



New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter News



www.nafcanimalshelter.org

April 2013

Inside

- Easing Vet Visit Vexations
- Classifieds
- Pet Grief Series
- Avoid Becoming Fido's Chew Toy
- The Humane Societies and SPCAs
- Animal Control Appreciation
- Happy Tails: Belle
- Comics
- National Pet ID Week

Classifieds



Patty

Hound Mix
7 Months
Spayed Female

I am a spunky girl that just wants to have a little fun. As a young girl, I could use some training still, but most of all, I need love.



Jack

DSH
11 Months
Neutered Male

I love everyone. I am a very outgoing young man who just wants to flaunt my good looks a little. Whats wrong with that?



Easing Vet Visit Vexations

Tax time is here! Now is the perfect time to take your animal to the vet. As pet owners, we all know how traumatic it can be to take your animal to the vet. The hissing, growling, whining, the defensive scratching or biting, the loss of control of the bladder or bowels — anxiety is just downright unpleasant for your pet and you.

Some animals, mostly cats get anxious when going to the vet, whether it is the knowledge of what happens at the vet or just the smell of all of the other animals. Travel may also upset an animal that is not used to it.

Some cats might resist being put into a carrier, so carriers with removable tops make getting cats into — and out of — the carrier easier. This eliminates the need to force the cat inside, which makes the cat — and you — more relaxed. Dogs should be acclimated to being on a leash before going to the vet's office as well.

Having the animals already acclimated to being confined and controlled by a leash is a must. Cats are often startled by loud noises and fast-moving objects and may escape your grip and become injured. Make sure cats stay in carriers and dogs that are on leashes are controlled in order to avoid waiting room chaos. Do not let animals you do not know interact together without asking first. The other animals may be visiting the vet because they are sick or injured. An animal that is in pain or stressed is more likely to act out towards others.

It is always a good idea to have plenty of treats to reinforcement a positive experience!

These steps may not cure all of your pet's anxiety, but with continued exposure, regular vet visits and positive reinforcement, you can help your pet become more confident and less anxious before, during, and after a visit to the vet.

Pet Grief Series

When a person you love dies, it's natural to feel sorrow, express grief, and expect friends and family to provide understanding and comfort. Unfortunately, the same doesn't always hold true if the one who died was your companion animal. Many consider grieving inappropriate for someone who has lost "just a pet."

Nothing could be further from the truth. People love their pets and consider them members of their family. Caregivers celebrate their pets' birthdays, confide in their animals, and carry pictures of them in their wallets. So when your beloved pet dies, it's not unusual to feel overwhelmed by

the intensity of your sorrow. Animals provide companionship, acceptance, emotional support, and unconditional love during the time they share with you. If you understand and accept this bond between humans and animals, you've already taken the first step toward coping with pet loss: knowing that it is okay to grieve when your pet dies.

Understanding how you grieve and finding ways to cope with your loss can bring you closer to the day when memories bring smiles instead of tears.

Over the next several issues of the NAFC Animal Shelter News, there will be an article just on pet grief and ways to help cope. Each



month will be a different focus, such as children's grief, pets grief, and when and how to make the decision to have a pet euthanized. More information about pet grief can be gathered from www.chancepot.org

It will always be hard to lose a beloved pet, but with some understanding, it might be a little easier.

Avoid Becoming Fido's Chew Toy



Pop quiz: A dog walks into your yard and starts to growl at you. What do you do? Do you approach him? Run away from him? Look him in the eyes to try to stare him down? If you pick the wrong answer, you may join the more than 4 million Americans (over half of who are children) who are bitten by dogs each year.

If you keep a cool head, however, you can avoid becoming Fido's chew toy. Here are a few tips for reducing your risk of being bitten.

-1. Avoid Unfamiliar Dogs: Do not approach unfamiliar dogs and avoid eye contact with them. If you are approached by an unfamiliar dog, remain calm, and either stand still until the dog leaves or slowly back away.

-2. Use Common Sense: Never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.

-3. Protect Yourself: If a dog is about to attack you, place something between you and the dog, like a backpack. If you are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball and use your hands to protect your head and face.

-4. Never Run: Running can increase a dog adrenaline, causing their excitement and aggression level to rise and stimulate their prey drive.

-5. Children & Dogs: Children should ONLY play with dogs with adult supervision.

There are also a few things you can do to help reduce the likelihood of your dog biting someone.

-1. Spay/Neuter Your Dog: By spaying/neutering your dog, you reduce his desire to roam, fight and bite.

-2. Socialize & Train Your Dog: Socialization and training helps reduce your dog's nervousness, so that he feels comfortable around other people and animals, and is less likely to bite

out of fear.

-3. Obey Local Laws: Never allow your dog to roam free, unless he is in a fenced yard. And remember that dogs that are left tied up alone in a yard for a great deal of time often become dangerous and very protective of their space. Your dog should be an indoor member of the family.

-4. Avoid Stressful Situations: Unless you are confident in your dog's behavior, avoid placing your dog in situations where he will feel threatened, such as in crowded public areas or with new people.

-5. Make Sure Your Dog Is Healthy: If you suspect your dog is sick or injured, take him to a veterinarian immediately. Animals who are in pain are more likely to bite.

