

# NAFC Animal Shelter News

www.nafcanimalshelter.org

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## Classifieds



**Sadie**  
Corgie Mix  
Spayed  
Female  
5 Years Old

I'm an awesome girl. I love shopping, cuddling, and playing. I'm rather fit and would love to have a companion that is active as well. Come see me, you won't be disappointed.



**Dreamsicle**  
DSH  
Neutered  
Male  
2 Years Old

Who doesn't love a dreamsicle? It may take a bit to come out of my shell, but once I do, you'll fall in love with my kind-hearted spirit. Just come give me a chance!



## Record Heat

This summer has been one of the hottest and driest this area has seen in decades. Even with shade and water, dogs are overheating.

Airconditioned areas are the best and easiest way to keep your dog cool. If this is not an option, please consider some of the tips listed below.

Water is critical for staying cool. However, bowls of water can become really hot within a short amount of time outside. Make sure water bowls are in the shade at all time to help keep it cooler. Another tip is to put ice cubes into the water. This will drop the temperature of the water, allowing it to stay cool longer.

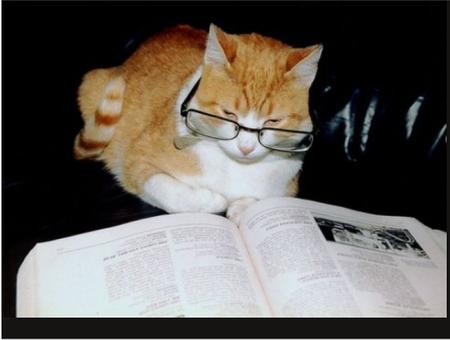
Dog houses do

provide shade for dogs while they are outside. This may cause more harm than good though. Dog houses can retain heat and the temperature can climb above the temperature outside. Putting the dog house in the shade with a frozen 2-liter may help keep your dog a little more comfortable.

Kiddie Pools are another great way to cool off your dogs. Ice cubes and frozen water bottles floating in the pool can encourage your dog to get in and play.

Remember your pets during these hot days. Special measures may need to be taken to keep them comfortable and safe.

# Cat Intelligence



There is a running debate among dog and cat owners on which animal is the smarter of the two. Dog owners proclaim their pets can learn tricks and therefore have the more superior intellect. Cat owners boast that their pets are too intelligent to do some arbitrary task for someone else's amusement. Cats aren't like dogs. They are motivated by different things. Dogs are pack animals that need to please the dominant canine (or human) in order to stay as a member of the pack. Being a part of a pack is crucial to a dog's survival. Cats are solitary animals that rely only on themselves to survive. Cats need to please no one.

What is

intelligence? Intelligence is comprised of several things: the ability to manipulate one's environment; the capacity to acquire and apply knowledge; the ability to adapt that knowledge to new situations. Animal intelligence is based on the animal's natural environment and its survival needs. Humans are biased in assessing the intelligence of other species. They tend to rate those animals that are similar to us in sight and dexterity, or those that will perform a useful task for humans as the most intelligent. Those animals that are not as cooperative don't rate as well.

Some people argue dogs are smarter because a human can train them to guard, hunt, assist, and perform obedience tasks. These activities take advantage of the natural social behaviors of the dogs in their packs. Dogs have been selectively bred over hundreds of years to enhance some of these behaviors and reduce or eliminate others.

Cats can be motivated to cooperate with the

offering of food. However, this doesn't always work. In the wild, a cat will wait patiently to catch its prey. But if there is too much hard work involved, the cat will give up and find an easier meal. Cats won't waste more energy hunting and catching the prey than it takes to eat it. Cats are opportunists. Instead of rushing to the end of a maze to collect the food reward, cats will investigate every corner and blind alley to see if prey is hiding. Unlike dogs that have been bred for utility, cats have been bred only for appearance.

Cats are definitely intelligent. They are able to go beyond their innate behaviors and learn things that nature did not foresee. Many can open doors, wait for alarm clocks, come on command, master cat flaps, and even learn tricks. They have a tenacity to do things over and over until they accomplish what they set out to do. It's this tenacity that causes them to get into trouble. The more mischief a cat gets into, the more intelligent the cat.

# Fleas and Ticks

This year, fleas and ticks have become a problem for many pet owners. They are not just a nuisance, they can also make your pets sick. In addition to skin disease, fleas can cause allergies and anemia, and can spread the plague and tapeworms. Ticks can cause infections and spread diseases such as Lyme Disease. Every attempt should be made to keep these parasites off your pets.

There are many excellent, new products that can help eliminate fleas and ticks. Most of these products are applied as drops to the skin between the shoulder blades.

These drops are usually repeated each month. There are many different brands with different ingredients. Some kill only fleas, some kill ticks and fleas, and some contain insect growth regulators that help get rid of immature fleas and flea eggs. It is very important to read the product labels to find the correct one for your pet. Make sure that the product you choose is correct for your pet's type, age, and weight, and that it controls the parasites that bother your pet.

