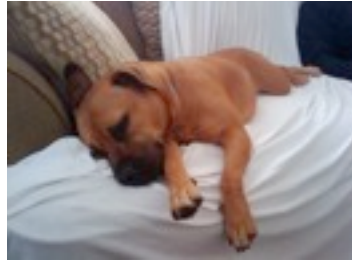


# PET SAVERS

Improving the lives of companion animals



## GLOUCESTER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER "NEEDS"

The Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) works with a budget, just as all other agencies. The budget for the animal shelter has taken a significant hit, as belts are tightened in the current economic downturn.

Sadly, that means there's less medication for the animals, no air conditioning or money to replace the broken dehumidifier and short handed staffing. Yes, the animals bear the brunt of these issues, but the staff suffers too.

Most of the people who work at the shelter do so because they love animals and care about their welfare. While they make do with what they have, and do their best for the animals, there's no question that an infusion of money into the system would certainly help.

Much stress comes with being the one who must put down animals because of overcrowding or the lack of money for expensive medical treatment. Working in the high heat and humidity of the shelter during the summer and the cold, damp conditions during the winter take its toll.

PET SAVERS has been running fund raising events with the goal of buying some much needed equipment. These items will help the shelter be more comfortable for the animals and the employees. One such product we're looking into was designed to decrease the noise level in the kennel areas. Understandably, noise stresses the animals. This stress makes it harder to endure their time waiting for a family to find them and take them home.

While the noise levels are not healthy for the humans, at least they understand why it is so. The poor animals do not and many react in a way that makes them seem less desirable as a pet and therefore not adoptable.

What a terrible thing to happen to an otherwise calm, loving animal. These sweethearts are cheated out of an opportunity to be adopted because they don't do well in extreme conditions like a loud, noisy and overheated environment!

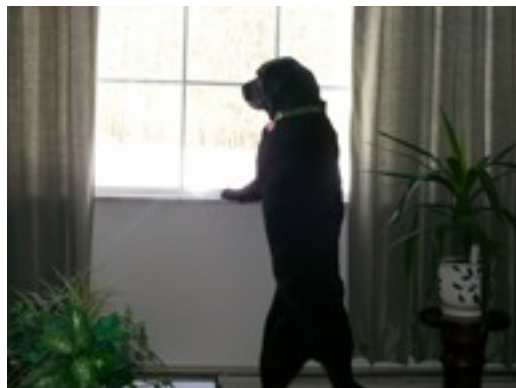
PET SAVERS is working to educate people about spaying and neutering, which will help keep the numbers of unwanted animals down. Keeping one's cats indoors instead of roaming outdoors will also help. Both of these practices will keep down the number of animals going into a shelter.

Keep your pets safe and out of the shelter. For the ones we must house and find homes for we need your help. You can join us at our fund raising events and donate whatever you can to our shelter improvement fund to help the others.

Your donations to PET SAVERS and the shelter will help make GCAS the best it can be for the animals and the humans who work there! Please go to our website and make a donation today.

Short on money? You can donate time instead. There's always a need for an extra pair of hands or

to foster small kittens until they're big enough for the shelter. It's a rewarding experience, just ask our volunteers!



## PROTECT PETS FROM THE HEAT

by Barbara Spector

With the onslaught of very hot weather upon us, it is wise to consider the health and safety of pets before taking them out into the heat for prolonged periods. Pets cannot tolerate heat the same way people do. One big reason is that dogs don't sweat; they use a different way to cool down. To help insure pets don't suffer from the heat, owners need to take special precautions.

Heat exhaustion is a dangerous condition in animals that occurs due to lack of protection from heat and humidity. It doesn't take much time for heat exhaustion to develop. A dog can overheat in a hot vehicle in just 10 minutes. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy panting, drooling, and labored breathing. Gum color is another indicator. If gums appear red instead of pink, that's a sign of an animal in distress.

