



Spring 2010

Animal Aid Communique

Animal Aid Of Tulsa, Inc - 3307 East 15th - Tulsa, OK 74112
A Volunteer Community Service for Emergency Rescue & Humane Education

Shared Sorrow By Alicia Lee

This last year I lost my brother to brain cancer. Our family was blessed with caring hospice nurses and Mark was able to be home surrounded by his family and his beloved pets those last weeks of his life. It is because of that I am forever thankful and because of that I have a whole new appreciation for the love of an animal.

It was during the last couple of weeks of Mark's life that the tumor made it difficult for him to recognize people and sometimes he would imagine he was somewhere else doing something else.

As I watched my brother change and sometimes become confused and frustrated I noticed that he never failed to recognize his dogs, Bo & Roscoe or his cats, Wyatt & Doc. He would

at times try to hold one of his cats and because of the tumor he would do so with the coordination of a two-year old, squeezing and petting roughly but never once did these cats hold it against him or try and get away. His dogs lay by the hospital bed in the middle of the living room and never hesitated when he would clumsily call them over to him. He would grab Bo's collar and pull him as close as he could so he could pat his big Lab head and hug his

big furry neck. I could see in their loving eyes that these animals understood so much more than we did and during those last days they gave my brother much joy and comfort by just being near.

The night my brother died I stayed on the sofa next to his empty hospital bed and I watched as Doc & Wyatt climbed upon the bed and curled up on the bare pillow. They normally were at odds with one another but that night they groomed each other and when



they slept you couldn't tell where one ended and the other began. It was obvious to me that they were comforting one another and that they too were struck by his absence. Bo, Mark's

10 year old Lab was so sad; you could see the pain on his graying face. He walked around the bed several times, refusing to lay down, he would come and nudge me as if he was asking me to show him where Mark was. I remembered trying to explain to him with my words what had happened but it wasn't until I began to cry that I think he finally understood. Bo made soft sounds while I held him and sobbed like I never have before; he stayed with

me that night, never leaving my side, sharing the love he had always given my brother.

I have always had wonderful dogs and cats in my life but this is the first time I have ever shared such an intimate experience as death with one of them. I don't think a person could have consoled me like Bo did that night; his love was expressed without words and his understanding and compassion were extraordinary. I lost so much that night and I miss my brother terribly but I feel so blessed to have shared that night and that experience with the animals that were part of his life and gave him so much joy.

FOUND: A NEW HOME

A Dog Named Sasha, By Pat Veith

It was a pleasant Saturday morning in November when my husband, Terry, and I decided to go to Carbondale Veterinary Clinic to see a little dog that had been in Animal Aid's system a few months.

"Little Boo" was a small, slender Rat Terrier looking for a home and people to love. She came bouncing into the front waiting room full of energy.



-- See "Sasha", cont'd on page 7

Please Help at PETCO!

Animal Aid is in serious need of volunteers at our PETCO adoption center on Saturdays from 9am to 4pm. Shortage of volunteers at PETCO limits the number of dogs we can take and that also in turn will limit the number of dogs we can help. We can't help any more animals until we are able to find wonderful homes for the ones we now have.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AND HELP THE ANIMALS!

MORE VOLUNTEERS = MORE ANIMALS SHOWCASED
= INCREASED CHANCE FOR ADOPTION = MORE ANIMALS WE CAN HELP

Call 744-8280 and Alicia, Meg or Pam will be glad to help get you involved.

Shop to Help the Animals!!

Come shop with Animal Aid of Tulsa!

We have books, clothing, small appliances, pots & pans, dishes, antiques and other goodies!

We are easy to find-15TH & HARVARD
3307 E. 15th St. / Monday-Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-4
918-744-1648

All proceeds benefit the homeless dogs and cats
Animal Aid cares for.

IT REALLY IS GUILT FREE SHOPPING!

Animal Aid Annual Meeting!

Please join us for our annual corporate dinner Saturday, May 22nd from 6:30-9:00 pm. We will be hosting this event at "Strictly Ballroom" at 6926 South Lewis. Dinner will include a steak or chicken entrée, vegetable, dessert and drinks.

