



Since 1986, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

Holiday Edition 2006

424 Surgeries in 2006

Two Decades and Still Ticking!!

Who is twenty years old but had no cake, candles, or party horns to mark the occasion? If you guessed "People For Animals", you are correct . It isn't that we don't enjoy a good celebration as much as anyone. It's just that we've been busy with other things. Such a milestone does seem worth noting however.



Try thinking back to where you were in your life in 1986. When PFA looks back over those twenty years, we see a record of hundreds of spay-neuter assists each year. This year we accomplished 424 surgeries through our Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). As an all-volunteer, virtual organization we have been able to maximize the "reach" of our dollars. Because we spend no dollars on salaries or buildings, year after year over 70% of our budget goes directly to spay-neuter. By further leveraging our spay-neuter assistance dollars with those of pet owners who pay part of the surgery cost, we are able to give the greatest gift of all to dogs and cats throughout Middle Tennessee. That is the gift of **prevention** of their suffering! They will live happier, healthier lives and be in shorter supply. We all know what great benefit that brings!!

When you consider what gift you want to make to animals this year, think first of providing everything your own pet(s) need and deserve; and then consider a gift to People For Animals. We promise to continue our tradition of the wise use of your dollars or your time for the greatest possible benefit to the animals.

We wish for each of you and your animal families a blessed and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to working together with you to make our 21st year the most productive one ever.

PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit animal protection organization dedicated to preventing intentional or unintentional harm to all animals in our community with a focus on dogs and cats. Founded in 1986, our goal is to enhance pet quality of life and reduce the number of healthy pets euthanized in shelters with programs that

Reduce the birth rate of unwanted puppies and kittens

Help people make a lifetime commitment to responsible, caring guardianship of their pets

Promote adoption from shelters

Support animal-friendly legislation.

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Message from the President

It's quite amazing to me to realize that People For Animals has been at work for two decades. When you are a grass roots, mostly behind-the-scenes organization, there is little recognition or fanfare about your work. Our mission to educate, spay and neuter, promote animal protection legislation and shelter adoption is indeed low profile but chosen to achieve maximum results. We hope to leave behind a world that is different from the world we live in. These lyrics from a popular song say it so well.

“It’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you; It’s what you leave behind you when you go.”

Let us leave behind more people who provide love and a lifetime home for their pets and many fewer pets who lose their lives because they have no loving human. How can we accomplish this? We unite in our efforts; and we choose our methods wisely. Our four areas of focus each adhere to the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Education of pet owners is always a most effective way to solve and prevent problems. Spay-neuter not only benefits that one animal, but also all the puppies and kittens not born into an overpopulated world. Legislation provides the foundation for our society's attempts to raise its level of humanity and civility and is essential to providing animal protection. And last but not least is adoption from shelters. While it's true that humans will never keep up with the dog and cat birthrate, if most people adopted from a shelter, what a difference it would make. Not only would more shelter animals find homes, but fewer animals would be born in brutal puppy mill circumstances as the demand for them lessened.

Please join us for our next decade as we work to leave behind a more gentle world for the creatures we call animals. To paraphrase Margaret Mead, Never doubt what a small group of committed individuals can do. This small group of individuals is called People For Animals, and we would welcome you.

For the animals,

Ann Logan

Securing Your Pet's Future

If you are leaving non-human family members behind “when you go,” you should plan ahead to make provisions for their care after you're gone. **A will may not be the best way to accomplish this.** Because animals are considered personal property, allocating resources to their care in a will can be more easily contested. **A trust may be a better choice.**

In Tennessee, you may create a trust to provide for the care of your animal(s). The property (including money) of a trust may be used only for its intended use of caring for such animal(s), except to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property exceeds the amount needed. The trust may not be enforced

for more than twenty-one (21) years and terminates upon the death of the last surviving animal(s).

The terms of a pet trust may be enforced by a person appointed in the terms of the trust or, if no one is appointed, by a person appointed by the court. It is usually best to list in the trust document the person you want and not leave such decision to a court. A person having an interest in the welfare of the animal may request the court to appoint a person to enforce the trust if you do not or to remove a person appointed. Obviously, an attorney can advise you in greater detail.



