

Paw Prints

Animal Adoption Center a.k.a. Friends of Camden Animal Shelter (FOCAS)

A No-Kill Shelter for companion animals

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Fall 2004



DogWalk! Sunday, October 3

At first it seems a bit odd...to *pay* \$15 for the privilege of walking your dog in a park full of other people in what amounts to a doggy parade. But the walk is only a part of the fun. Animal Adoption Center's annual dogwalk has grown until it has become a full-blown Doggy Festival.

Early in the morning we greet the **crafters**. They'll be selling everything from weather vanes to country wreaths to home-baked doggy treats and fancy dog scarves. At 9:00 registration starts. Dogs of all shapes and sizes bring their people to the table by the balloons. Conversations and friendships begin as people line up with their sponsor sheets and donations. T shirts are awarded to everyone who brings over 50.00 in sponsors, and a special prize goes to the person who brings in the most sponsor donations. Everyone gets a goodie bag and a program telling about the events of the day.

Yup...a program. Our dogwalk has really grown over the years. There'll be food (bagels, coffee, doughnuts, and such) in the morning and lunch type stuff at noon. We have a panel of experts available all day: A **professional dog-trainer** to help you stop Bootsie from chewing your shoes, a **veterinarian** to give health advice, our **Pet Therapy co-ordinator** to tell you about our programs; in-home pet sitters, groomers, and folks from the local doggy spa "**Best Friends**."

Our specially **dog-equipped vehicle** supplied by Fleetway Chrysler of Oaklyn are outfitted by Jake's Dog House to show you the safest way to take Rex and Princess for a ride; it will be near the shelter table where you can meet some of our alumni, and some sweet dogs waiting to meet their new families.

And, if you are absolutely baffled by your dog's behavior or fears, you can talk to **Dr. Elizabeth Severino**, the famed **pet communicator** (psychic). Some of her insights are astounding, and she has been known to have awareness about pets who have passed away (bring a picture or collar).

The Dogwalk begins at appx 11:15 and travels in two loops through Haddon Heights park. The first loop (1K) is perfect for older dogs and puppies. The second 2K loop winds through the paths, doubles back and ends up at the parking lot. Water stations are provided along the way. Bring plastic bags as two-legged walkers must pick up after four-legged walkers.

Have you ever seen a **Dog DANCE**? We've invited the famous "**Dancing with Dogs is Fun!**" of the WCFO (World Canine Freestyle Organization), Inc. to bring their twinkle-toed dogs to give us a **dog-dancing** exhibition. They'll show us how it's done right after the dogwalk at the little amphitheatre in the park...maybe we can teach our own pups to tango.

Our contests are next. We give "gold" medals to winners of the following competitions: Dog with the strangest bark (yip or howl); Biggest feet; Best talent—dog only; Best talent—dog and owner; Best dog costume; Best dog and matching owner costume; Longest nose; Dog that looks most like their owner; Owner that looks most like their dog; Littlest dog; Shortest tail; Tallest dog on hind legs; Longest tail; Oldest dog in the event; Most unusual walker. And in keeping with the time of year, we end our program with the blessing of the animals. As James Herriot said "All creatures great and small, the Lord God loved them all!"

Every penny we make at the dog walk goes directly to our animals, as our supplies and goodies are all donated by generous sponsors and volunteers.





Draven

Soft gray, the color of smoke, Draven is a dignified looking fellow with some surprising preferences. He got a taste of chocolate once and now he's crazy for it! He cries whenever he sees someone eating candy! So if you have a sweet tooth and are willing to share, or if you just want a gentle reminder that you don't need to eat all that chocolate,

Draven is your guy. He has a sweet personality and would love a permanent and loving home of his own.

Honeycomb...

Won't you be my baby? Honeycomb be my own. An old song for a young domestic white and gray short haired cutie. Honeycomb was rescued from the streets of Philadelphia by a very kind couple who could not keep her so they brought her to us. Honeycomb loves to be snuggled in a nice cozy lap and has a sweet and loving personality.