During our meeting we will be recognizing volunteers, clinic employees, our veterinarians, and voting in our 2010-2011 Board of Directors. There will be dancing after dinner.

Tickets are a donation of \$12.50 and must be purchased by Friday, May 14th. Please RSVP to 744-8280 or 744-1648. Tickets can be picked up at the Thrift Store.

Animal Aid Veterinarians

15th Street Veterinary Group
6231 E. 15th Street
835-2336

Chimney Hills Veterinary Hospital
6211 E. 91st St.
481-1693

Small Animal Hospital of Owasso
12500 E. 86th St. N Suite 105
274-8387

Arrow Springs Animal Hospital
550 W Florence Street
Broken Arrow
455-7107

City Vet Hospital
3550 S. Peoria
747-1641

Southern Hills Veterinary Hospital
2242 E 56th Place
747-1311

Best Friends Veterinary Hospital
5417 S. Mingo Road
663-7595

Heritage Veterinary Hospital
4011 S. 79th E. Ave..
627-8575

Woodland West
9380 S. Union Ave.
299-1208

Briarglen Vet Clinic
3141 S. 129 E. Ave..
665-1555

Hunters Glen Veterinary Hospital
9150 S Braden
493-3332

Carbondale Veterinary
4750 S. Union Ave.
446-3501

North Forty Small
Animal Hospital
133rd & Memorial
369-2287

The very best
Veterinarian is the one who
cares the most. Please sup-
port your Animal Aid affiliated
Veterinarian !

Need a tag for your pet?

Animal Aid offers Pet Tags for \$5 each, and you can order them at our Thrift Store at 3307 E 15th Street

Letter From the President

At Animal Aid we take pride in our mission and our accomplishments. Our purpose since 1961 has been to help sick and injured homeless dog and cats. We do this 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are the only animal rescue group that has a 24 hour emergency service for those animals that are severely injured and cannot wait for treatment. Last year we took in over 700 animals, not all of them injured but also those puppies and kittens that were dumped or discarded, no longer wanted.

With the help of our wonderful vets many of our animals have recovered from their injuries through surgery, several months of rehab and tender loving care. It's sad to say that some have such massive injuries that our vets cannot help them, even though our vets have been known to perform miracles. We have a very inclusive puppy and kitten package with each adoption. Every one of these babies receives exams, boosters, fecals and when the vets deem it appropriate they are spayed and neutered. In all cases our puppies and kittens have been started on this program before adoption and we make sure they are scheduled with one of our vets to come back for important follow-up care and their sterilization after adoption if it hasn't already been done. With every adoption we try to insure that everyone is healthy and happy!

This is where volunteers are needed. Once the animals are healthy, we place their pictures on our website at animalaid.org, plus we rotate their appearance at PETCO at 41st St and Yale. The more volunteers we have the more animals we can show! When we moved from Petsmart to Petco we had to change our volunteer age to 18 due to store restrictions.

This has left our volunteer pool very low; it seems that only a few are willing to spend a portion of a Saturday showing our dogs at Petco. We are there from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm with our animals and our volunteer shifts are from 9-1 or 12-4, these hours include set up and clean up. It may sound

like a lot of work but it is truly a labor of love! This is how I started volunteering with Animal Aid and ten years later I'm still doing it. My three older dogs had died just a few months apart and I missed them terribly and needed to spend some time around animals, but I wasn't ready to fill their places. Showcasing animals was the perfect place for me! There's always that special dog that you connect with on Saturday and may think about adopting it yourself, but realize the person you just met at PETCO would be perfect for that dog! I'll admit that I've become attached to quite a few of the dogs, but the excitement I see on the face of the dog's prospective owner shows me that this dog will have a wonderful home! It is at this moment you realize that all the effort is definitely worth it but you also realize your job isn't done, there are still more animals waiting to find their forever homes!

