



Since 1986, speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

Holiday 2010

513 Surgeries and 163 Referrals in 2010

TOO MANY TO SAVE

There is no news in that headline. We all agree that there are too many puppies and kittens being born and that we can't save them all. The chorus of "Spay/neuter is the answer!" is heard oh-so-often from many advocates and pet owners. Yet there are still few places to turn for financial help when pet owners want to spay or neuter a pet. Thankfully more and more of them are calling PFA's spay/neuter assistance hotline...many with stories of extreme financial hardship.

The calls come from people who are out of work; have finally found a job but aren't "back on their feet" yet; face predictable seasonal un-employment; are trying to help animals who are "dumped" at their doorstep; are elderly and on social security or are disabled, or casualties of medical bills, or who provide for



extended family members, etc. etc. The demand for spay/neuter assistance continues to grow because "awareness" among pet owners is increasing while their financial resources are often decreasing.

These historic financial struggles have also meant an increase in pets being abandoned or surrendered to shelters. The euthanasia rate at area shelters—per cent of dogs and cats euthanized of the total taken in—is tragically high. It was over 87% at one well-known Middle TN shelter last year!

This problem is huge...even overwhelming...but not impossible to solve over time if we behave in a smart, proactive way. Albert Schweitzer once said, "I have held firmly to the thought that each one of us can do a little to bring some portion of misery to an end." We need to prevent births and try to adopt our four-legged companions from shelters.

A great example of a smart, proactive initiative is the monthly spay/neuter clinics conducted by Williamson County Animal Control (WCAC) offering free spays & neuters to screened and qualified county residents and their pets. This is the kind of progressive action that truly changes outcomes in the lives of animals and reduces tax burdens for communities.

Too many to save? Let's "fix" that. SPAY, NEUTER, and ADOPT.

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.

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A MESSAGE FROM PFA'S PRESIDENT

Statistically, more people donate to animal causes than any other and yet... pet overpopulation persists. Probably, given the enormous effort made to resolve it, it persists because we aren't focused on the most effective solution. What might that be for individuals, organizations and communities?

Let's start with the obvious answer—prevention. As always, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you can do only one thing, spay or neuter your own pet or help someone who needs encouragement or financial support, or make a contribution to an organization like PFA whose primary goal is to educate and help financially with spay/neuter. For communities allocating tax dollars and animal welfare groups setting goals, the emphasis should be on spay/neuter.

Even though several factors contribute to pet overpopulation, our first priority should be to reduce births by providing low-cost spay/neuter programs. Since dogs and cats multiply exponentially, we cannot overcome the problem by rescuing them one at a time! And yet we continue to pretend that we can!

If individuals and communities would put as much resource into spay/neuter as they do into rescue, the number of homeless pets would decrease.....as would the heartbreaking stories and endless euthanasia. It would then be easier

to attack other factors such as: pet behavior issues that cause pets to lose their homes through no fault of their own; pet owners who buy pets instead of adopting from shelters, and those who select a pet without considering what kind of pet would best fit their lifestyle and preferences. Think about it first. Purchasing or adopting a pet without thoughtful consideration can lead to misery for all concerned—sometimes even to abandonment or re-homing.

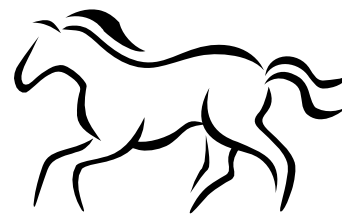
When you are ready to provide a lifelong home and gain a loving companion, choose a shelter pet. Some shelters evaluate their pets and have adoption counselors who can help you with this consequential decision. Above all, do not choose to do nothing. Centuries ago Edmund Burke said, "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." Though not said as a comment on the 3-4 million dogs and cats euthanized in the U.S. each year, it is an appropriate admonition. If one can only do a little, it is vital that the "little" be the most effective effort possible. That means spay, neuter, and adopt.

For the Animals,

Ann Logan

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The most recent achievement for animal advocates in TN is the re-election of Rep. Janis Sontany to the TN legislature. She is a fierce advocate for animals and the go-to legislator when a real battle is at hand. Last session she led our successful efforts to prevent passage of HB1438 which would have paved the way for a horse slaughter plant in TN. We will likely face that challenge again next year.



A second hard-fought issue was the attempt to pass HB3386, which would raise the penalty for aggravated cruelty to equine and livestock, e.g. starvation, to a felony-level crime. She plans to file this bill again in Jan. 2011. Both of these bills were lobbied heavily by the powerful Farm Bureau. We'll need your voice to help us overcome the Farm Bureau's support of horse slaughter and opposition to strengthening aggravated cruelty penalties for large animals. Check our website for legislative updates beginning in January.



