



Since 1986 speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

Holiday Issue 2011

1,006 Surgeries and 49 Referrals in 2011

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS, A \$10,000 GIFT AND 1,006 SURGERIES!



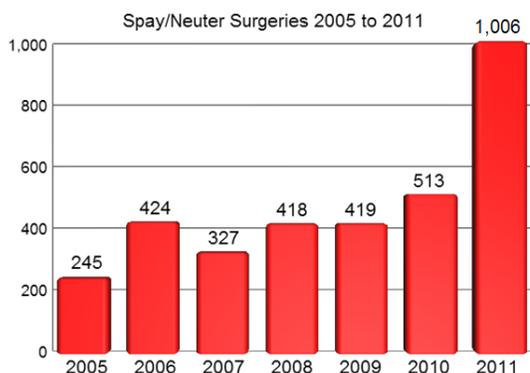
If you've been to our website lately then you know some of the reasons that we are celebrating. People For Animals (PFA) is 25-years-old this year! Can you recall what you were doing 25 years ago? Maybe. Maybe not. It wasn't yesterday!

PFA is growing like never before and that means that our ability to "speak for those who cannot speak for themselves" is greater than ever. When we recently doubled our efforts to create growth, you responded in so

many ways. Thank you for all of your gifts of time, dollars, and your passion for animals that have spurred us on year after year.

This year—2011—there have been many things to which we can point with pride and gratitude. Here are just two of them.

**Our Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) faced unprecedented demand this year and we have risen to the challenge. Setting another PFA record, we have assisted in 1,006 surgeries in 2011.**



While we are gratified and thrilled with our current spay/neuter accomplishment, we think of it not as a resting place, but rather as a springboard. We'd love to have you "on that board" with us.

**In addition, an incredibly generous and anonymous donor of up to \$10,000 in matching funds can allow us to hit the**

**2012 ground running to accomplish even more surgeries next year.** The \$20,000 total would provide PFA assistance for an average of 470 surgeries!!! We hope you'll take this opportunity to maximize your gift and be a part of next year's success.

**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 purpose is to enhance pet quality of life and address pet overpopulation by reducing 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## A MESSAGE FROM PFA'S PRESIDENT

When there is a long road ahead of you, occasionally looking back to see how far you've come "has its place." That is a tactic that has worked for me in the journey I've taken with many of you for animal welfare. It's been a trip of 25 years and we've learned a lot about animals, humans, and what works and what doesn't.

**Twenty-five years ago this fall—October 1986—People For Animals was founded.** Though some memories have become fuzzy, I still have a clear memory of the animal welfare environment at that time. In Tennessee very few counties or cities had animal control programs and those who did provided minimal funding, a staff of "dog-catchers," horrific conditions for the animals, inhumane euthanasia and virtually no spay/neuter, adoption, or education programs. Since dogs and cats serve as buffers between potentially rabid animals and humans, governments were primarily interested in their responsibility for rabies control. Animals entering these "rabies control" shelters faced bleak futures indeed.

Fortunately, over these last 25 years, governments have accepted a broader definition of what their responsibilities are. PFA has been one of the voices that advocated on both state and local levels for that change in view. **In 2011 many Tennessee shelters spay & neuter pets before release, have adoption programs that include an application process for potential adopters, behavioral assess-**

**ment of pets, and education about what it means to be a responsible pet owner who makes a lifetime commitment to their pet(s).** Tennessee state law requires that all shelters that do not spay & neuter prior to adoption collect a \$25 refundable deposit toward that surgery.

And so....times have changed! Not enough, but we have made great progress in some counties. Others still have inadequate or even inhumane programs....or no programs at all. Hopefully as there are better shelter program models to inspire and to emulate, progress will continue to be made. We must dedicate ourselves to that goal throughout our communities, our state and our nation.

For PFA, our 25th birthday is only a milestone. **The demand for our primary service.....spay/neuter assistance.....is literally at an all-time high. That surgery is the only solution that offers a mathematical possibility of reducing the number of dogs and cats being born to match the number of loving, lifetime homes available.** Just as pets reproduce exponentially, the benefits of spay/neuter multiply in the same way. Join our journey and help us increase our advocacy and spay/neuter assistance for our NEXT 25 years!