Please come and see what we are about. PETCO has provided us with a wonderful location to present our dogs to the public. Our cats are located at our veterinary offices, plus a few are at our Thrift Store at 3307 E. 15th St. (15th & Harvard). Our website is full of pictures and biographies and indicates at which one of our vets the animal is boarded and can be seen. Just contact the appropriate vet and set up a time to see our animal and if adoption isn't what you are looking for right now come and volunteer and help make a difference in the life of a homeless animal, it costs nothing but is worth so much!

Gloria Bodenhamer, Animal Aid President

Proposed 2010-11 Board of Directors

President	Gloria Bodenhamer
Vice President	Mary Dell
Treasurer	Terry Veith
Secretary	Kelly Woolery
Volunteer Coord.	Tra Laignel
Adoption Follow-Up	Marilyn Murphy
Veterinary Relations	Dr. Jan Weaver
Grant Advisor	Peter Glidden
Fundraising	Melvonna Raiford

**Clothing - Treasures
Household Items**
Your Donations Are
Welcome & Tax Deductible

**Animal Aid of Tulsa
Thrift Store**

Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
Sat 9am - 4pm
3307 East 15th
744-1648

24 hour Injured Animal Rescue 744-8280 · www.AnimalAid.org

Memorials, Dedications & Appreciation

In Loving Memory of Paul Milam
From Mary Barron

In Memory of "Ginger"
"Ginger" was a sweetheart and will be missed.
Gene and Irene Joines

In Loving Memory of Laura Barnes
From Sylvia Martin

In Memory of H.B. (Bunny)
& Edythe Howard. These were two true animal lovers & contributors until their death.
From daughter Carolyn Higgins

In Memory of Pat Davis "Lucy's Mom"
From Mary Dean

In Memory of my doggie "Max"
From Marcelle Richardson

In Loving Memory of Sandra Sullenger
From Darrell Sullenger

In the Memory of "Stormy"
owner Pam Ball
From Diana Dubwig

In Honor of Evelyn Colby,
a protector & lover of all animals.
From Connie White.

Thank you to the 'Youth Group' of Eastside Christian Church for their generous donations of toys, treats and food for our homeless animals. You are wonderful Neighbors!

In Honor of Jeanne Stover.
From Wilma Elrod

In Loving memory of "Stormy Ball"
Stormy was the beloved canine companion of Mike and Pam Ball.
From Myrna Kurle

In Memory of Nelson L Dean.
From Barnard School
and Mary E. O'Roark

In the Memory of John Dee Laue.
From Lisa Johnston

In Loving Memory of "Goldie".
From Belynda Bland

In Memory of Robert Kauffman,
brother of Catherine Tatum.
From Mary Dell

In Honor of Sandra Sullenger.
From Linda and Daniel Brown

In Loving Memory of our dear friend and cat lover, Mary Ellen Brelsford.
From Naomi R. Austria

In Loving Memory of Brandi.
From Steve and Clair Powers.

In Memory of Samantha, Cricket and Katie.
In Honor of Chloe

In Loving Memory of my two dogs
"Rosie and P.J."
From Betty Elder

In Honor of Nelson Dean
From Mary Dean

In Loving Memory of Kyle Richardson
From Sally Kitchen

Thanks to all of you and all you do in the name of our favorite dogs and cats.
From Linda Milo

In the Memory of Taylor Isaacson
From Sandra S. Isaacson

In Memory of Maggie Liebendorfer
From Murphy and Hudson

In Honor of the marriage of Leslie Wylie and Wynne Sellers
From Dick and Julie Behling

In Loving Memory of "Bentley"
From Thomas Danowski

In Honor and Memory of Gretchen Anderson.
From Christina A. Mooney

In Memory of Kathy Evans Borchardt
From Laura E. Frossard

In Memory of "Primo" our beloved Burmese cat who passed away on November 10, 2009.
From Thomas and Sylvia Insall

In Loving Memory of "Moe".
From Bob and Janice Lyons

In Memory of "Oliver" and "Tiger" owned by Lee and Dianna Mills,
"Murphy" owned by Bill and Susan Holloway and "Bella" who is owned By Andrew and Audra Mills.
From Catherine Mills

