

# FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

By: Sarah Weston



For more information on fostering contact : Sarah Weston <sierralima52@aol.com>

The experience of being a foster parent for the Gloucester County Animal Shelter is enjoyable and rewarding. There is no better feeling than walking out of the shelter with your fosters, and knowing they are saved because of YOU. I foster cats and kittens but all animals big and small need saving so do some research and see what works best for you.

Some important things to know before you decide to foster are that taking these animals into your home requires a great deal of your time and commitment. It's not as simple as just taking them home, putting them into a room, and feeding them. They will need to learn all their proper manners that will make them a great pet for their future family, so socialization is very important.

Once you start to foster, you will see what works best for you. My foster pets have access to my entire home once they have a clean bill of health, to interact with my animals and family which helps with the socialization. They are also able to get used to the sights and sounds in my home – television, dishwasher, vacuum.....

Another important thing to keep in mind is that sometimes your fosters may get sick and need medication, so you need to be prepared to medicate and watch for signs of illness or recovery. It will all get easier over time and you will be amazed at how much you will learn.

Many great kitties have passed through my door and I will keep a special place in my heart for all of them. People always ask me, "How do you give them up, isn't it hard?" The answer to that is YES! I spend a great deal of time with these cats and kittens – our fosters become like our own cats while they are here. I like to keep in touch with any adopters who are willing to do so which makes it a lot easier to let them go. I have formed many new friendships through fostering, and am thankful for all the great families who have adopted my fosters. It's awesome to hear feedback - how sweet the kittens are and how much they love them. That makes it all worth it.

Fostering is a fun and rewarding experience. If you have a little extra space and lots of extra love - give fostering a try. ***The animals are waiting for you!***



## SUPPORT PET SAVERS "FUN" DRAISING EVENTS

**Wash in the Park** at Atkinson Park : July 21<sup>st</sup>      **Woof Walk** at Atkinson Park : October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Bark-N-Bid Auction** at Bogey's in Pitman : November 9th

VISIT US AT [WWW.PETSAVERSNJ.ORG](http://WWW.PETSAVERSNJ.ORG) FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS AND LOCATIONS OF OUR PET SAVERS TENT AND FOOD DONATION BINS. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE DO TO "SAVE PETS"

## How LEAVE IT Can Be a Lifesaver

One of the most useful commands you can teach your dog is **LEAVE IT**. I found out just how valuable this command could be when one day I dropped a large bag of M&Ms on the floor, the sound of which immediately summoned my own two chowhounds. I gave the command, freezing my pups in their tracks, thereby thwarting a likely trip to the vet. The following instructions are from PetSmart's Basic Owner's Guide:

To teach your dog **LEAVE IT**, place a treat on the floor a little ways away from your dog. If he starts to go toward the treat, cover the treat with your hand or foot. When the dog stops attempting to get the treat on the floor, reinforce him with a treat from your other hand. Once he gets the idea and doesn't approach the treat on the floor but instead looks up to you, you can begin to say **LEAVE IT** right after you toss the treat on the floor. You want the dog to learn that when he hears **LEAVE IT**, he comes to you for a reward rather than picking up what is on the ground. Watch your dog carefully for signs of avoidance when you toss the treat down. Signs of avoidance are different for individual dogs. They can be so subtle that if not watched for carefully, they can be missed. Typical signs can be looking away, looking up at you, or moving his head away from the treat. Once he shows any sign of avoidance, immediately praise him and reward with a treat from your hand or other source. You can give him permission to take it as you do so. Of course, there are other techniques to teach this command, but this is how my dogs were taught and what worked for us in the above situation. Happy training!



### *"Somebunny" to Love*

There are some points to consider before bringing a bunny into your home. Like any other pet, rabbits are a lifetime commitment. Bunnies can live upwards of ten years. They require a clean living area, fresh water, a good-quality pellet to eat, hay, fresh greens, and toys. When handled regularly, rabbits make docile and affectionate companions, and can be very good with children. Some can even be trained to use a litter box. Grooming consists of nail trims and brushing, but some may require an occasional ear cleaning. Rabbits tend to be healthy animals, but keep in mind that their teeth never stop growing. They should always have access to something hard to chew to wear them down. It is possible for their teeth to grow through their jaw; a vet can clip overgrown teeth to prevent this problem.

If you decide that a bunny is right for you, please consider adopting from a shelter or rabbit rescue. If you are unable to keep your pet, please **DO NOT** release it! Unlike their ancestors, domestic rabbits lack the skills necessary to survive in the wild. With the proper care and love, you and your pet bunny can have many wonderful years together.



## Ask The Local Vet

**"What do I need to know about heartworm preventative – and why is it important."**

Veterinarians are warning that new strains of heartworm are reaching our area. As a result, they are urging pet owners to have their animals submit to an inexpensive test, **even if the pet has never missed a dose of preventative**. A particular type of mosquito found in the south is believed to be responsible for these strains, and their local appearance is likely due to the influx of adoptable pets being transported to our area from the southern states.