DID YOU KNOW?



Vaccination Protocols — Pet vaccination is a medical decision and a procedure that should be individualized based on the age, health, and lifestyle of a single animal. *The conclusion that annual vaccinations generally are unnecessary—except in the case of a one-year rabies vaccine—has been confirmed.* The recommendation remains that the *full puppy or kitten series* be given followed by a booster at one year and after that re-vaccination of adult dogs and cats can occur only at three-year intervals and generally will not be needed after 10-yrs. old. Talk with your own veterinarian.

Healthy Weight — How do I know if my pet is overweight? Can you feel your pet’s ribs with your fingers? *Ribs should not be visible but you should be able to feel them.* We are responsible for our pet’s weight and yet...obesity is considered the most common nutritional disorder in dogs and cats. As with us humans, it is increasing as a health issue and is described as the deadliest of diseases and also the most preventable. In general, their weight is a factor of “too much food and too little exercise.” It can also be that the quality and proportion of ingredients in their food isn’t what they need. Educate yourself about reading pet food labels!

Pet Nutrition — *Using poor quality, un-digestible protein sources and fillers that provide little nutrition are common ways to lower the cost and the nutritional value of pet food.* Read the ingredient labels. By-products do not offer quality, digestible protein. Don’t be fooled by a high percentage of protein if it comes from by-products. Most of that cannot be utilized by your pet’s body. You and your pet will both pay for it at the vet’s!

With cat food, a first ingredient of “meat by-products” followed by three grains won’t provide enough protein for your carnivorous (meat-eating) cat. Your cat will eat more, get less nutrition but likely gain weight. *Cats should have more than 30% meat or fish protein—not meat by-products, corn or wheat—in their diet.* A high-protein canned food may be a good solution if a high-quality dry is too pricey. Generally when buying pet food, the caution that “you get what you pay for” does apply. A quality diet will pay off in the overall health and weight management of your pet.



Animal welfare dictionary — kill & no-kill shelters. What is the difference? Let’s look behind the labels. An animal control or public shelter is tax-supported and has an open-door policy—accepting all animals that are brought to them. They *must euthanize* (kill) some animals because there aren’t homes for them all. A private shelter that identifies itself as no-kill can only maintain that status by having a closed-door policy. As a private entity, they *may say “no”* to animals they don’t have space for. The difference in kill and no-kill is in controlling the number of animals coming in. Instead of kill and no-kill shelters, why not say open and closed-door shelters?

Animal welfare quote — “Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind.” *Albert Schweitzer*



Training and Behavior: The Benefits of Exercise & Play

By Sindy Scalfi, CPDT-KA

Exercise and play, and the positive impact these activities have on our dogs behavior, will keep our love flowing and our life-long commitment in tact! Training and behavior problems in family dogs abound often just because pets are not getting enough exercise, but few owners realize it. “A tired dog is a good dog”, I say, and the best way to help pets learn good behavior is by fostering a relaxed body and open mind through exercise.

I walk my dog daily. Is this enough exercise for him?

Walking our dogs is fantastic for our relationship together, but the best way to tell if they are getting enough exercise from walks is by observing their daily behavior. If they are “hyped up and out of control”, they probably aren’t getting enough exercise from walking. All dogs have different exercise requirements, depending on their breed, size, age, health and circumstance.

The Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds or other breed books will generally give you this information by putting from one to five stars in the breed’s “exercise requirement” section. Some examples are: the Weimaraner with 5 stars (that’s the maximum amount of stars), the Shih Tzu with 1 star (the minimum amount of stars) and the German Shepherd Dog with 4 stars. The Shih Tzu is the only dog among these whose exercise requirements can be met with a daily walk or two. However, even a Shih Tzu, or any dog that is crated, chained or kept in a small confined area all day, will need, on a daily basis, double the exercise he/she normally needs in order to be a well-behaved family member. As for the Weimaraner, the Shepherd and all mixed breeds, that have a high-energy breed in the mix, exercise requirements will be much higher. For example, at least one good daily 45 minute, tongue-

hanging-out-tired ball playing session, would be great! But remember, if your dog still displays “wild” behavior when you come in from your session, like inappropriate chewing, tearing through the house, grabbing the laundry, etc., you

will need to up your exercise session to two a day or couple one with 10 minutes of behavior training and see how that works. If your dog is not a “ball dog”, some other exercise options are going for a run together or to the dog park where your dog can play vigorously with other dogs. Another great way to exercise both you and your pet is through play.



Why play with our dogs?