In Memory of Nelson L Dean,
he will be missed.
From Alicia B. Etgen

In Memory of Margaret Gallimore
From Helen and Jack Nilson

In Loving Memory of Nelson Dean
From Nancy Crane

A Big "Thank You" to the kids and counselor at Washington Elementary for All the goodies they collected for our homeless animal.
Your Friends at Animal Aid of Tulsa

In Memory of Janelle Kendall, sister of Judy Cole: Between sisters there is a special bond that can Never be broken.
From Jim and Sherry Knight

In Memory of Cooter "Coo" the 19yr old cat of Linda Dycus: They come into our lives on tiny tippy toes and leave us with Paw Prints firmly scratched into our hearts
From Jim and Sherry Knight

In Memory of My Friends Mother Carol Stagner Baer
By: Helen Madden

In Memory of Eva Wark
By Ruth Landsaw

In Memory of 'Tip',
beloved cat of Dan Sortore
By: Julia Martin

Flea & Tick Prevention

Spring Has Finally Arrived

The temperatures are finally warming up and that means it is time to start protecting our pets from the parasites that come with warmer weather. We had an exceptionally cold winter but unfortunately that does not exempt us from those pesky fleas.

The Flea Life Cycle

The flea life cycle consists of 4 stages: egg, larva, pupae and adult. The adult flea, representing only 5% of the entire flea population, deposits eggs onto the animal. These eggs fall off and contaminate the environment the pets lives in, whether it be the yard, carpet or the animals bedding. The egg hatches to produce larvae. The larvae prefer to be in protected areas such as a shady part of the yard or under furniture. They undergo 3 molts to become pupae. The speed at which the pupae develop into an adult is dependent on the conditions in the environment, but an adult flea can emerge in as little as 2 weeks or the pupae can stay latent for up to one and a half years. Each adult female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day and 2000 in a lifetime. In just 30 days, ten female fleas in ideal conditions can multiply to over a quarter of a million new fleas in different life stages!

Diseases Spread by Flea and Ticks

Fleas not only are a nuisance but can actually be harmful and spread disease. They are blood sucking parasites that can cause anemia in small animals. They can cause tapeworms if ingested. They can also cause a bacterial infection that attacks the blood in cats. Many animals are actually allergic to fleas which will cause extreme itching and discomfort.

We can't forget about ticks either. Ticks can cause a severe anemia as well if present in great enough numbers. They are also responsible for diseases like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis.

Choosing the Best Flea and Tick Prevention

There are many different products available to protect your pet from fleas and ticks. Most are topical but there are a few oral choices too. Some products kill adult fleas as well as the larva and pupae while others target only the adults. Not all of the products available will kill ticks so if your pet enjoys going to the lake or is in an endemic area, make sure ticks are covered on the prevention you choose. When treating your pet it is important to know that none of these choices will keep fleas or ticks from getting on your pet. However, once they are there they will die within a short period of time, most often before they have a chance to reproduce. If treating cats, make sure what you are using is cat specific because the canine products can be lethal to cats. Not all of the flea and tick preventives on the market are as effective as others. Some of our favorite topicals are Advantage or Advantix, Frontline, Promeris, Vectra 3D, and Revolution or if you prefer an oral tablet, Comfortis.

Stay ahead of the fleas by using products to prevent an explosive increase in their population. But, if your dog or cat already has a lot of fleas, apply prevention and don't forget to treat the environment multiple times to fully rid your house and yard of them.

By Dr. Stephanie Bradley, DVM

Donations

You can support Animal Aid by making a commemorative donation in someone's name. Just send a message via email to animal.aid@cox.net or fill out the form on the back of this newsletter. Please include your name and address. Tell us what the dedication is for - as an example, "in honor of.." (name and address). Maybe it's for a birthday, holiday, or just because. Or it can be a memorial message "in memory of.." (person or pet's name). Please provide the name and address of the person who is to be notified that the dedication was made. We'll send a letter of notification and a copy to the sender. Dedications will appear in the next Newsletter.

Donations with memorials and dedications are greatly appreciated! Animal Aid, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and your donations may be tax deductible.