Legislation Provides the Foundation

We all know the importance of laws in creating an orderly, civilized and hopefully just society. In recent years we have made great strides in our state toward mandating changes which benefit and protect animals. An upgrade in the cruelty statute added aggravated cruelty to misdemeanor "simple cruelty" which is failure to provide adequate food, water and shelter to an animal. Felony aggravated cruelty is defined as **intentional** cruelty or suffering, including starvation, that is responsible for death or permanent dysfunction of an animal. Felony penalties also now exist for fighting dogs, bulls and bears. As in any movement, progress is important and worth noting, but resting on our laurels is not allowed when there are still so many inadequacies and even "gaping holes" in the protection of our state's animals.



with acts of cruelty against them. **Clearly we need stronger laws passed and step by step increases in precedents set as animal cruelty cases are tried.**

At this time we anticipate working for successful passage of legislation in the following areas. We will try again to close a loophole in existing puppy mill legislation by establishing a licensing requirement with potential inspection of breeders who sell direct to the public. That would regulate the horrific "puppy mill" scenarios that continue to be exposed only after years of cruelty and neglect. Successful passage of this legislation would create a program which could prevent these situations from getting "out of hand" as they often do. What a gift to the animals that would be!

We also hope to resurrect a "dangerous dog" bill that would allow counties or municipalities to designate a dog as vicious and create legal consequences for that designation. This legislation could prevent dangerous dogs running at large and attacking or killing humans or other animals. We also hope to pass legislation that extends the existing felony offense for fighting dogs, bulls, and bears to include hogs.

As you may be aware, progress in animal protection is not easy. In Tennessee all animals, dogs and cats included, are legally viewed as personal property. While you are thinking of your treasured four-legged companions as family members, the law considers them only property. This creates considerable difficulty for the most willing prosecutor as he/she tries to protect animals from those charged

For updates when the legislative session begins, check our website. We will let you know how you can help.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PFA SPAY NEUTER ASSISTANCE 794-8925

ADOPTION

Metro Animal Services 862-7930

Williamson Co. Animal Control 790-5590

REPORTING ANIMAL BITES/INJURIES

Metro Animal Services 862-7930

Williamson Co. Animal Control Emergency Services 790-5590

EMERGENCY VETERINARY SERVICES

Cool Springs Pet Emergency Clinic 333-1212

Nashville Pet Emergency Clinic 383-2600



Visit us at www.PeopleForAnimals.net
Email us at PeopleForAnimals@comcast.net

High Quality Diet Pays Off

During the holiday season we all want to enjoy the extra goodies on holiday tables without gaining unwanted pounds in the process. Our pets are at risk as well, with one important difference. They are not responsible for what they eat—we are! Alcoholic beverages, chocolate and rich fatty foods are probably the most common culprits. Bones can splinter and cause serious problems also. What's the solution? **Feed your pet a regular diet of high quality pet food.**

With pet food, you will usually get what you're paying for. Cheaper brands will contain lower quality ingredients and have lower digestibility. For example, the percentage of protein listed on the bag tells you only what **quantity** protein your pet is getting, not the **quality**. **It is the quality of protein that determines how much benefit your pet receives.** With a lower quality food you may see slowed growth rate in puppies and kittens, poor muscle and bone development, dull haircoat, decreased resistance to disease and increased fecal output. **In all pets, clear eyes, skin free of dandruff, and a healthy coat are key indicators of good health and are directly affected by the quality of ingredients in your pet's diet.**

Another critical health indicator is weight. **Obesity is the most common nutritional disease in dogs and cats.** As with humans, obesity is most often caused by consuming more calories than are expended. There are reduced-calorie and even prescription diets available now. An overweight pet is more likely to suffer from cardiac and joint problems. If your pet is stiff or limping especially after resting, or hesitates to jump up or climb stairs as before, arthritis (inflammation of the joint) may be the problem.

The first step should be to see your veterinarian. He/she may advise weight loss, appropriate increase in activity, raising your pet's food and water bowls (for back problems), and possibly supplements and medication. This is important to remember. **Your pet does not have to suffer arthritis without relief.** There are numerous things that can be done to help.

If everything is not already "perfect" with our furry companions, let's make New Year's resolutions to give them more of our time, feed them a quality diet, exercise with them, and know our veterinarian's phone number by heart!!