Clarissa:

We can only guess at Clarissa's story. When we took her in last March she was very pregnant, and very alone. She had four beautiful babies who all found homes. Now it is Clarissa's turn. She is a truly wonderful, gentle cat with an expression that somehow makes her look like she's smiling. Clarissa has been spayed, is FeLV/FIV negative, and is up to date on all shots.

Willow:

Another lovely black and white lady. Willow is two years old, neutered and up to date on all shots. She was dropped in a parking lot on a nasty, rainy Sunday morning. Willow has been front declawed and has a very pleasant and gentle personality. She will sit very still on your lap while you brush her.



Buttercup

Buttercup is a darling 3 year old female Husky/Hound/Whatever Mix who was returned because her previous owners confused this submissive girl's defensive behavior with aggression. Buttercup has begun to trust the world again, and has become downright affectionate with the many people who have come to know and love her here; she will need a quiet home with a dog-savvy owner who will shield

Buttercup from the rowdy commotion that tends to stress her. She is moderately active, likes walks and would enjoy a nice yard. But she also needs quiet time and gentle affection.

Bandit

Bandit is an eight year old Border Collie Mix who came to us when his owner was put out of his house and was told that if he did not take Bandit with him, Bandit would be taken to a vet to be "put down" that day. With nowhere else to go, Bandit's owner turned to the AAC for help. Fortunately, we were able to take Bandit in and we've really enjoyed having this lively, alert boy stay with us. But our task will be complete only when Bandit finds his new home! Bandit has lots of energy and is looking for an active home. He also loves attention and should not be left alone for long periods of time. He gets on well with other animals and is crate trained.



Rocky

Rocky has escaped with his life not once, but twice. He first came to us when he was in danger of being put down when a private rescue group was under court orders to disperse their dogs. They had taken him when he was in danger of being put down in a high kill animal control shelter. So even though Rocky has dodged two bullets, he is still looking for that magical happy ending, a home to call his own! Rocky is a spunky little two year old boy. He looks to be a Corgi X Terrier Mix, but whatever he is, he is 100% cute! He is playful

and confident and would love to be part of someone's active lifestyle. A nice yard with a four foot fence and someone to play ball with would be "Rocky heaven"!



Volunteers Needed for Pet Therapy

A big heart, a gentle pet (or a willingness to work with one), some time to take a class, and above all, a desire to bring a smile to a face that has been sad for too long...that's what it takes to be an AAC Pet Therapy representative.

Our representatives regularly go out with either their own pets or a qualified shelter pet to one of several organizations that have requested our visits. We go to Moorestown Estates (a nursing home, Alzheimers facility, assisted living center), the Developmental Center in Vineland (mentally handicapped children), Sunbridge, New Seasons (assisted living), Seabrook House (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center), among others, and there is a waiting list of facilities that would love a visit from you and your pet companion.

Here is what you'll have to do.

1. Take a class at Camden County College. The class takes is held on Saturday mornings and runs for appx. 10 weeks.
NOTE: We'll pay for the class if you sign an agreement to make 12 pet therapy visits over the next year.
2. Get your certification--this makes you eligible to go out (with your pet or one of ours) as our representative.
3. Arrange with Marsha, our Pet Therapy Coordinator to get on our schedule.
4. Go out and create smiles.

It only take a little bit of time, a little bit of effort, but wait 'til you see the difference it makes. Call 856-435-9116 for more information.

Mary and Gonzo...hard to tell who is enjoying this visit the most.



Thoughts on Cats

"As every cat owner knows, nobody owns a cat."
– Ellen Perry Berkeley

"My husband said it was him or the cat ...
I miss him sometimes."