Buster Brown

In Loving Memory of "Buster Brown Murphy", Charles' number one friend and helper with the cattle. He traveled daily with Charles in his dog house in the back of his red pick-up truck. He came into our lives 15 years ago when our daughter Betsy found him lost in the fields of our ranch. From the beginning, he was Charles' dog but always kind and gentle to any other dog or cat that came our way. He was dignified and passionate in his love of the land, just like his master. He will be sorely missed.

BUSTER BROWN
11-08-1995 to 11-08-2009



Happy Tails

Dear Animal Aid,

We recently adopted a schnauzer mix you named Earl. You described him as a 'funny little dog'. He is and much more. He fits in with us as if he always has lived here. We love him so.oo.oo very much. We couldn't ask for a better fit and a better dog. Thank you so very much for approving us for his adoption.

Linda Adams

Dear Animal Aid,

After notification that we were selected to adopt Taco, we were so excited. After two weeks, we were able to bring him home to meet the rest of the family.



Major Tom

We decided that he didn't look like a "Taco" so we gave him a more fitting name of "Major Tom" (David Bowie inspired). He immediately fit in with our other Chihuahuas, Chimney and Ellie (also a rescue dog). He is always wanting to be petted and he loves to have his eye socket scratched! When we go for walks, the hair on his paws somewhat resembles an Elf's foot, and makes us laugh. He loves to play and snuggle. Major Tom is always making us laugh and we are so thankful to have him as a member of our family!

Thanks Animal Aid of Tulsa!

The Allen's

Dear Animal Aid,

We adopted Brigitte (now Ginger) from Animal Aid on 11/23/09 -- picked her up from Carbondale Veterinary. I can't believe anyone would not have wanted this girl. She's sweet, smart and so well-behaved. And she loves to cuddle -- she just needed love!



Ginger

Brigitte (now Ginger) has found her forever home!

Here's our group pic with Santa, including Brigitte (now Ginger). We love her, she fits in perfect with our family. She gets along so well with all other dogs and even cats, loves kids and is a very happy girl. We feel lucky she picked us.

Thank you for our new girl! And thanks for all you do for the animals!!

Melody

Dear Animal Aid,

Thank you for everything, my dad Dale fell in love with Josie, they both are very happy together. He decided to call her "Sadie, my lady" :)

Jamey



Dale and Sadie

Dear Animal Aid,

Daphne came to see us last week and I thought you would love to see how great she looks! Her back legs are so muscular, her coat looks amazing and she just looks wonderful. Her owner absolutely loves her!

Just another great story!!!



Daphne

Chris Scholl
Owner of All God's Creatures

Chris boarded Daphne for us and helped her find a wonderful home!

Happy Tails

Dear Alicia, Meg and the rest of the Animal Aid gang,

Thank you is not enough for all that you and the organization does. But, I personally want to say thank you, thank you, thank you.

Working at one of the veterinary offices you use makes it a challenge not to want to take home all or at the least, some of the many babies that come through our facility. My husband has long accused me of being just a big ole' Elly May Clampet. Well, I fell victim to one of those many babies in April of last year. My darling bundle of black and white joy, aka, Gertie May, has grown into quite a young woman. She had her rear leg amputated at another hospital and was recovering nicely at our facility when she came down with parvo. After nursing her through the leg and parvo, helping her learn to walk on three legs, my heart was lost and I couldn't let her go. I didn't need any more babies at the time but couldn't help it. I guess I am an Elly May.



Gertie May

I just wanted to tell you again, thank you and to let you know how she is doing and what a beautiful girl she has become. I don't think she knows she was supposed to have four legs. She runs like the wind blows, sometimes out running my other dogs. She is without a doubt one of the happiest dogs I have ever had and the most vocal! I am just overjoyed to have her.

Thank you again for all you do!

Karen Hunt

Sasha, cont'd from cover

With her black and white body, a brown muzzle and brown spots above her eyes and big ears, she was a little doll with long legs. She immediately took to us and us to her. We hoped she would accept our home as her home. Boy has she ever!