-6. Be Responsible: If your dog does bite a human, you need to contact the Floyd County Health Department at 948-4726 and the New Albany/Floyd County Animal Control at 948-5355 to ensure safety for people as well as your dog.

The Humane Societies and the SPCAs

Many people believe that any animal organization with the words humane society or SPCA in their titles, are part of the national organizations of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) or the ASPCA. This however, is not true.

HSUS and the ASPCA are their own organizations. While the ASPCA does have a shelter in New York, any other SPCA and humane society are not part of these organizations.

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization. Since 1954, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. They rescue and care for tens of thousands of animals each year, but their primary mission is to prevent cruelty before it occurs. They are there for all animals, across America and around the world.

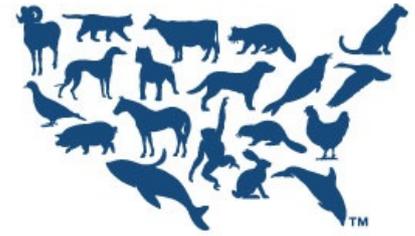
Founded in 1866, the ASPCA was the first humane

organization in the Western Hemisphere. Its mission, as stated by founder Henry Bergh, is "to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States." The ASPCA works to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws and share resources with shelters nationwide.

Both organizations have programs designated for disaster preparedness and response. They also help animals through mobile clinics, education, adoptions, and promoting legislation for animal welfare.

While they seem very similar, there are a few differences. ASPCA tends to deal more with domesticated animals only. On some occasions, this may not be entirely true. HSUS has special programs geared directly towards protecting wildlife and farm animals.

Representatives from both organizations attended Humane Lobby Day in Indianapolis to support us and



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

ASPCA®

WE ARE THEIR VOICE.®

many other advocates in working towards better humane legislation for Indiana. Both organizations have aided us in our times of need with special circumstances such as, puppy mill seizures and disaster relief.

Indiana legislature and animal welfare would not be where it is today if it weren't for these two organizations using their resources to educate and work for a better future.

We thank them for all that they have done, and will continue to do for the animals.

Animal Control Appreciation

April 7-13th, is National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week!

Animal Control Officers work behind the scenes to keep our communities safe. Like the police, unless we need them, we don't think about them or the work they do.

Every city or county has their own job description for their animal control officers, and they maybe attached to the police departments.

Here are some of the things animal control officers do to keep our communities safe. They evaluate and protect

animals from injury, disease, starvation, neglect and abuse. Animal Control Officers help to mediate neighborhood animal disputes with communication, education and enforcement. They can also apprehend loose dogs and/or livestock.

This job, like all of law enforcement, can be very dangerous. These officers encounter aggressive dogs and people in their duties. They work to keep our communities and animals safe.

Our Animal Control Officers have really stepped up to the plate in helping the animals in our

community. We couldn't be more proud or grateful for their efforts. Not only for this one week, but for the entire year!

So, next time you see your local animal control officer, thank them for their service.



Need your Pet Spayed or Neutered? We can help!

Once a month, The S.N.I.P. Clinic and the NAFC Animal Shelter assist in getting your pets altered for a discounted price. Call or visit the Shelter for more information or to sign your animals up!

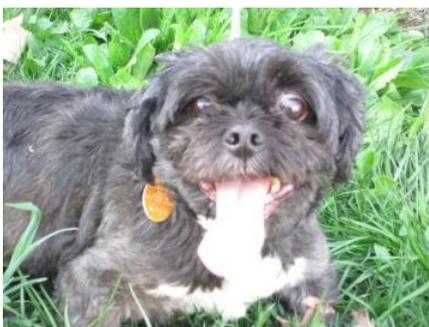
Happy Tails: Belle

Belle is one of the many puppy mill dogs that the Shelter has helped place in their new forever loving homes. She had a special place in the hearts of many staff members with her little bow-legged front end, and her goofy lil smile.

Belle's new family had been in the area visiting family when they stumbled across Belle at the Pet Adoption Center in the mall. After seeing her a couple of times, Belle's new mom knew that she was going back to Washington D.C. with a new addition to the family.

Belle had a little trouble adjusting to her new home at first. She was not sure what to do with people, her new brother Sammy, or anything around her. She had spent her first several years without ever being in a home, or truly loved. That isn't the case anymore! She is getting very used to life as a dog, not a breeding

machine. Belle deserves all the love in the world, and she has found that in her new home!



NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00-5:00PM

Saturday

11:00-2:30

Adoption Prices:

Cats over 4lbs - \$20

Cats under 4lbs - \$60

Dogs - \$80

Information Corner

National Pet ID Week
April 18-24

Sweaters and pretty blingy collars are all great if you want to keep your pet in style with the latest trends. Though it may not be the most fashionable, ID tags should be a must for every animal.

Pets should always wear a current rabies and license tags. If microchipped, they should also wear their microchip tag.

Personalized tags can also be made at some local pet stores, or purchased off the internet. These tags can be designed to match almost any ensemble your pet can imagine.

Without ID, pets may not be able to be returned to their owners. Please keep an ID tag on your pet at all times!