If it happens, you should quickly move the animal into a cool spot. Give the dog water to drink, and wipe a cool washcloth over the fur. Don't just dump cool water over the animal. It helps to place the paws in cool water as well. Do not put the

animal in an ice bath. If an animal cools too quickly it can go into shock. As soon as feasible take the dog's temperature and get it to your vet.

Normal body temperature for a dog is between 101 and 102 degrees Fahrenheit. A temperature higher than 105 signals heat exhaustion. In this case, the dog would require veterinarian care with IV fluids and close monitoring of body temperature.

Pet owners can take a number of precautions to prevent heat stress and exhaustion in pets. If your dog spends any amount of time outside, you should provide shelter so the dog can access shade at all times and offer lots of water.

Vets recommend walking your dog before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., when sunlight and humidity are less powerful. It is safer to leave your pet home on hot or humid days rather than in the car, even with the windows cracked.

Taking these precautions during the summer months could prevent a tragedy in your family. If you see a pet locked in a car in distress, you can contact your local animal control or law enforcement officers. Every year, tragically in New Jersey, pets die from heat exhaustion. Please be aware and don't let it happen in your neighborhood.



### Pet Foods & Treats Recalled - may be contaminated with Salmonella

**\*United Pet Group**, is voluntarily expanding its recent recall of its Pro-Pet Adult Daily Vitamin Supplement tablets for Dogs to include additional pet nutritional supplement products for dogs and cats. The products include various United Pet Group Pro-Pet and Excel branded products for dogs and cats, and certain other private label brands of the same products.

All the affected products are in tablet and powdered form. These products are being removed from retail stores and consumers should immediately stop feeding these supplements to their pets. The affected products are those with expiration dates that include and are between "01/2013" and "06/2013."

Consumers may contact United Pet Group at 1-877-399-5226, M-F, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm EST.

**\*Merrick Pet Care, Inc.** is recalling 86 cases of its 10oz "Beef Filet Squares for Dogs" and "Texas Hold'ems" pet treats (Item # 60016 Lot # 10084TL7 Best by March 24, 2012)

Consumers who bought "Beef Filet Squares for Dogs" are urged to return unused portion to place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-800-664-7387 M-F 8:00 - 5:00 CDT.

**\*P & G** expands voluntary limited recall of specialize dry pet foods to include lams veterinary dry formulas, Eukanuba Naturally Wild, Eukanuba Pure and Eukanunuba Custom Care Sensitive Skin; all sizes and varieties all UPC codes, Best Buy dates "7/1/10-12/1/11."

M-F, from 9:00 am- 6:00 pm EST.  
Consumers may contact P&G toll-free at 877-340-8823

*People handling the products can become infected, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the product or any surfaces exposed to the product.*

*Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms please contact your veterinarian.*

## IS COCOA MULCH TOXIC?

Please, for the safety of your pets, consider not using cocoa mulch containing theobromine. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) confirms the potential ill effects of theobromine and caffeine (present in cocoa mulch and chocolate) on dogs.

Dogs are highly sensitive to these chemicals called methylxanthines. In dogs, low doses of methylxanthine can cause mild gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea, and/or abdominal pain); higher doses can cause rapid heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures, and death.

50% of the dogs that eat cocoa mulch can suffer physical harm depending on the dog, his size and how much he eats. While most dogs won't eat it there are always ones who will, especially puppies.

Some brands now say they are theobromine-free and pet safe. If you feel this is the only mulch for you, please make sure you buy a brand that specially processes the product, to make it safe to use around your animals.

