



Since 1986, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

Holiday 2008

418 Surgeries in 2008

## Squandering Our Most *Loving* Resource



**I**n 1986 PFA was ahead of its time in Tennessee when we began focusing on spay/neuter. **We are still working to decrease excess numbers and to change the attitude that pets are disposable, throwaways that can be “dumped” on the roadside or in our landfills when shelters, through no fault of their own, inevitably exceed capacity. This reality is created by irresponsible, often greedy humans but ultimately tolerated by the rest of us.**

This imbalance in nature began following WWII when the USDA encouraged farmers to begin raising puppies as a cash crop. **Today our society still tolerates and even supports indiscriminate and deliberate breeding of dogs and cats through our lack of protective legislation and our purchasing of pets from backyard breeders, internet sites, and pet stores. When breeding is done for money—with no regard for supply and demand, quality of the puppies and kittens produced, or conditions the animals endure—the balance in nature is disrupted.**

Mass production of puppies and kittens is an unnatural contributor to not-enough-homes-for-them-all and our need to use euthanasia as a means of pet population control. Janet M. Scarlett, DVM, MPH, PhD of Cornell University said, **“No other disease or condition of companion animals takes as many lives as euthanasia. In fact, no other disease comes close.”** Pet owners, shelters and rescue groups must spay and neuter all pets in their care. When we treat this resource with the respect that it deserves, we will decrease the supply. Since resources are valued by the law of supply and demand, as supply decreases, pets will be *perceived* as more valuable—a tragic reality!

PFA’s efforts focus on spay/neuter by offering education and financial assistance for this surgery to Middle Tennessee pet owners. **Together we must protect these inherently valuable, loving creatures from being squandered by our throwaway society and continue to fight for a more humane vision to become reality.** PFA will continue to lead in that effort. We need your participation.

**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

**W**ith our economic times historically uncertain and challenging, the questions of whether and where to invest are harder to answer. Non-profit animal welfare organizations feel that as everyone does. **If you have fewer dollars to go around OR you have a renewed appreciation for the dollars you have, consider these reasons that PFA offers a great return on investment (ROI) opportunity to “animal people.”**

**(1)** For twenty-two years we have been an all-volunteer and “virtual” organization—**no funds have ever gone to salaries or buildings.**

**(2)** In 2006 & 2007 **88% of PFA’s expenditures were for direct services benefiting dogs and cats.**

**(3)** A donation of as little as **\$25 can provide a cat neuter and PREVENT** thousands of births in years to come.

**(4)** When spayed or neutered, your pet receives a **lifetime of significant health benefits** and some behavioral benefits.

**(5)** As pregnancy is often a reason for surrendering or abandoning a female pet, spay/neuter can keep pets in their homes and out of shelters.

**(6)** With an average PFA spay/neuter assist of about \$40 and potentially thousands of births prevented, **the cost per puppy and kitten saved is pennies.**

**(7)** S/N produces the **highest return on investment (ROI)** available in a companion animal welfare budget.

**(8)** In 1989 PFA authored the **first mandatory S/N program** for Williamson Co. Animal Control including special pricing from Williamson Co. veterinarians.

When investing, ROI usually comes in dollars. When you invest your \$\$ in animals, you probably hope to benefit as many animals as possible. PFA dollars do just that as they are spent on spay/neuter and are 100% PREVENTION.

**Our goal is always to spend your dollars wisely and with compassion for those who depend on all of us as they cannot help themselves.**

For the Animals,

*Ann Logan*



## You Can Help End Pet Overpopulation

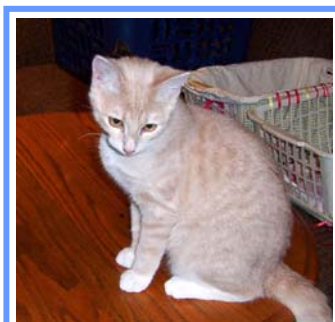


- Have your own pet(s) spayed or neutered.
- Help someone else spay or neuter.
- Educate about health and behavioral benefits of spay-neuter.
- Get help to prevent behavior issues from costing a pet his home.
- Choose your companion for life from a shelter.
- Buy an Animal Friendly license plate.
- Support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



# SNAP Stories

Every day, 365 days a year, a PFA volunteer “picks 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.



Princess

♥ Despite the limitations of her disability and managing on social security and food stamps, this Marshall Co. lady said she and her husband have always been “animal people.” That’s why they couldn’t turn away three cats who came looking for a home. Her vet, All About Animals, partnered with PFA to make the surgeries affordable.