For the Animals,

*Ann Logan*



You think it's easy to kill companion animals day in and day out?

- 1) Adopt from Shelters and Rescues until they are empty
- 2) Spay/Neuter your pet
- 3) Volunteer to help if you can

When animals are sick or injured and their suffering cannot be alleviated, euthanasia is the greatest kindness and blessing that humans can offer. In sharp contrast, it is literally tragic that euthanasia is used by society as an accepted way for us to deal with the too-many-animals-not-enough-homes problem of healthy, adoptable pets. Thank goodness for shelters that will take so many in, but if we humans would spay and neuter our pets and make shelters our first-stop adoption source, those deaths would not be necessary.



## What Is An Open Door Shelter?

By Doug Brightwell, Director of Williamson Co. Animal Control & Adoption Center

**W**hat are key differences in “animal shelters”? Perhaps the most significant is this. **Open-door shelters are usually city or county animal control facilities that do not turn away any animal for any reason.** Williamson County Animal Control & Adoption Center (WCAC&AC) is an open-door shelter for the citizens of Williamson County. When citizens arrive to turn in a “found” animal or to surrender a personal pet, that animal is accepted regardless of temperament or condition. An open-door policy is relevant if people choose to denigrate open-door shelters for not being “no-kill” shelters. Open-door policy determines how shelters operate and whether they are forced to euthanize.

**The goal for WCAC&AC and shelters throughout the country is to reduce the number of euthanasias... humane deaths...that must be performed.** To do this, we must reduce the massive number of animals being brought into our shelters. There are some simple but very effective steps that can be taken that will help minimize the need for euthanasia.

**First, properly identify your pet (s).** Less than 1% of cats brought to shelters can be returned to their owners because few wear collars with tags or are microchipped. A greater number of dogs do get returned to their homes because they are microchipped or have a rabies tag on their collar. WCAC&AC microchips every animal adopted from our shelter and is responsible for issuing rabies tags to all veterinarians in the county.

**Microchipping is the most effective way to identify your lost pet.** A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is injected under the pet’s skin using a hypodermic needle during a routine veterinary office visit—no surgery or anesthesia required. Its identification (ID) number is activated by a scanner routinely utilized in shelters. An additional ID method is to have your pet’s current rabies tag attached to its collar. The shelter can trace the pet’s owner by the number on the tag. In Williamson County, it is required

by law for dogs to display a current rabies tag. These two methods greatly increase your lost pet’s chances of returning home!

**Another way to significantly lower the number of animals coming into shelters is to reduce the number of puppies and kittens being born.** Approximately 70,000 puppies and kittens compared to about 10,000 babies are born every day in the United States. Simply put, there are not enough homes for all those dogs and cats. The pet birth-rate creates crowded shelters and demoralizing euthanasia rates. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY HAVING YOUR PET(S) SPAYED OR NEUTERED!!** It is

necessary that both males and females be sterilized. Females cannot reproduce alone; there is always a male involved! For every female cat or dog that is spayed, you reduce the animal population by tens of thousands. WCAC&AC requires that every animal adopted be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. We also operate an income-based Spay/Neuter Clinic for the pets of qualified Williamson County residents.

In addition, WCAC&AC operates a pet adoption program which is continuously being improved. When fully implemented, an adoption application/counseling process for adopters and personality/temperament assess-

ment for pets will aid the shelter and potential adopters in their common goal of securing loving, lifetime homes for each pet adopted. **Choosing a shelter pet when you’re ready to adopt and minimizing returns to the shelter of previously adopted pets that “didn’t work out” will also help to reduce the need for euthanasia.**

If we properly identify our pets, spay the females, neuter the males and make good, lifetime, shelter adoption choices, quality of life will be improved for humans and animals alike and fewer pets will have to be euthanized by the open-door shelters who offer them refuge.



## GREAT NEWS UPDATES

In case you missed it on the front page, **PFA has received an incredibly generous offer from an anonymous donor to match contributions to PFA up to \$10,000.**

YES, \$10,000. If you'd like to double your money, this is your chance. When it is matched, your \$50 can neuter four cats; your \$100 can spay five cats; your \$150 can spay five large dogs. Whatever your donation, it will be doubled and "doubly" appreciated.