Even pets on monthly tick control products should be checked daily for ticks. Embedded ticks can be



removed with tweezers while wearing disposable gloves. The ticks should be grasped at the head and pulled slowly out of the skin without twisting or turning. Removing ticks every day can prevent disease spread.

Ask your vet about their recommendations on brands and products to help any issues and maintain the health of your animal.

# He's Not A Child's Toy

Easter was not too long ago and many families found the cute little baby bunnies in the pet store windows hard to refuse, thinking a bunny would be a perfect, low-maintenance "starter pet" for their children.

Think again!

Every year, many thousands of rabbits are abandoned to shelters or released outdoors (a sure death sentence for a domestic rabbit) often because of unrealistic expectations of the parents who bought them for their kids.

Rabbits are prey by nature. They are physically delicate and fragile, and require specialized veterinary care. Children are naturally energetic, exuberant, and loving. But "loving" to a child usually means holding, cuddling, carrying an animal around in whatever grip their small hands can manage - precisely the kinds of things that make most rabbits feel insecure and frightened. Rabbits handled in this way will often start to scratch or bite simply out of fear. Many

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**SETTING YOUR PET  
RABBIT LOOSE  
DOESN'T MAKE HER  
"FREE!"**



**IT MAKES HER  
"FOOD!"**

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rabbits are accidentally dropped by small children, resulting in broken legs and backs. Those rabbits who survive the first few months quickly reach maturity. When they are no longer tiny and "cute" kids often lose interest, and the rabbit, who has no voice to remind you he's hungry or thirsty or needs his cage cleaned, is gradually neglected.

Parents, please help. If you are thinking about adding a rabbit to your family think about this: pet rabbits

have a lifespan of 7-10 years. Don't buy on impulse. Make an informed decision by learning about rabbit care first. Consider adopting a rabbit from a shelter or rescue rather than buying. For the rabbits well-being (as well as your child's) make sure an adult will be the primary caretaker and will always supervise any children in the household who are interacting with the rabbit. Domestic rabbits are inquisitive, intelligent, and very social by nature. A rabbit is a delightful companion animal as long as you remember: he's not a toy. He's a real, live, 10-year commitment!

At the shelter, we have several rabbits that were turned in as strays found in parking lots or loss of interest. Please come visit these rabbits for adoption after doing research on rabbit care. Go to [www.rabbit.org](http://www.rabbit.org) for some helpful information on rabbit care to aide in your decision.

## Another Successful Dog Days at the Drive-In

Friday, July 13th, the Shelter partnered with Bill Powell at the Georgetown Drive-In for another Dog Days at the Drive-In. It was another successful year!

We had a great turn out by both guest and vendors. Raffles, contests, admissions, and donations were all used to help raise money and awareness of the shelter and its services.

A huge thanks goes out to all of those who participated in making this event successful! Rudy Greens, Invisible Fence, Sarah Blevins and The Red Cross,

Animal Protection Association, TNT Agility, Piece of my Heart Rescue, Ratbone Rescue, were all at the event. There were also many area businesses that donated items for the raffles; which include, Buffalo Wild Wings, Rocky's Sub Pub, Rookies Cookies, Longhorn Steakhouse, Earth Friends Cafe, Canary Crystal Salon, Hello Gorgeous, and Melissa's Pretty Paws.

Thanks to all who attended and volunteered as well!

We couldn't have done this event without the support and help of Bill Powell



and all of those at the Georgetown Drive-In!

We look forward to doing this event again in the future. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletter for more events like this coming up!

# 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: Roxy

Roxy, once known as Lilly, came to the shelter from a puppy mill seizure several months ago. She was a nursing momma with two little pups. After being in a foster home for a few months, she was able to be spayed and put up for adoption.

A family soon adopted her, as rough looking as she was. After just a few short months of some major TLC and adjusting to the life of a house dog, she has blossomed into a gorgeous girl. She is still a little timid with new people and situations.

Her new family says that she is the best dog anyone could ask for and that her transformation has been amazing. She is living the life she deserves, and leaving her past behind!

Please email us your Happy Tails Story at [nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com](mailto:nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com). These stories help encourage others to adopt and save a life!



**3-22-12**



**6-12-12**

### 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

### Odor Removal - Urine

Every once in a while, an animal may have an issue making it to the yard or litter box, causing unwanted stains and odors that may be hard to remove. Here are just a few suggestions.

- **Enzyme Neutralizers** - follow directions on bottles.
- **Color Safe Bleach** - pour on to affected area, blot dry.
- **Ammonia and Oil Soap** - one teaspoon of each in 1 gallon of water.
- **Club Soda** - Saturate area and let fizz. Use paper towel to dab extra, let air dry.
- **Baking Soda** - sprinkle over area, use wet scrub brush to scrub area. Rinse brush and scrub again to get up access baking soda. Blot with paper towel.