♥ In February an elderly Williamson Co. man, coping with health issues and a fixed income, was driving his usual route home when he saw a Chihuahua by the side of the road on more than one occasion. When he decided to stop and take a closer look, he found the reason. Her puppies had been born and died there. This little dog was doing all she knew to do. He took her to his regular vet who immediately called PFA. We gladly assisted with the spay and she went to her new home with him.

♥ The caller was a lady from Hickman Co. who cares for her 59-yr-old brother with Downs syndrome. Her work as a home health aide is limited in winter when nighttime temperatures demand heat, and she fears leaving her brother alone long hours with their wood-burning stove. Her trials have not frozen her heart, however, as she called us for help in spaying a “stray” dog who found her way to her door.

♥ This young woman’s husband had left her and cut off all funds. She moved in with her mother and had just been hired at Wal-Mart but wasn’t working yet when a friend gave her an un-neutered “shih-tzu type” dog named Champ. She called us for assistance with his surgery.

♥ An older man, retired and living in Lewis Co., called to say that a cat had recently come up to his barn. “I know I’m able to feed her, but I can’t afford the surgery,” he said. “Can you help me?”

♥ A lady from Hickman Co. called about her cocker mix and her cat who needed to be neutered. She’d been out of work for a year and unable to find a job and her husband’s work was seasonal and ending soon. Their daughter and son-in-law were going to college on student loans and living with them to make their finances work. Could we help while her husband was still working?

♥ The Tennessean article about PFA provided just the answer she was looking for. Despite the demands of her job, very limited means and caring for her elderly parents, she knew she needed to get Minnie Pearl, her terrier mix spayed. With the help of PFA and the generosity of Williamson Co. Animal Hospital, the surgery was taken care of!

♥ A young married couple with a variety of pets, wanting to “do the right thing” but unable to afford full price called us for help. With reduced prices from Bellevue Animal Hospital and PFA certificates, they got the surgeries done for two dogs.



Bella, Spanky, Gizmo

## SNAP Grows As the Economy

SNAP was originally developed in 1987. Since that time awareness, increasing financial need, and our ability to help have all contributed to its growth. Currently we are helping pet owners in 14 counties. They are Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson. Our funding comes primarily from grants and individual donors. In many cases our assistance is enhanced by reduced prices from the veterinarian. Thank you Williamson Co. Animal Hospital and Bellevue Animal Hospital for being our top participating clinics.



## New Rules for Vaccinating Our Pets

**F**or over a decade the veterinary profession has sought answers to increasing questions about vaccination protocols for pets. In 2002 an article in *Veterinary Medicine* said this, **...”risks associated with over-vaccination are an increasing concern among veterinarians”** and also **“There is less risk associated with taking a blood sample for a titer test than giving an unnecessary vaccination.”**

These and other questions have been raised by negative reactions to vaccinations seen in everyday practice and also by extensive research regarding the extended efficacy of many current vaccines. **This valuable information has not yet led to commensurate changes in conventional practice of most veterinarians however.** Still, some things are generally agreed upon by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the American Association of Feline Practitioners and are now taught by most U.S. veterinary schools. The following are areas of consensus among these leading professional organizations.

- Vaccination is a medical decision and a procedure that should be individualized based on age, health, and lifestyle of a single animal.
- These factors and the particular vaccine itself present varying degrees of risk which should be evaluated against benefit.
- The protocol of *routine annual vaccination* is not advocated except where required by law, e.g. if a one-year rabies vaccine is used.
- Booster vaccines given when immunity still exists create little or no benefit and have the same risks and cost of a needed vaccine.
- An extended interval (more than one year) is now considered reasonable, safe, and effective in preventing most infectious diseases. Three-year intervals are gaining some consensus.
- After three years but prior to giving a vaccine booster, if preferred or advisable, a titer test can be used to determine a pet’s level of immunity.
- The puppy or kitten vaccine series should be given with a booster at one year and a titer test or revaccination occurring at three-year intervals thereafter.

Vaccines are often described as being in one of three categories: **core** (vaccines that every dog or cat should have), **non core** (advisable only for animals at specific risk), and **not recommended**. There is no unanimous agreement in this area. For dogs there is some agreement that “core” vaccines are distemper, parvovirus, and rabies. For cats those “core” vaccines are feline panleukopenia virus, feline calicivirus, feline herpes virus, and rabies. There are additional vaccines that some may recommend based on particular risk factors, and of course vaccines that are **not recommended** for a variety of reasons. **Avoiding these can be as important to protecting your pet as is giving needed vaccines.**