In February **Ryan Nicholson and other talented musicians performed at a benefit for PFA at The Listening Room in Nashville.** Everyone enjoyed the evening of great music and the cover charge went to PFA's Spay/Neuter Assistance Program.

Earlier this year **we applied and were honored to be accepted as an active associate**



**member group of Community Shares (CS).** Among its purposes are raising funds for its member groups, primarily through employee giving campaigns in which PFA is actively participating. CS is dedicated to supporting Tennessee social change organizations in order to promote a more just and caring community. We agree that significant change happens when problems are addressed at the systems and institutional levels, as well as at individual levels.



**On June 21 we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Paws-ing at Sunset event at Randy Rayburn's Sunset Grill**

with beer, wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres donated by Randy. A silent auction of items from wine to woodcarving rounded out the successful evening. Thank you, Randy!

**This fall Frank Ortega offered to perform with his band at Kimbros Café in downtown Franklin to benefit PFA.** The Oct 8th event was really fun and the music great. To



"top-off" the evening, Frank donated a signed guitar which was purchased by a generous member of the audience. **Please join us again on Sat, Dec 3rd. The \$10 cover charge goes to PFA!**



This year our phenomenal growth called for a "reconstruction" of our website to better reflect our organization. **Fortunately we have a tech guru, Kenneth Eads, willing to volunteer his time and expertise to help bring our updated website to life.**

Please check it out at [www.peopleforanimals.net](http://www.peopleforanimals.net) and witness his work in telling our story for yourself.

Sometimes great things seem to come out of nowhere. Our Oct. 1 Paws-ing at Music Loft event was such an occasion. **Rhonda and Skip Courtney offered their wonderful loft home in downtown Nashville as the place for a party to benefit PFA.**



There was live music, delicious food, drinks mixed-to-order and some great silent auction items. Rhonda and Skip made everyone feel so welcome in their truly unique home that the evening couldn't help but be a huge success. Thank you again to our *host & hostess extraordinaire* for the wonderful memories and spay/neuter dollars in the bank!

Again in the last but not least category....beautiful, handmade scarves continue to be crocheted and donated to PFA throughout the year. With cold weather and the holidays upon us, it's the perfect time to go to [www.annroush.etsy.com](http://www.annroush.etsy.com) to view and order. **Scarves are priced at \$10 and \$20....I know. You can't believe it....and can be shipped to you at no additional charge with all proceeds benefiting PFA.**





## DID YOU KNOW?

When pets are dearly loved and valued family members, keeping them healthy is vitally important. Our own knowledge and awareness is often key to our ability to do that. There are numerous issues that we as pet owners should know about because they are common to all pets regardless of species or breed. One such issue is the aging process.

When is my pet a senior? **There is no specific age at which every pet becomes senior because individual pets age at different rates. In general, however, most large- and giant-breed dogs become seniors earlier than small-breed dogs and cats.** This chart

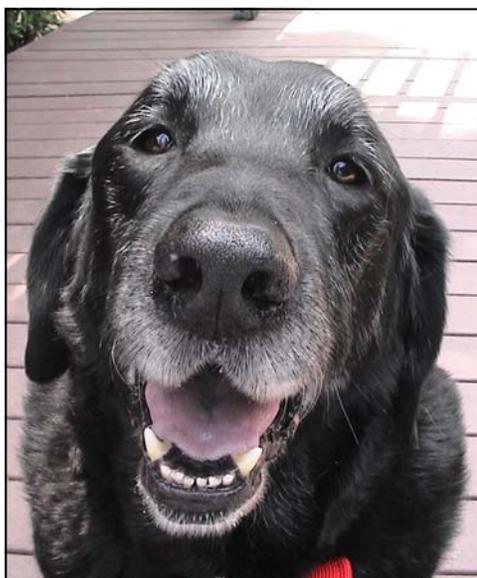


	Cats	Small to Medium Dogs	Large/Giant Breed Dogs	
< 6 Months	Pediatric (Kitten)	Pediatric (Puppy)	Pediatric (Puppy)	
7 Months—1 Year	Young Adult	Young Adult	Young Adult	
1 Year			Mature Adult	Mature Adult
2 Year				
3 Year				
4 Year				
5 Year				
6 Year	Senior	Senior	Senior	
7 Year				
8 Year				
9 Year	Geriatric	Geriatric	Geriatric	
10 Year				
11 Year				
12 Year				
13 Year	Geriatric	Geriatric	Geriatric	
14 Year				
15+ Years	Geriatric	Geriatric	Geriatric	

provides helpful, easy-to-read insight into the general rate of pet aging.