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."
– Anonymous

"Never try to out-stubborn a cat."
– Lazarus Long,

"Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a cat."
– Franklin P. Jones

10 Ways To Help You To Keep Your Pet Safe This Winter.

1. **Protect Your Pet from Burns.** Most house fires occur in winter. Protect your pet around wood stoves, space heaters, furnaces and fireplaces. Burning ambers can get into your pet's coat, and youngsters may be curious and touch hot surfaces. Be sure your smoke detectors have fresh batteries and **include your pets** when you develop a house fire evacuation plan.
2. **Care with Candles**—one of the leading causes of house fires. They can be knocked over by jumping cats, running dogs and wagging tails. Do not leave the room where there is a lit candle.
3. **Put a Fire Sticker/Sign in Your Window** to alert firefighters that there are pets inside. Many humane societies provide such stickers free, or you can make your own. Use highly visible colored paper, such as neon, and place it on the inside of your windows. Write – "ATTENTION FIREFIGHTERS – PETS INSIDE." and indicate the number and type of pets such as "2 DOGS and 1 CAT."
4. **Take Special Care with Antifreeze.** Buy antifreeze that does not contain ethylene glycol. Antifreeze is very toxic due to this chemical component. It is sweet and tasty to pets, and lethal even in small quantities. Buy brands that do not contain it ethylene glycol such as Sierra®, and be sure to keep it out of reach of your pets. Note that even antifreeze without ethylene glycol is toxic in large quantities.
5. **Beep Your Horn/Slap Your Hood.** Cats often curl up in warm engines in the winter and suffer severe injury from the fan belt when the engine is started. Beeping your horn before starting your engine can help scare cats away.
6. **Prevent Frostbite.** Frostbite occurs when an animal is exposed to freezing temperatures (often accompanied by high winds). Keep your pet warm – provide warm bedding indoors. Minimize exposure to cold temperatures, especially pets that are used to being primarily in warm climates or indoors. Provide good bedding and warm doghouses for outdoor dogs. Severely cold temperatures are intolerable for even the toughest of pets. When the temperature is below freezing, allow your pet to spend sometime indoors. Consider adding a doggie door to the garage or basement door to allow safe escape from severe temperatures.
7. **Frozen Bodies of Water.** Be careful around frozen lakes and bodies of water as weak areas can allow pets to fall through. Keep your pets on a leash and do not allow them to navigate on the ice.
8. **Protect Your Pets' Feet from Rock Salt on sidewalks and driveways.** Wipe your pet's feet – even clean between the toes – after outdoor walks. Lime rock salt or calcium chloride salt can cause vomiting and diarrhea if the animal licks it.
9. **Provide Fresh Water.** Ensure your outdoor pet has plenty of fresh (not frozen) water. You can buy commercial dishes for this purpose that do not freeze.
10. **Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.** We use various heat sources to keep us and our pets warm. Be sure these appliances are in good working order. Pets are home more than people are, so they may be affected by carbon monoxide before you notice a problem. Pets kept in the garage are also at risk if you warm your car up. Be sure that there is ventilation and air circulation in garages. Have your furnace checked out for leaks or high levels of carbon monoxide. Place carbon monoxide detectors in various rooms of the house.

A Fond Farewell to a Dear Friend

Ms. Wanda Falkingham passed away last month. She was a tiny lady and she suffered severely from joint pains and a host of physical ailments but nothing stopped her when an animal was in trouble, or hungry, had to be rescued, or was in pain.

For years Wanda traveled to Camden, on fiercely cold mornings and blistering hot afternoons because the animals abandoned there needed food and water. She had a route, and the dogs and cats knew when she was coming and responded to the sound of her car, then to her voice, then to her gentle hand. All the people knew her too. They were used to seeing her, and sometimes even helped her with a heavy dogfood bag or jug of water. They knew that she was there for the animals, and she moved through the worst neighborhoods unmolested. Wanda never missed a day, and this went on for years. She nurtured kittens and hand fed dogs that weighed more than she did. Only recently, when her health began to fail, did she let her core of friends take over for her.