**This relatively new body of information signals a dramatic change in what wellness care should look like for our animal companions. Beyond vaccinations, there are other topics that should remain on our wellness checklist.** Among them are an annual physical exam, dental care, quality nutrition, diagnostic testing, parasites/other diseases, behavior issues, and the special needs of puppies, kittens and geriatric pets. **It is always our responsibility to be informed, to know what questions to ask and what issues to advocate with our veterinarians.**

This article offers only a “thumbnail sketch” of the bigger picture. Additional resources that can provide you with further information are listed here:

- [www.aahanet.org](http://www.aahanet.org) (American Animal Hospital Assn.)
- [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) (American Veterinary Medical Assn.)
- [www.aafponline.org](http://www.aafponline.org) (American Assn. of Feline Practitioners)
- [www.ItsForTheAnimals.com](http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com) (Dr. Jean Dodds)







## Other Important Health Issues

**Dental care** is too often overlooked when it comes to our pets' health. Believe it or not, according to the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), 85% of all dogs over one year have some degree of periodontal disease, but only 3% get treated. Logically then, dental disease is diagnosed more than any other infection.

**Symptoms of dental disease are bad breath (an early sign), yellowish-brown crust of tartar on the teeth near the gum line, red & swollen gums (gingivitis), pain or bleeding in the mouth, decreased appetite or trouble eating, and loose or missing teeth.** When the disease reaches that latter stage, the heart and kidneys are particularly susceptible to infection.



As usual, the best treatment is prevention. Regular dental check-ups and teeth cleaning about every six to twenty-four months are advisable depending on your own pet's mouth and age. Because this procedure requires general anesthesia, the process should begin with a physical exam by your vet. The AAHA also recommends brushing your pet's teeth on a regular basis with *pet flavored toothpaste* and toothbrush. The flavoring does help "sell" it to your pet! (Human toothpaste is NOT advised.) If begun when teeth are clean, regular brushing could prevent or delay the need for future dental cleaning.

**Osteoarthritis (OA)** is a chronic, painful disease affecting the joints of about 20% of dogs. **If you notice limping, difficulty jumping, climbing stairs, getting up or lying down, even loss of appetite, it could indicate the pain of OA. Dogs over the age of five, dogs that are inactive or overweight, those with prior joint injuries or that are large breeds are most at risk.** Osteoarthritis cannot be cured but can be managed by you and your vet with lifestyle changes and medication that can improve your pet's quality of life. DO NOT think of it as something your pet must endure without any relief.

Mayor Dean created the **Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability** to assure Nashville continues to be a livable city with clean air and water, open spaces, transportation infrastructure and an energy use profile that provides a prosperous community for current and future generations. PFA supports these efforts and hopes pet owners will also.

## How To Be A Green Pet Owner

1. **Choose a "recycled" dog or cat.** The green pet owner will rescue and re-home a displaced dog or cat rather than buy one.
2. **Spay and neuter all pets.** Spaying and neutering helps control pet population in communities.
3. Buy pet foods that are all-natural or organic.
4. Purchase toys and other pet products that are made with natural, organic or recycled materials.
5. Use biodegradable "poop" bags when cleaning up after your pet.
6. Think of all the things you look for when you're buying green products for your home or office (...buy close to home, purchase products that are sustainable, require less manpower, and don't have to be replaced often). Apply those same principles to products for your pet and you'll make an even *bigger* impact on the environment.
7. **Think green and your pets will thank you!**



**Photo:** L to R, Mayor Karl Dean, Ann Logan, Izzy, Andrea Tothacer.

*"My hope is for individuals and businesses across Davidson County to see what we're doing and implement similar practices. Together we can improve the quality of life for all of us and make our city, and our world, a better place in which to live."*

*Mayor Karl Dean*



# Socialization: A Critical Foundation for Dogs

by Cindy Scalfi, c.p.d.t.



with familiar dogs will not learn the critical information they need to be a well socialized dog.

## The Bottom Line

After the critical learning stage, dogs begin to fear what they have not seen or experienced and that can become a big problem for people and a life-threatening problem for dogs! Give your dog the gift of socialization. You both deserve it!

## What If My Dog Missed the Socialization Period?

If your dog displays fear, is highly reactive or displays inappropriate aggression, he/she probably missed being socialized. Don't panic! The good news is there are things you can do to help him/her. There's a lot to know, but here are a few tips for you.

In early October, I spent five days at the Association of Pet Dog Trainers Conference in Louisville, KY. One of my favorite speakers was Dr. Ian Dunbar. Dunbar is a seasoned veterinarian with a doctorate in animal behavior and aggression in domestic dogs. He is a passionate speaker and is particularly passionate when talking about the socialization of dogs during the critical learning stage.