When your own pet is considered “senior”, you may want to follow the guideline that recommends a twice-yearly vet visit even for healthy, senior pets. Wellness visits, a good quality and age-appropriate diet, healthy weight, and regular dental care are great tools for maintaining the health of any pet. But since animals are often good at hiding illness, it is wise to be especially vigilant about catching problems early when pets are older. Senior pets are less able to cope with the impact of a disease or condition in their bodies or with stressful circumstances in their environment. Below are some things to watch for especially in your senior pet.

While more common in senior pets, **these problems should not be ignored as signs that your pet is “just getting old.”** They may indicate a very treatable disease or condition that if ignored, becomes more painful, serious, even life-threatening.



Condition	Signs to Watch For
Arthritis	Stiffness; limping; trouble getting up, jumping or climbing stairs
Cancer	Lumps or bumps, tiredness, loss of appetite, weight loss
Cognitive (Brain) Disorders	Disorientation, vocalization, uncharacteristic “accidents”, change in typical behaviors
Kidney or Liver Disease	Changes in weight, appetite, urination, or water intake
Dental Disease	Loss of appetite, unpleasant mouth odor
Diabetes Mellitus (“sugar” diabetes)	Weight loss, frequent drinking and/or urination, urinary “accidents”
Heart Disease	Difficulty breathing or coughing, weight loss

An exam by your vet, blood work, x-rays, the right medication, etc. can diagnose and address many issues and offer years of good quality of life for you and your pet. Regardless of the severity of the problem, early intervention can usually save you heartache, your pet suffering and your bank account larger withdrawals!

**When you know your pet...their habits, their mannerisms, typical energy level, healthy weight, etc...you will likely recognize when their behavior or appearance tells you that something is wrong.** Being a keen observer with a “hands-on” philosophy will not only foster a bond with your pet, it will also help you to protect them. After all, isn’t that our job?



Every day in 2011, Ann, Monica, Liz, Adrienne, Carol, and Regina (not pictured) "picked up" calls from our SNAP phone line from pet owners needing financial assistance to spay or neuter their pet(s). Different levels of assistance are offered based on need and are paid directly to veterinarians when a surgery is done. These are thumbnail sketches of conversations that usually provide support, education, AND financial assistance.

## SNAP Stories

♥ **Part of the Solution** A couple in Lewis County called us to say that "once again a mother cat and her kittens were dropped off" on his property. It was rainy and cold so he put them in his barn and fed them. "It's like an epidemic.



There's no end to it," he said. Since he'd had to quit working because of an injury and their spays or neuters would cost more than his monthly disability income, the local vet gave him our number. We told him that as soon as the mother cat finished nursing, we could help spay her for a small co-pay. Four months later he called about the kittens' surgeries; we helped and he kept them all!

♥ **Breed Not** An unemployed woman in Maury county acquired a female pit bull puppy from a man intending to breed her. When the puppy started losing patches of fur, she borrowed money to treat the mange and the vet referred her to PFA for the spay. She could not afford puppies. This dog became a cherished member of the family and today is a happy, healthy 60-pound, spayed pup who loves to sleep with her doting mom.



♥ **Unable to Work** A woman from Rutherford County gave us a call when a one-year old cat showed up at her home. As victims of May 2010 flood, they have had many expenses and since she is sole caregiver for her ill husband on disability, neither can work. When she worked, she had cared for many stray cats, feeding them and paying for their spaying or neutering. This woman's concern for the cat, her awareness of the overpopulation problem, and her financial stress made her a natural candidate for our assistance.