## COMING EVENTS - see website for details

Sept. 18th 11-4	Oct 9th & 10th	Oct. 24th
<b>GCAS 20th Anniversary Celebration &amp; Open House</b>	<b>Fido Festival</b>	<b>3rd Annual Woof Walk</b>
1200 N. Delsea Dr Clayton, NJ	Salem County Fairgrounds 735 Rt. 40 Woodstown, NJ	Alycon Lake Park 9-11 Pitman, NJ
3 pm "Best Trained Pet" contest *Face Painting *Refreshments	Lots to See, Lots to Do & Lots of Fun for Pets & their Families	Contests, Prizes, Entertainment & Vendors  Dogs in Costumes

### Donate With No Extra Cost to You

Participate by purchasing items at [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) and searching using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

Go to the website the first time and choose "Participating Nonprofits" tab, select "animals" category and "NJ" state. Click on letter P to take you to PET SAVERS and choose our charity! Easy. PET SAVERS will receive money every time you use these sites with no cost to you.

**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**







**Contact Us At:**  
**PET SAVERS, INC**  
**PO BOX 546**  
**WOODBURY, NJ 08096**  
**856-796-0361**  
**PETSAVERSNJ.ORG**

**We're on Facebook!**

*Contact Save The Animal Foundation for information on low cost spay/neuter. (856-582-3661)*

## THE HERMIT CRAB

*by Michelle Biehl*

Facts about that little old sea shore crab we call "Hermit."

During this time of year while strolling along the boardwalk you are sure to see folks checking out the hermit crabs and the groovy shells you can buy for them.

Back in 1994 I decided to see what they were all about while on a trip to the Jersey shore. I bought one crab and a mesh cage, with one sponge, and a container of food. I went back to the hotel room and watched this little crab pop in and out of his shell. He was quite "Crabby" not very social and easily startled which was evident when he continued to disappear to the safety of his shell when he saw my shadow.

When I got home from the trip I bought a book on how to care for hermit crabs and I was really shocked by the lack of information I received when I purchased mine. That changed my outlook and so began a ten year span of me owning not one but a colony of hermit crabs.

Let me tell you what I learned in those ten years. The first point is hermit crabs do best in colonies of three or more. Once "Crabby" had some friends he was much more content. Hermit crabs mate in water but live on land. Once on land or in captivity they won't be mating so you don't have to worry about that if you have more than one.

Since they are land dwellers they like to climb so it's good to have something in their enclosure for them to climb. You can find logs or large pieces of coral in any pet store.

The best enclosure is one that will easily hold humidity as hermit crabs need humidity to breath. I used a small fish tank for my colony. Humidity is key to the hermit crabs survival. The enclosure must be misted each day and once a week you can dip your hermit crabs into a bit of water to help them clean out their shells. For the bottom of the enclosure you can use bark, sand, or fish gravel bought at any pet store. You can use a small food and water dish. I used clam shells for the food and water dishes when I had my colony. I often saw them scrape trace minerals off the shell which gave them some natural vitamins and nutrition.

Any food sold in the pet store designated for hermit crabs is adequate and a little fresh fruit is also good as a treat. Hermit crabs don't eat much on a daily basis. Much like a fish you only need a pinch or two in the dish.

Two important things to know about hermit crabs is one they shed their skin a few times a year. When this happens they appear to be inactive for a day or two. But, once they complete the process they are like new. It's important to recognize this and to allow them the space they need to complete the molting process.

The other point to remember is hermit crabs use shells as protection. They will try new shells out just like we try on clothes to see what is comfortable to them as they grow larger. It's important to have a variety of empty shells lying in the enclosure that are a bit larger than their current body size in anticipation of their growth. Having a colony of hermit crabs was very interesting. I kept them for ten years and I enjoyed having a little bit of the beach in my home for four seasons. It's important when you buy any new pet that you educate yourself on how to care for the pet in the most natural and adequate way.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!!!

We need your help to 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 your time. There are many ways you can help, just ask us. Visit PET SAVERS at any local PetSmart store where our volunteers take care of the animals waiting for adoption. You'll find us on the web at [www.petsaversnj.org](http://www.petsaversnj.org); you may reach us at PET SAVERS, Inc., PO Box 546, Woodbury, NJ or call 856-796-0361. Help us make a difference in a companion animal's life!