Once she settled in, she was given the new name, Sasha, and she immediately became acquainted with her new dog buddies whose home she would share. They hit it off from the start, after the usual sniffing of the newest member.

It was soon discovered that Sasha loved to cuddle, had no idea what a doggie treat was, immediately knew to sit and stay, and loved to eat. Sasha cuddles with her two buddies, Stella, a dapple dachshund and Atticus a wired-hair dachshund, for naps. Her waking minutes are spent cuddling with me as I read or watch television when home. When she hears a sound of someone in the kitchen, paper rattling, a jar being opened, the clink of a glass, she comes bounding into the kitchen to see if some type of food or treat is in store. By bounding, I mean I think her slender legs are actually built-in springs which can propel her like a gazelle. In her four months in a new home she has completely adapted to her new family and us to her. Sasha is a sweet, loving dog that has won the hearts of her adopted family.



Bubble Bath: \$5.95
scented Candle: \$3.49
View from the tub: PRICELESS

Clothing - Treasures
Household Items
Your Donations Are
Welcome & Tax Deductible

Animal Aid of Tulsa
Thrift Store

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Sat 9am - 4pm
3307 East 15th
744-1648

No More Puppy Mills

Senate Bill 1712, also known as the "Black Market Breeder's Bill", was approved by the Oklahoma State House in April, and now goes to the Governor's desk.

Oklahoma is the second largest commercial dog producing state in the nation, but unlike all other high volume breeder states, these facilities are unregulated in Oklahoma. By continuing to allow black market puppy sales, our state loses millions of dollars in tax revenue and welcomes people who cannot comply with basic laws in their own states. Without the protections of SB 1712, Oklahoma will continue to lose out.

Who is affected by this bill? Only people who are engaged in the business of selling dogs and cats and have eleven (11) or more female dogs or cats which they breed.

Why is an important bill? It insures that the taxes owed to the State are collected. Estimates are that annual dog sales in Oklahoma total between 75 and 200 million dollars; these sales should be bringing 3 to 9 million dollars in sales tax revenue to Oklahoma. Yet many sellers do not report cash sales.

This bill treats commercial, large-scale dog pet breeding as the profession that it truly is. It protects consumers by helping to assure they get a quality product. And it will ultimately help the industry by eliminating substandard breeders that are not providing proper care and treatment for their animals.

Puppy mills produce as many puppies as possible for as little investment as possible and helpless animals pay the price. Substandard food, sheltering, socialization and little to no veterinary care are common treatment for the dogs that make the money for these places. Dogs subsist in tiny cages, often with filth from one dog pouring through the cage floor onto the poor animal underneath it. Their eyes are scalded out by the ammonia in the urine and the pads of their paws are cut on the wire mesh. Infected, hungry and in pain they produce puppies for several years before being shot, abandoned or sold for a dollar or two to someone who will try to get, "one more litter out of her."

More info on puppy mills from HSUS online:
www.humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/stop_puppy_mills/

Tulsa Dog Parks

In case you haven't heard, Tulsa now has two great off-leash dog parks that are free and open to the public! With the addition of Biscuit Acres at Hunter Park, Tulsa now has a park at both ends of the city. Joe Station is located near Newblock Park, West of downtown Tulsa. Biscuit Acres is located at Hunter Park, on 91st Street between Yale and Sheridan.

The Tulsa Southside Rotary Club is the main sponsor of Biscuit Acres. Both parks are always in need of volunteers and donations. More information about Biscuit Acres can be found online at the Southside Rotary website, or by doing a search on Facebook for "Biscuit Acres Dog Park".

Joe Station Bark Park also has a Facebook page.

LINKS:

<http://tulsasouthsiderotary.org/tulsa-southside-rotary-bark-park/>

Proposed 2010-11 Board of Directors

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Monday through Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm

24 hour Injured Animal Rescue 744-8280 · www.AnimalAid.org

Animal Aid Thanks

Thank you to the teachers and student body of Washington Elementary for holding a food drive for Animal Aid of Tulsa!



Washington Elementary Drive

Thank you to the 'Snow Goose' of Utica Square for your seasonal donations.

