



Humane Society of Morrow County

The HS of MC Newsletter

Winter Care of Small Outdoor Animals

Submitted by Patty Mills, HSofMC Volunteer

As we go into winter, we need to make special provisions for not only ourselves but our animals as well. Please make sure your outdoor pets have plenty of dry bedding, proper shelter and fresh and plentiful food and water. While most outdoor pets can become acclimated to the changing temperatures, it's important not to move your pet outdoors permanently in the midst of the cold temperatures.

If you have an outdoor pet, its shelter should be large enough for it to stand and turn around and have an opening facing the East or Southeast to help reduce the impact of the winter winds and snow coming from the North and West.

You should provide plenty of fresh fluffy straw bedding. The use of blankets is discouraged because they can draw moisture. Blankets become wet and freeze, never really drying out and leaving the animal cold. Straw will shed the water, thus keeping your pet warm and dry. Keep the straw plentiful all through the cold temperatures.

Fresh food and water is essential for your pet to produce energy that helps it stay warm. Mammals are warm blooded and require more food more frequently in the winter to produce the energy needed to keep them warm. Very little of their food is converted to body mass in the winter; it is mainly used up as energy to maintain their constant body temperature. The smaller the animal the faster it loses body heat, so it is necessary to move small outdoor animals indoors when the temperatures or wind chills drop to extreme. Consider moving your smaller pets (goats, dogs, cats, etc.) into a closed barn, garage or basement until temperatures come back up to a safe level.

Throughout the winter we receive calls about animals with not enough shelter, bedding or food. Please do your part and contact those owners whose animals need help and offer them assistance. If you are not able to assist them or would prefer that we do, you can contact us at 419-947-5791. We will accept monetary donations as well as clean straw, dog houses in good condition and pet food. Monetary donations can be mailed to the HSofMC at PO Box 298, Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338. Please call to make arrangements for us to pick up other donations. Your donations assist us in assisting them!

Winter Care of Horses

Submitted by Lynne Petitti, HSofMC Board Member

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, here are a few important basics to keep your horse comfortable and healthy. For the purpose of this article, the term "coat" refers solely to the horse's hair/fur and is not to be confused with the use of a winter blanket/coat.

The coat length of a horse which is kept outside year round is not determined by the temperature but by the hours of daylight. It is important to keep the horse's coat free of ice and mud so it can "fluff" its own hair to stay warm. In my opinion, a winter blanket is not necessary as long as you maintain proper coat care in addition to adequate food and shelter.

A horse can lose up to 50 pounds in a day trying to keep warm. The warmth is generated through the horse's digestive process. Therefore, it is imperative the animal has access to ample hay throughout the day and night to graze on and create the energy needed to stay warm.

Finally, providing a shelter to allow the horse to escape from the harsh winter elements is a key factor. Not only does a shelter protect the horse from the bitter winds, it should also provide a clean and dry environment for the horse to relax.

To achieve the best results, it is recommended that all three of these basics be implemented together. If you have any further questions on keeping your animals safe and healthy this winter season, please contact your local area Humane Society.

Fun Facts About Your Pets

Cats have 290 bones and 517 muscles in their bodies

Cats have five toes on each front foot, but only four on each back foot

Cats have around 473 taste buds and dogs have about 1700 taste buds whereas humans have approximately 9000 taste buds

Dogs have 3 eyelids, upper, lower and a third eyelid inside the other two called a 'haw'. The 'haw' protects the eye from dirt and dust.



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Annual Meeting

The annual members meeting was held December 9, 2009. Newly elected 3-year Board members include Donna Bremigan, Patti Feustel, Jennifer Knipp, Michelle Kohler and Lynne Petitti. The business meeting concluded with annual reports by committee chairmen. Officers for 2010 who were elected at the organization meeting which followed the annual meeting are: Michelle Kohler, President; Melanie Greenawalt, Vice President; Kelsey Lewis, Secretary; Patti Feustel, Treasurer. The new Board approved the appointment of Kelsey Lewis to a 1-year Board term. The Society wishes to thank all individuals who served on the Board in 2009.