Playing with dogs is a sure way of strengthening our relationship with them. After all, who doesn’t enjoy playing with friends and the closeness that it fosters? Playing with dogs is also a great way to exercise them and to have fun while training. For instance, if a dog likes balls, we can teach sit, wait and stay while playing fetch. Fetch, like all games, should have clear boundaries and rules that our dogs abide. Playing games with our pets accomplishes several things. It solidifies our leadership,

meets their exercise requirements, and teaches them behaviors we want them to know. How good is that? Other games to consider, if a dog doesn’t like fetch, are the chase game, hide and seek and tug of war. (See “Play Together, Stay Together” for details on games) Find what games your dog enjoys and spend some time each day playing. You both deserve it!

Resources

- The Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds by D. Caroline Coile, PH.D
- Play Together, Stay Together by Karen B. London, Ph.D & Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D



SNAP Stories



Every day in 2010, Ann, Regina, Liz, Adrienne, Pam, (Carol and Monica 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.

♥ **Dumped:** A Rutherford County woman called about “a little girl kitty barely old enough to be weaned.” She bemoaned that she and her neighbors find “dumped” animals but that they don’t have a local shelter. She said, “We cannot allow them to keep breeding—it’s endless.” Yet she couldn’t afford to help. Her husband was the only working member of their six-person, two-generation household. Unfortunately, he barely earned a living these days, working strictly on commission; and her disabled mom’s and her young child’s medical bills were piling up. We assured her that PFA could help. When checking on the cat a week after the spay, the woman said, “Bless you, she has fit right in to the family.”

♥ **Lifesaver:** A Williamson county man called to report he’d rescued an unneutered dog hit by a car. He’d wrapped him in a blanket and rushed to a veterinarian. The wound healed, but the bill set his family back. Attempts to find the owner and recover at least part of the cost brought no response. We learned that the man and his wife had lost their home in the May flood and were living with her mother, who was working part-time. Even with food stamps and flood assistance, they had no extra money. A local vet allowed the family to pay the bill slowly and accepted our assistance with paying for the neuter.

♥ **Joy:** A mother and son from Lewis County have lived together since the mom’s health declined. Both mom and son have cancer and neither has health insurance. Despite his own troubles, the son began to feed neglected dogs living next door, eventually keeping one. The timing of his

phone call to PFA was critical; she was already in heat. Now spayed, safe, and happy, the dog brings untold joy to her new “dad.” And the neighbor, trying to be more responsible, has been advised to call us.

♥ **Adopted:** “My wife found a large dog tied to a sign on a busy highway,” the man told the PFA screener. “Someone desperate had abandoned that dog there,” he explained. When the couple took home the traumatized dog, she crept into their home and into their hearts. They’d wanted to find her a new home, as they are on a fixed income. But they looked at each other and said, “She adopted us,” an often-heard phrase at PFA. Spaying or neutering a big dog can be quite costly. We were glad to help.

♥ **Companions:** After the loss of both of her dogs in a short time, a home-bound Davidson County woman was given Biscuit by her sister. Biscuit, whose owners could no longer care for him, came into a loving home, but he had costly medical issues and was unneutered. PFA stepped in and provided the neuter. Since his new owner is home alone most of the time due to her diabetes, they provide great, mutually beneficial companionship for each other.

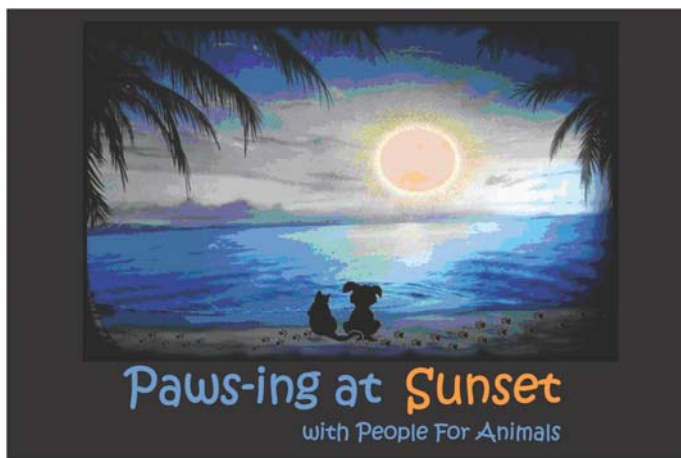




GREAT NEWS UPDATES

If you act quickly, you have a chance to double the value and benefit of your donation to PFA! For the second year a generous, anonymous donor has made a funding commitment to match the first \$2500 that is contributed to our spay/neuter efforts. In combination with reduced vet prices, the average PFA assist required to accomplish a surgery is about \$43.00. When 2 cats and their offspring can produce 1728 kittens in just 3 years and 2 dogs and their offspring 38 puppies in 3 years, you can see how much your donation...times two...can accomplish!!