Thank you to 'Store Fixtures of Tulsa' and manager Jane, we appreciate the great deals we get on our supplies and fixtures and most of all thanks for being such an animal lover!

Thank you to all the adoption volunteers, our babies wouldn't know what to do without you! And thank you to our store volunteers for their service and dedication, without you our store would be empty.

Thanks to all our veterinarians and staff who provide loving care to all our homeless animals.

Volunteers Needed

Animal Aid is looking for volunteers who would be willing to spend a few hours a week or a few hours a month helping out. We need volunteers to rescue injured and abandoned animals, to help with our adoption centers, to sort donations and work the cash register at our Thrift Store, and to make follow up phone calls. Give us a call at 744-8280 and leave a message if you are interested.

Annual Meeting Notice

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The Animal Aid Communique newsletter is published by Animal Aid of Tulsa, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the emergency rescue of sick and injured animals, the reuniting of lost animals with their owners, and the education of the public on issues relating to the humane treatment of animals.

Animal Aid of Tulsa, Inc.
3307 E 15th Street
Tulsa, OK 74112
(918) 744-8280

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Membership in Animal Aid is \$20.00 per year for individuals, and includes a subscription to the Communique. Please send the application found in this newsletter, or a request for an application, to the address listed above. Please send changes of address to us at the address above.

The Communique welcomes unsolicited submissions from members and non-members alike, but cannot be held responsible for omissions, deletions, or editing of any work submitted. Animal Aid does not pay for submissions to the newsletter, and we cannot return your submission or photos without prior arrangements being made. Please include a telephone number with submissions so that we can verify your identity. Send all submissions of stories, articles, and letters to the address above, attention "Newsletter Editor". You can also email contributions or suggestions to animal.aid@cox.net.

Kitten Behavior Basics

Well-socialized cats are more likely to have well-socialized kittens. Kittens often mirror their mothers' calm or fearful attitude toward people; this is a normal part of their socialization. But you can play a vital role, too, by petting, talking, and playing with kitty to help her develop good "people skills."

Here are general guidelines for kittens' stages of development, and what to expect during their first 18 months of life.

Birth to two weeks: neonatal period

Kitten learns to orient toward sound.

Eyes begin opening; they are usually open by two weeks of age.

Competition for rank and territory begins. Separation from mother and littermates at this point can lead to poor learning skills and aggression toward people and other pets.

Kittens are usually weaned at six to seven weeks, but may continue to suckle for comfort as their mother gradually leaves them for longer periods of time. Orphaned kittens, or those weaned too soon, are more likely to exhibit inappropriate suckling behaviors later in life, such as sucking on blankets, pillows, or your arm. Ideally, kittens should stay with their littermates (or other "role-model" cats) for at least 12 weeks.

All in the family

Kittens orphaned or separated from their mother and/or littermates too early often fail to develop appropriate "social skills," such as learning how to send and receive signals, what an "inhibited bite" (acceptable mouthing pressure) means, how far to go in play-wrestling, and so forth.

Play is important for kittens because it increases their physical coordination, social skills, and learning limits. By interacting with their mother and litter-

mates, kittens explore the ranking process ("who's in charge") and also learn "how to be a cat."

Kittens who are gently handled by people 15 to 40 minutes a day during the first seven weeks are more likely to develop larger brains.

Kittens who are gently handled by people 15 to 40 minutes a day during the first seven weeks are more likely to develop larger brains. They're more exploratory, more playful, and better learners. Skills not acquired during the first eight weeks may be lost forever.

While these stages are important and fairly consistent, a cat's mind remains receptive to new experiences and lessons well beyond kittenhood. Most cats are still kittens, in mind and body, through the first two years of life.

Two to seven weeks: socialization period

By the third week, sense of smell is well-developed and kitten can see well enough to find her mother.

By the fourth week, sense of smell is fully mature and sense of hearing is well-developed. Kitten starts to interact with littermates and can walk fairly well. Teeth start to come in.

By the fifth week, eyesight is fully mature, and kitten can right herself, run, place her feet precisely, avoid obstacles, stalk and pounce, and catch "prey" with her eyes.