Membership Renewal Reminder

All annual memberships are effective from January 1 through December 31. If you hold an annual individual, family or corporate membership in the Society, please renew your membership for 2010. An envelope and membership/volunteer form are enclosed for your convenience. If you obtained your membership during last quarter 2009, it will be automatically extended through December 2010. If you are a lifetime member of the Society, please consider giving a donation using the enclosed envelope and membership/volunteer form.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Membership statistics for 2009 are as follows: 19 Lifetime, 26 Family, 47 Individual and 5 Corporate memberships for a total of 97 memberships. The committee focused on renewing lapsed memberships and acquiring new memberships using dog license information obtained at the Auditor's Office.

Volunteer Committee

The most critical need was, and continues to be, good foster homes for dogs and help with showcasing animals at Pet Supplies Plus and PETCO. The volunteer form will be updated to reflect the current needs of the Society.

Fundraising Committee

Concession Trailer

The Society's food concession trailer has been retired and will not be used for fundraising in 2010. The Society wishes to thank the many wonderful volunteers who helped serve food over the past six years and hopes that they will explore new volunteer opportunities with the Society. The Society also thanks Dave Decker for inviting the trailer to several of his auctions.

Fall Festival for Homeless Dogs

This festival was hosted by Melanie Greenawalt on October 10, 2009. The festival featured dog contests and prizes, children's games, photos, a Chinese auction, food and fun for everyone!

Grants Committee

Three grants were secured for use in 2009. Consolidated Electric gave a \$1000 grant to be used exclusively for the purchase of medications for HSofMC animals. PETCO gave a \$2500 spay/neuter grant which targeted pets of farmers and low-income families. The Ohio Pet License Fund gave a \$2000 grant which targeted feral and barn cats and pets of low-income families who are receiving some form of federal or state assistance.

Foster/Adoption Committee Cats

HSofMC assisted 116 households with cat and kitten issues. 107 vouchers were issued to assist with cat spay/neuter costs. The Society assisted caretakers of at least 15 feral cat colonies by providing traps, food and spay/neuter financial assistance. 66 cats and kittens were accepted for relocation or adoption. Good barn homes and good indoor homes for adult cats continue to be a critical need. The Society wishes to thank Linda Edmonson who ably assisted with fostering kittens, trapping and transporting feral cats and showcasing cats and kittens at PETCO in Marion. The Society also wishes to thank Linda Grubaugh who fostered tiny motherless kittens.

Dogs

The annual report on dogs will appear in the next newsletter. Around 25 vouchers were issued since August to assist low-income individuals with spay/neuter costs.

Humane Agent

The Society received approximately 1500 calls in 2009. Many of these calls necessitated intervention by Judi Robinson, Humane Agent. The Society wishes to thank both Judi Robinson and Patty Mills for working the HSofMC call line in 2009.



www.HSofMC.org



Photos with Santa



Jackie and Lance Sayers pose for their Photos with Santa picture

Photos with Santa hosted approximately 50 families on December 5th and 6th. The Society wishes to thank Fire Chief Don Staiger and staff for allowing us to use the Mt. Gilead Fire House for the event. The Society also thanks the many volunteers who worked the event. Sue Corbin was our tireless photographer and Ray Evans did a superb job in his role as Santa. And thanks to Diana Shipley of Groomingdale's who set up a 'priming' table for the dogs. Raffle winners were Tim Davis, Diana Shipley, Malia Pridemore and Joe Hamilton. Hope to see you next year at Photos with Santa!

I'm Going to What State?

Submitted by Martha Sayers, HSofMC Volunteer

If adopted dogs could speak English, some of them might ask the question, 'What state am I going to?' Out-of-state adoptions are becoming more and more common with rescue groups. Because of web sites such as Petfinder and Adopt-A-Pet, anyone, anywhere, can find the animal of his liking to adopt.

Some parts of the country such as the east coast have a shortage of adoptable dogs and puppies while the southern states have an overabundance of them. North Shore Animal League, the world's largest no-kill shelter, has taken adoption to the next level: mobile adoptions using thirty-five foot vans that are especially designed for pet transport with four rooms and twenty-seven stainless steel cages. With four air conditioning and heating systems, they are truly mobile!

The adoption process is the same whether done at a shelter or at a mobile unit. Out-of-state adoptions are more challenging and require additional criteria in the screening process for potential adopters. But the effort put forth is well received by both those who adopt and their new pet who has found its forever home.