We received a \$500 grant from the Belmont Hillsboro Neighbors, Inc. to help them in their effort to address pet overpopulation within their neighborhood. We welcome this collaborative opportunity for a shared mission!



On June 22 this summer, we hosted our first-annual Paws-ing at Sunset event at Sunset Grill. Because of the generosity of animal lover and owner Randy Rayburn, the evening was a great financial success...and loads of fun. Sunset Grill provided hors d'oeuvres and drinks and we had a silent auction of reasonably-priced items that really got the bidding underway. Door prizes and other gifts to take home all added up to lots of fun for the great group of animal people who attended! We are already looking forward

to another event next year. Our deep and continuing appreciation goes to Sunset Grill!

Special funding to target spays or neuters of medium and large dogs—weighing 40# or more—is now available to PFA. Since these dogs have the largest litters, are most often surrendered to shelters or abandoned, are the hardest to find homes for and are the most expensive to spay or neuter, this funding is critical to any effort to address the pet overpopulation problem. When cost is an obstacle to a surgery for one of these larger dogs, as it often is, please tell the pet owner about PFA. Our s/n hotline is 615-794-8925.

PFA will have a first-ever DVD about our organization next year. A volunteer who is a professional marketing and communication director has volunteered his time to this project and we are thrilled about it. What better tool for a “virtual” organization to bring us into your home!

In the last but not least category of “great news” items, PFA has some beautiful, new items for sale—handmade scarves and pet sweaters that are being crocheted and donated to PFA. Each item is currently selling for \$20 and can be shipped to you at no additional charge with all proceeds benefiting PFA. This is an opportunity for you or someone you care about (with two or four legs) to have a beautiful, handmade item and help to spay and neuter at the same time. What a wonderful gift of life for companion animals!



To view and order items, go to www.annroush.etsy.com or to www.peopleforanimals.net where you can link to the “etsy” site for ordering.



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 . . .

- Ame'**, a brave, loving kitty who is battling a brain tumor. You've taught me what strength is — Sharon Weaver
- Greycee Puddle**, aka Miss Evil, but we love ya.
- Nancy Whittemore**, I am so grateful to you for bringing my adorable Molly girl into my life — Glenna Colbert
- Tara Menzyk** — Sharon and Dennis Gros
- Toby and Quincy**, my Shih-Tzu boys are the apple of my eye — Ann Conway
- Lucas and Bo**, my loyal dogs that are always waiting for me at the gate — Bobbie Cupp

Sonja and Ginger, our forever Lhasa babies — Paula and Joe Haile

- Katie Menzyk** — Sharon and Dennis Gros
- Lady** — "Daddy's girl", I will always miss you — Ed Shaw
- Flossy**, I miss you being by my side and studying with me — Lexie Whittemore
- Our little Corgie, **Peaches** — Marty Ligon
- Darlene Nall's beloved father and Mary Evelyn Nall's beloved husband, **Fred Nall** — Nancy Whittemore
- Watson**, our beloved Scottie — Glen and Martha Wilson
- A beloved friend, **Gondo** in Wales — Charlie and Will Dunn

In Memory of . . .

- Ruby**, our wonderful cocker for 13.5 years — Larry and Wilma Woosley
- Lambchop and Gingerbread**, gone but never forgotten !! — Marvenelle Atwood
- Tommy**, missed by his people and his cuddle buddies Wiley and Phoebe — Kathlyn McCaughna
- Lonesome Hayes**, much loved by Dan and Suzanne Hays — Cynthia Owen

Mia Reynolds, you were a "princess" and such a sweet Shih-Tzu — Nancy Whittemore

- Miles Mennell's beloved **Benson**, the Beagle Dog — Nancy Whittemore
- Otis**, my "precious" one, I miss you so much and I love you — Nancy Whittemore
- Ruth Bixby**, a dear friend's beloved mother — Charlie and Will Dunn
- A beloved mother that loved animals — Anonymous Donor
- Our sweet, sweet **Angel** — Nancye and Ray Thomas

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 \$2,500 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

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

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



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**PFA gives us the
 best presents!**
**513 Surgeries and
 163 Referrals
 in 2010**

PeopleForAnimals@comcast.net
www.PeopleForAnimals.net
 Phone (615) 794-8925

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

REPORTING ANIMAL BITES/INJURIES
 Metro Animal Care & Control 862-7930
 Williamson Co. Animal Control Emergency Services 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 \$2,500 donated to PFA for our spay-neuter efforts! See page 7 for details.