When you take your cat/dog to your veterinarian, he/she will discuss at every visit the vaccines that your pet should receive and formulate a customized vaccine schedule that will fit your pet's lifestyle and provide needed protection. Heartworm preventative is safe, easy and effective. And you may be able to get assistance in some cases. If a dog takes Heartgard and is positive, Heartgard will pay for the treatment.

We all want our pets to live a long, happy and healthy life. Vaccines are the first step in that journey.

### **LUCKY DOGS AT THE SHELTER HAVE NEW DOGS BEDS**





## Breed All About It – The Italian Greyhound

*By: Loretta Sisco*

Classified as a toy breed, the Italian Greyhound is the smallest of the sighthounds, ranging in height from 12 to 15 inches and weight from 7 to 15 pounds, although larger dogs are quite common. Italian Greyhounds generally enjoy good health, and have a lifespan of 12-15 years.

Italian Greyhounds are intelligent, very affectionate, and they thrive on human companionship. They are very loyal to their people, but can be timid with strangers. Most dogs also enjoy the company of other dogs and cats. They love their creature comforts and they can usually be found lounging in sunspots or burrowing in blankets. Many of them sleep under the covers with their owners!

It is not entirely correct that Italian Greyhounds are content to be couch potatoes. They are athletic little dogs, and like their larger peer the Greyhound, they enjoy running through the house or yard. They can reach a top speed of 25 mph.

Many dogs can never be trusted off leash, and the Italian Greyhound is no exception. They are willing to chase anything that catches their eye, and you will not be able to capture them easily. An enclosed yard of 6 feet would be great for exercise and potty breaks, bearing in mind that they can actually climb chain link and jump a fence even this size.

Italian Greyhounds can be stubborn. The main reason these dogs are surrendered to shelters and rescues is because they are the most difficult breed to housetrain, and many are never 100% fully reliable. It takes patience and vigilance on the part of the owner to keep accidents to a minimum. Due to their reluctance to go outside in inclement weather, some people choose to train them to use an indoor potty pad. The coat of the Italian Greyhound is very short and requires minimal grooming. Nails may be trimmed with traditional nail trimmers or with an electric grinder. This breed is notorious for having teeth and gum issues; therefore, frequent brushing with toothpaste flavored for dogs is recommended.

As with any pure breed, Italian Greyhounds are prone to health issues such as periodontal disease, epilepsy, leg breaks, and luxating patellas (floating kneecaps).

There is a rescue for virtually every dog breed. If you feel an Italian Greyhound is right for your living situation, please consider adoption. Rescue organizations and shelters specialize in placing dogs in the most suitable homes, and they can help you find your ideal companion.

THANK YOU...Merci...Gracias...Danke...Grazie...Obrigado

For the first time, saying "Thank you" is just not enough. I have been dealing with the animal kingdom for 50+ years, and have never had to be on the receiving side of the situation. I was always on the giving side, and honestly, probably hadn't ever realized exactly how much this work does for people, as well as for the animals. Whenever our four-legged loved ones are in need, and we just do not have the means to help them, it is the most devastating feeling in the world. Unfortunately, I find myself in that complex area now. But thanks to you and PET SAVERS, you have provided for my pets everything I cannot give to them. You have taken what seems to be the weight of the world off of my shoulders. I have to admit, that asking for your help was a very difficult thing for me to do. I really know now, how some people feel. You heard of my need for help, and immediately came to the rescue of my pets. This was done with so much true caring and concern, and, I might add, love. I still try to help others in any way I can, but God has given you to me, and I thank Him every day. With sincere appreciation and love, I hope that someday, in some way, I may be able to lend myself to PET SAVERS' wonderful works. Thank you for everything.

**Nancy Pedonti of West Deptford**



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**\$35 Spay/Neuter (cats only)**

Upcoming clinics will be held in Lindenwold  
Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>                        Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

# EVACUATION

## PREPARATION

Hurricane season is fast approaching, have you made plans for your pets in the event of an evacuation? The ASPCA reminds us that if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Do not leave them. It is best to know in advance where you can place your pets in an emergency. You should have the names and numbers of veterinarians, boarding facilities, friends and relatives that may house your pets temporarily during a crisis, as many human shelters will not welcome companion animals. It is important to have your pets' supplies readily available in the event you need to leave quickly. Your animals should all wear a secure with identification tags.

A registered microchip is even better, as collars can come off, leaving your pets unidentified. Remember that a microchip is worthless if it is not registered with the chip's provider. Incorrect information will also lessen the effectiveness of the microchip. Some items to consider for inclusion in your evacuation kit (specific to cats and dogs) are leashes, harnesses, collars, food, water, bowls, litterbox and litter, transport carriers, pet medications, copies of pet medical records and current pet photos.



With some advance planning, you and your pets should be able to evacuate quickly and safely in an emergency.

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### PETSAVERS, INC

P.O. Box 546

Woodbury NJ 08096

856-796-0361

<http://petsaversnj.org/Home.php>

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