North Shore Animal League also shares its vans with other rescue groups. These vans can be used for temporary shelter in case of disasters such as floods and tornadoes and act as a central 'reconnection' point for owners separated from their pets.

Cats: Why spay and neuter house and barn cats?

Submitted by Joan Ballitch, Humane Society Volunteer

The Humane Society of Morrow County is supplying the following information to stress the importance of spaying and neutering cats and kittens. This article summarizes reproductive, health and behavioral issues. A later article will address the cat overpopulation issue.

An unsprayed female cat comes into heat for the first time usually between 4 and 10 months of age. She can have multiple litters of kittens each year. A nursing mother cat can become pregnant within 48 hours after delivering a litter. In central Ohio, the cat breeding season begins around early February. A receptive female cat will mate with any available sexually mature male, including her own father, brother or son. Normal gestation time for cats averages about 63 days.

A typical unneutered male cat reaches sexual maturity anywhere from 5 months to 9 months of age. An unconfined sexually mature male cat will mark his territory by spraying urine, fight to defend his territory and roam.

Spaying of female cats results in reducing the risk of mammary cancer and eliminating the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer and eliminates heat cycles. Many people do not know that a pregnant cat can be spayed. Spaying pregnant cats is recommended and practiced by many rescue groups.

Neutering of sexually mature male cats results in the reduction or elimination of undesirable habits. Early age neutering virtually prevents the development of undesirable behaviors. Neutering also results in numerous health benefits including reduction of diseases of the prostate and rectal tumors and elimination of testicular tumors.

For kittens, the Humane Society of Morrow County recommends spaying and neutering before they reach sexual maturity in order to prevent the formation of undesirable habits.

If you have an unsprayed or unneutered cat or kitten, the Humane Society of Morrow County urges you to make an appointment to have it altered. Your cat will have a happier, healthier life and you will enjoy it more.

Wash Your Hands!

Adapted from Delaware General Health District Brochure 'Keeping You and Your Pets Safe and Well'.

Many disease organisms can be transferred from your hand to your mouth and result in illnesses. If you accidentally touch your pet's fecal matter while cleaning up after it, you could expose yourself to Salmonella, Giardia or Campylobacter organisms. These can cause diarrhea in both you and your pet and result in severe distress and serious dehydration. Salmonella is also carried by pets such as birds, turtles, snakes, iguanas and other reptiles and care should be taken when cleaning their cages.

You and your children should always wash hands with plenty of soap and water immediately following cleaning up after your pet or handling your pet and its toys.

P.O. Box 298
Mount Gilead, Ohio
43338-0298
419-947-5791

Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid

Permit 15
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43338
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2010 BOARD MEMBERS

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Vice President: Melanie Greenawalt
Secretary: Kelsey Lewis
Treasurer: Patti Feustel

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Elaine Ballitch
Donna Bremigan
Jennifer Knipp
Lynne Petitti
Judi Robinson, Humane Agent

COMMITTEES

Policies and Procedures

Members: Lynn Petitti, Elaine Ballitch, Joan Ballitch

Membership/Volunteers

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Members: Joan Ballitch

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Newsletter

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Members: All Board Members

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Adoptions/Foster Homes

Members: Melanie Greenawalt, Jennifer Johnston, Judi Robinson

**PO Box 298 Mt. Gilead, OH 43338
419-947-5791**

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ASPCA Animal Poison Control

888-426-4435

Dog Warden's Office

419-946-1747

WEB SITES

www.HSofMC.org • www.petfinder.com

In Memoriam

For Richard Higgins

Steve and Rita Brenneman
Rick, Ann and BJ Campbell
Louis R. and Janis A. Staffileno
Clyde and Sue Columber

For Dean Mitchell

Harold and June Kline
Burkhart Farm Center, Inc.
Dale and Helen Shier
Elisa Mitchell
Maxine Spriggs
Robert and Sharon Hickson
Shirley Hudson
Pearl and Virgil Irwin
Louise Coldwell Family
National Lime and Stone
Raymond Hartpence
Lloyd, Porter and Porter

For Tu Tu Lemert (cat)

Charlotte Surman

In Honor of Debi Britton

Dennis and Pat Tuttle