Proper ID & Fast Action Can Bring Your Pet Home

Sometimes despite our best efforts and deepest devotion to our pets, the unthinkable happens. They become separated from us and we don't know where they are. **Two** things are critically important in determining whether or not you get your pet back home.

The first issue is that your pet has identification (ID). You are required by law to have a current rabies vaccination and that comes with a tag number that can get your pet home. Additional ID tags with your contact information on it can provide an easy answer for someone who finds your pet. Microchips and tattoos have the advantage of being permanent forms of ID and protect your pet from being put in certain horrific situations such as research.

The second issue is that you get the word out immediately about your missing pet. Put posters up in the area where your pet disappeared. Contact vets' offices, shelters, all lost and found sources available. **Remember to waste no time in personally contacting and visiting shelters as the rules vary on length of holding time.** Also, your lost pet may be taking a space that will mean a "stray" without ID loses his life.

Do not exclude cats from your ID responsibilities. Many owned cats end up in shelters and are never found by their owners because no one looks. Follow the same rules in searching for your cat that you do for your dog!



Behavior Can Determine Quantity & Quality of Life

While we've been working so diligently on the spay-neuter issue as a key to addressing the pet overpopulation problem, we've learned that there is another issue that also has great impact on that tragedy.

When PFA was born in 1986, we could not get statistics about where animals coming into shelters came from or why they were surrendered. **We have since learned that nationwide the #1 reason for abandonment or surrender to shelters is behavior problems.**

These statistics and the anecdotes that we hear every day suggest that while we must aggressively continue the spay-neuter effort, we should also "wake up" to the reality of behavior as a fatal disorder for many, many dogs and cats.

In shelters such as animal controls, where they turn no animal away, space is obviously an issue. While that means that no animal will be denied food and shelter because their human is told, "No, we're full," it also means euthanasia is required. **Behavior problems can then become deadly.**

In the most benign examples, "unsatisfactory" behavior may simply mean disapproval or isola-

tion for a pet. For a companion animal, living life without love and approval can be a fate worse than a humane death.

If you have "stories to tell" about your pet's behavior, you're not alone. Pet owners may talk, even laugh, about our dilemmas, but we all wish they would magically go away. No such luck! We may think that because we love our pets so, we must know all we need to know. That is NOT true! **The good news is that there are those who do have this knowledge and understanding of the behavior of our four-legged family members, and they can help us.**

Call PFA at 615-794-8925 for that resource information. **We can be taught how changing our behavior can change our pet's behavior!**



You Can Help End Pet Overpopulation



- Have your own pet(s) spayed or neutered.
- Help someone else spay or neuter.
- Educate about health and behavioral benefits of spay-neuter.
- Get help to prevent behavior issues from costing a pet his home.
- Choose your companion for life from a shelter.
- Buy an Animal Friendly license plate.
- Support PFA in its efforts.

PFA & SNAP Recipients Say “Thank You”

Our Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) began helping pet owners and their animals in 1987. The mission of this program is to encourage and enable pet owners to spay and neuter their pets by paying a part or all of the cost depending upon the situation. For a majority of these surgeries, the full price is received by the veterinarian but it comes from two sources, the pet owner and People For Animals (PFA). In some cases clinics have agreed to reduce their prices to help PFA achieve its goals. Our deepest gratitude goes to Williamson County Animal Hospital for its leadership in that regard!!

Screeners for SNAP pick up calls for one week at a time. They return calls on a daily basis talking with folks informally about their particular situation and need. Usually the pet owners themselves call us, but sometimes a friend or neighbor may choose to take responsibility where they see a need. Those Good Samaritans deserve a special vote of thanks.

Our screeners have many stories like these to tell.

A lady called about a friend who, despite her own disability and limited income, rescued a dog and a cat. The caller wanted to help her friend by getting the dog and cat spayed.

Found wandering alone in a parking lot and early in her pregnancy, this sweet girl was taken home by a Good Samaritan who needed help with her spay.

The sale of a house with barn was contingent upon six cats being allowed to remain. The elderly seller came to PFA for help with the six spays and neuters.