A fearful dog, for instance, can become more confident by not pushing him beyond his comfort zone and rewarding him when relaxed and calm. Lessen the distance between feared object, over time, and continue to reward when calm, but never push to reaction level. \*

The critical learning stage for dogs is 3 weeks to 16 weeks of age. Dunbar says, "puppy time is the time to rescue unwanted dogs." Socializing puppies saves their lives and greatly reduces the shelter population. Socializing your puppy will give you the absolute best chance of preventing aggression and fear issues that so many dogs and guardians live with today.

Dogs that display leash aggression and/or are highly reactive, ex. "go crazy" when they see another dog, can greatly improve also! The idea is to change the highly aroused mindset of the dog to a relaxed, calm state when they are faced with the stimuli. \*\*

## How do I Socialize My Puppy?

To socialize your puppy, get her to a puppy class or the equivalent, to meet many other puppies. Puppies will let each other know when they are being rude. (ex. inappropriate humping or biting too hard) They need to be handled by many people of different shapes, colors and sizes (kids) when they are young. Puppies need to experience a variety of stimuli such as the sound and sight of cars, buses, horns, etc. *It's very important they are around unfamiliar puppies, not just siblings.* Dogs that are kept exclusively at home

## The Bottom Line

If your dog wasn't socialized, start today to help him be more comfortable in the world. Learn how to help him by reading, watching videos or calling a trainer. You will be amazed how you both improve!

## Resources

- \* *Cautious Canine*, by Patricia McConnell
- \*\* *Feisty Fido*, by K. London & P. McConnell
- Play Together, Stay Together* by London/McConnell
- Before & After You Get Your Puppy* by Ian Dunbar



# 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 Memory of . . .

**Tish**, beloved dog of Andrea Tothacer...Marcia Williams

**Heidi**, our precious girl that enriched our lives and home for 15 years—you will always live in our hearts...Steve and Carol McDaniel

**Calicat**, whose tiny zest for life always made you smile. His one-eyed son, **Spate**, was the sweetest 14 year old cat who left his brother very lonely...Neil and Chris Tyler

**Gus**, faithful friend and beloved pet of Ruth Young...Kim and Neil Smith

**Otis**, in my heart you hold a place no one can ever fill—I miss you dearly...Nancy Whittemore

**Misty**, our beautiful girl, we miss and love you so much...Charlie and Will Dunn.

## In Honor of . . .

**Tippy**, our precious rescued shih-tzu that has brought much happiness to our home...Phoebe Binkley

**Lady**...Daddy's girl and devoted companion...Ed Shaw

**Starsky and Hutch**, the darling Dandie Dinmonts who came into my life through Nancy...Virginia Sharp

**Jennie Adams**, a true animal lover...Rod Pewitt

**Toby and Quincy**, my loving and adorable boys that make my day EVERY day....Ann Conway

### Nancy Whittemore's precious rescues are now in wonderful loving homes:

- Starksy & Hutch**.....Virginia Sharp
- Maggie**.....Lois Arnold
- Quincy**.....Ann Conway
- Tippy**.....Phoebe and Bob Binkley
- Lizzie**.....Ann Neely
- Louie**.....Lu Welch
- Parker**.....Elaine and Bruce McCampbell
- Buddy**.....Kathy White
- Angel & Dixie**.....Judy and Walt Murphy
- Denver & Dakota**.....Susan Pate
- Elizabeth**.....Charlie and Will Dunn
- Blossom**.....Pam Reynolds
- Izzy**.....Melissa McKown
- Harley**.....Tommy Owens
- Winston**.....Dianna and Randy Stephens
- Linus**.....Melissa and Mark Arend
- Cocoa**.....Lisha and Matt Pope
- Fanci**.....Vickie Jones

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** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**418 Surgeries in 2008**

**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.**

**FY09 Award to Animal Friendly Programs  
 Statewide by TN License Plate Grant**



**Photo:** L to R, Adam Hill, TN Dept of Agriculture Assistant Commissioner; Tina Rogers, TN Dept of Agriculture Animal Friendly; Nancy Whittemore, PFA Secretary/Treasurer

***In Our Holiday 2008 Edition Newsletter***

Squandering Our Most Loving Resource	1
Message From Our President	2
You Can Help End Pet Overpopulation	2
SNAP Stories	3
SNAP Grows As The Economy Weakens	3
New Rules for Vaccinating Our Pets	4
Other Important Health Issues	5
How To Be A Green Pet Owner	5
Socialization: A Critical Foundation for Dogs	6
Special Gifts And Memorials	7
TN License Plate Grant Award	8
PFA Funding Sources	8

**PFA Funding Sources**

- Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- State of Tennessee Animal Friendly Grant
- Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign
- Private Spay/Neuter Foundation
- Individual Donors