♥ **Double "Rescue"** PFA received a call from a Dickson County woman who helps low-income pet owners. A man had found a puppy four months previously and knew it would soon be in heat. Living in his truck, working available construction jobs, he couldn't afford to have her spayed. We were so glad that we could fully pay for her spay, and he was very grateful to us and the vet for our help. The vet's office called PFA to say how rewarding it had been to help.

♥ **Laid Off** A divorced Williamson County woman whose work hours had been cut in half learned about PFA from our poster at a store. She worried because she lived on a busy street, and her terrier was digging out, but she couldn't afford to have him neutered since she bore the burden of all family expenses. PFA referred her to a low-cost clinic and assisted in paying for that surgery.



♥ **Struggling Student** A part-time student and temporary cafeteria employee from Davidson County called PFA, explaining that she had taken in a neighbor's two abandoned dogs. Her brother wanted the puppy, and the woman could keep the 2-yr-old momma if she could get their shots and spays. PFA helped her to spay the two dogs, and the woman arranged with the vet to get the shots over several paychecks.

♥ **Fixed Income** A woman in Perry County who had adopted a wolf-husky mix puppy needed to have him neutered as he was becoming very territorial and fiercely loyal towards her. Living on low-income Social Security benefits and barrier, she could not afford to neuter such a large dog. PFA arranged for a local veterinarian to take care of the surgery.





# 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 Honor Of . . .

Our special Westie rescue--**Harry**--who loves everyone and is a DEAR!!...Glen and Martha Wilson

**Toby** and **Quincy**---thanks for your unconditional love and the joy you bring...Ann Conway

**Liz Hecht**—for all she does on behalf of animals...Barbara Hecht

**Lucas and Bo**---you are my special boys!!! ...Bobbie Cupp

**Simmz Whittemore**---we wish you good health in 2011... Savannah Hahlen and Sydney Skelding

## In Memory of . . .

**Molli**, Dr. and Mrs. Woody's beautiful Shih-Tzu---she is dearly missed by all...Nancy Whittemore

**Sonja** and **Ginger**...Paula and Joe Haile

**Bailey**, Elaine Weisberger's beloved poodle of 15 years...Andrea Tothacer

Our **special pets** that we miss so much...Brady and Pat Knight

**Midnight**, the Logan's Roadhouse kitten we befriended and rescued. She had a wonderful life but tragically ended due to complications from diabetes. You will live in our hearts forever...Rick, Sandi, & Scarlet Sanders

**Turk**--Chubby Cat--much loved, much missed...Nita Sneed

Marti Loyd's beloved father, **Rev. Harold Loyd**...Nancy and Lexie Whittemore

My precious **Otis**---I love you and miss you SO much....Nancy Whittemore

### Anonymous Donor Offers to Match Your Gift to the Animals

In the true spirit of the season, a generous donor has made a very special gift to the animals AGAIN this season...**an offer to match the first \$10,000 given to PFA for our spay-neuter efforts. A guaranteed opportunity to "double your money"** just by sending it right away doesn't come along very often! What a wonderful way to remember your human and animal family members and friends! Speaking for those who can not speak for themselves, we offer thanks for your gift of caring.

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](http://www.PeopleForAnimals.net)

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

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_



# PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

P.O. Box 991  
Franklin, TN 37065  
615-794-8925



**PFA Board celebrates!!  
1,006 Surgeries  
and 49 Referrals  
in 2011**

[www.PeopleForAnimals.net](http://www.PeopleForAnimals.net)



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People for Animals is a not-for-profit animal protection group serving Davidson, Williamson, and 17 other surrounding counties. All members are unpaid volunteers dedicated to ending the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed in any amount.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PFA SPAY/NEUTER ASSISTANCE 794-8925

#### ADOPTION, ANIMAL BITES/INJURIES

Metro Animal Care & Control 862-7930  
Williamson Co. Animal Control & Adoption Center 790-5590

#### EMERGENCY VETERINARY SERVICES

BluePearl Veterinary Partners 333-1212  
Nashville Pet Emergency Clinic 383-2600



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Anonymous donor AGAIN makes special gift to the animals...an offer to match the first \$10,000 donated to PFA for our spay-neuter efforts! See page 4 for details.