A dog, living chained to a tree, broke free and ran to a neighbor's house. The neighbor talked with the dog's owners, who didn't want him back. The neighbor called us to get help with his neuter while she took full responsibility for his other medical care.

A grandson bought a pit bull that he tried to breed. She was injured in the process prompting the grandmother to call us for help with the needed repair and spay.

Almost everyone is very appreciative of the help that is offered to them. Occasionally someone expresses that in a note.

I want to thank you for being there to help Maggie. She would not have lived through a pregnancy with her hip the way it was. I really don't know what I would have done without a friend like you for me and Maggie!!....People For Animals is so important and I appreciate each and everyone of you for helping to reduce the animal population with the canine(s)/feline(s)....

PFA thanks each of you who has had your pet spayed or neutered AND each of you who helps us make that happen with your time or dollars.



Grant Funding Awarded!!

PFA has chosen grant writing as the funding mechanism to supplement the continuing generosity of our individual donors. We are very grateful to have received funding from three grant sources this year. They are the Animal Friendly Fund which is created by the Tennessee “animal friendly” license plate that so many of us have. It helps organizations all across the state to provide spay-neuter assistance. A second source continues to be the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee which has many areas of philanthropy, including animal welfare, made available by its donors.

Our most recent grant, and a first for us, is from the DJ&T Foundation. Perhaps you are familiar with Bob Barker's “Spay and neuter your pets!” closing remarks on his show, *The Price Is Right*. This is a fund that he established for one purpose: to promote spaying and neutering by helping pet owners to pay for it. Our deepest gratitude to all who help deepest gratitude to all who help PFA “speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

Special Gifts and Memorials



For all of us who make a lifetime commitment to our pets, that last day does come; and unless it comes suddenly, we will be faced with a decision. Certainly it is a solemn decision to be made with your veterinarian's advice and your own love and commitment to your animal companion. But what greater gift of unselfish love could you offer?

In the words of Albert Schweitzer: "To put an end by mercy killing to the suffering of a creature, when that suffering cannot be alleviated, is more ethical than to stand aloof from it."

In Memory and Honor of....

In loving memory of William H. Woolverton Jr., who spent time in Nashville rescuing and caring for injured and abandoned animals. His life long love and concern for all animals will live in the hearts of those who knew him....Celia Peake

In memory of Wally Thaden---a cat lover, deeply devoted to the cats he and his loving wife Barbara rescued and took in. Wally, as you look down upon us please know the world is a better place and your "babies" are better off because of you. We love you and miss you greatly....The Triplett, Keefer, and Thaden families

Patty Ryan was one of the most dedicated and passionate animal rescuers I have ever met. Sadly, Patty was taken from us far too early. Today she is one of our angels who helps welcome our dogs to the Rainbow Bridge. Patty and her husband Hans not only rescued dogs but also provided a safe sanctuary for "unadoptable" dogs. God Bless You, Patty! May you forever be an inspiration to us all!.....Emilie Bottiggi

In memory of Bear whose life ended in the most graceful way possible, in peaceful sleep at 19 years old, from the human whose home he shared.....Elizabeth Queener

I will never forget the day I laid eyes on you at Williamson Co. Animal Control---the day our special friendship began. Thanks Flossy for being my best friend for more than 10 years. I love you and miss you so much----Lexie Whittemore

In memory of Kacee and Sasha, two precious schnauzers. Both brought much happiness to their owners and are missed greatly.....Edna Everett and Lois Arnold



In honor of my brother John and his family-- Kathy, Evan, and Kain.....Jill Martin

People for Animals truly appreciates those who understand the special bond that forms between animals and people. We dedicate this space to those fortunate enough to feel that kind of love. PFA sincerely thanks all members and friends for their generous gifts.

Gift: _____\$25 _____\$50 _____\$75 _____\$100 _____Other

All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. You can now make your donations, honorariums, and memorials online at www.PeopleForAnimals.net

Special Gifts: Honor your special animal or human friend with a gift to PFA!

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Interested in Volunteering? Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email address _____ @ _____



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People for Animals is a not-for-profit animal protection group serving Davidson, Williamson, and surrounding counties. All members are unpaid volunteers dedicated to ending the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed in any amount.

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Happy New Year