One of her friends is Sid Kreitzberg, who is one of the founders of our organization. Wanda's dedication and devotion to these unwanted animals lit a spark in all who knew her and loved animals as she did. That spark became the inspiration for the Animal Adoption Center. Goodbye Wanda, the world will miss you. You were our spiritual guide in this work. We owe you a lot, but nowhere near as much as the dogs and cats of the streets of Camden.

Update on Hercules who appeared in our last newsletter. Here he is with his buddy Kim Mulhearn, whose work with several of our dogs inspired our recently instituted "buddy system." Hercules was extremely frightened when he came to us and our Dog Manager asked Kim to work with him. Hercules blossomed under her consistent, gentle attention...to the point that he became our ambassador at several shelter functions. The Happy News is that Hercules has been adopted, as have several of the dogs Kim has focused on. Good luck in your new home Hercules, and a big "Thank you" to Kim and all of our Buddy System volunteers! Note: If you have some time, come and make a difference to the dog you cannot take home. We'll show you how to do it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

"Golf Outing" - Sunday, September 19, 2004.

Ron Jaworski's Valley Brook Golf Club, Blackwood, NJ. Shotgun start at 1:00pm. \$95 includes green fees/cart, picnic & unlimited draft beer. Call 856-346-3856

"Dog Walk '04" - Sunday, October 3, 2004.

Registration starts at 9:00 am with the walk starting at 11:00 am. Haddon Heights Park, Haddon Heights, NJ. \$15 per person with sponsors very much welcomed. Prizes, contests, and more.

Boscov's discount day - Tuesday, October 5, 2004

For a low \$5 donation price, you will receive multiple opportunities to save money at Boscov's stores in the region. Purchase the tickets in advance and use the whole day to shop!! Call the shelter for more info.

Fashion Show - Sunday, October 10, 2004 at 1:00 pm

Boscov's in the Moorestown Mall will host a lovely luncheon fashion display. Silent auction and 50/50 also will be held. Check back often... more info upcoming.

Wine Tasting - Friday, October 22, 2004

Lucien's Manor, Berlin, NJ. Keep the date open. It promises to be a wonderful event. More info to be announced.

Harvest Social Beef and Beer - Friday, November 19, 2004

Marion House, Kings Hwy., Cherry Hill, NJ. Everyone had a great time at our social last year and we've already had inquiries about this year's event. Seating is limited, so check back regularly and order tickets early!

"Pets with Santa" - December, 2004.

Every year Petsmart hosts their Pictures of Pets with Santa event. Come see Santa, get a one-of-a-kind holiday remembrance, and make an appointment with our Pet Psychic. Complete details TBA.

"Memorial Walkway and Patio Drive"

Don't miss your chance at immortality!! Buy your personalized engraved brick now for our walkway and patio. Pricing starts at \$50. Proceeds will go toward our renovation fund. For more info or to place an order, please call 856-767-2776.

See our web site www.animaladoption.com for up-to-date information about these events

**Low Cost Spay/Neuter...call our representative
Carol Roman at 856 663-1836.**

Yes, I want to help the animals and your NO-Kill mission!

Use my donation to:

- Supply food, shelter, and veterinary care for those waiting to find their homes. \$ _____
- Sponsor the pet I cannot take home \$ _____
Support kitten or puppy for \$15.00 per month, or support an adult cat or dog for \$20.00 per month (A calendar and envelopes will be sent to you.)
- Other _____ \$ _____
- Honor a loved one \$ _____
 - Dedicate a cat cage \$300
 - Dedicate a dog kennel \$500
 - Sponsor the Feline Aids/Leukemia room \$800
 - Sponsor the Cat Community Room \$800
 - Sponsor a Doggy Play yard \$800

We will have a personalized plaque created with your tribute.

Print the words exactly as you want them to appear

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amt of donation \$ _____