Kitten starts to groom herself and others.

By the sixth and seventh weeks, kitten begins to develop adult sleeping patterns, motor skills, and social interaction abilities.

Seven to 14 weeks: most active play period

Social and object play increases kit-

ten's physical coordination and social skills. Most learning is by observation, preferably of their mother.

Social play includes belly-ups, hugging, ambushing, and licking.

Object play includes scooping, tossing, pawing, mouthing, and holding.

Combined social/object play includes tail chasing, pouncing, leaping, and dancing.

Three to six months: ranking period

Kitten is most influenced by her "litter," which may now include playmates of other species.

Kitten begins to see and use ranking (dominance or submission) within household, including humans.

Six to 18 months: adolescence

Kitten increases exploration of dominance, including challenging humans.

If not spayed or neutered, kitten experiences beginnings of sexual behavior.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization—backed by 11 million Americans, or one in every 28. Established in 1954, The HSUS seeks a humane and sustainable world for all animals—a world that will also benefit people. They are America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation and neglect, as well as the most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.

www.hsus.org or call 202-452-1100

Dog Care Essentials

Your dog gives you a lifetime of unconditional love, loyalty, and friendship. In return, she counts on you to provide her with food, water, safe shelter, regular veterinary care, exercise, companionship, and more. Take care of these 10 essentials, and you'll be assured to develop a rewarding relationship with your canine companion.

1. External Identification. Outfit your dog with a collar and ID tag that includes your name, address, and telephone number. No matter how careful you are, there's a chance your companion may become lost—an ID tag greatly increases the chance that your pet will be returned home safely. The dog's collar should not be tight; it should fit so two fingers can slip easily under his collar.

Microchip Identification. Have your dog microchipped by your veterinarian. Microchip ID will ensure that your dog will be returned to you if he is lost, even if his collar came off. When scanned by a veterinarian or animal shelter, your phone number, address and other vital information will show and you can be contacted.

2. Follow local laws for licensing your dog and vaccinating him for rabies. Check with your local animal shelter or humane society for information regarding legal requirements, where to obtain tags, and where to have your pet vaccinated.

3. Follow this simple rule—off property, on leash. Even a dog with a valid license, rabies tag, and ID tag should not be allowed to roam outside of your home or fenced yard. It is best for you, your community, and your dog to keep your pet under control at all times.

4. Give your dog proper protection. A fenced yard with a doghouse is a bonus, especially for large and active dogs; however, dogs should never be left outside alone or for extended periods of time. Dogs need and crave

companionship and should spend most of their time with their family, not alone outside.

5. Take your dog to the veterinarian for regular check-ups. If you do not have a veterinarian, ask your local animal shelter or a pet-owning friend for a referral and check out our information on choosing a veterinarian.

6. Spay or neuter your dog. Dogs who have this routine surgery tend to live longer, be healthier, and have fewer behavior problems (e.g., biting, running away). By spaying or neutering your dog, you are also doing your part to reduce the problem of pet overpopulation.

7. Give your pooch a nutritionally balanced diet, including constant access to fresh water. Ask your veterinarian for advice on what and how often to feed your pet. Dietary requirements change as dogs get older, and a dog's teeth need to be cleaned and monitored regularly to ensure he can eat properly.

8. Enroll your dog in a training class. Positive training will allow you to control your companion's behavior safely and humanely, and the experience offers a terrific opportunity to enhance the bond you share with your dog. Check out our information on choosing a dog trainer.

9. Give your dog enough exercise to keep him physically fit (but not exhausted). Most dog owners find that playing with their canine companion, along with walking him twice a day, provides sufficient exercise. Walking benefits people as much as it benefits dogs, and the time spent together will improve your dog's sense of well-being. If you have questions about the level of exercise appropriate for your dog, consult your veterinarian.

10. Be loyal to and patient with your faithful companion. Make sure the

expectations you have of your dog are reasonable and remember that the vast majority of behavior problems can be solved. Remember, not all "behavior" problems are just that; many can be indicators of health problems. For example, a dog who is suddenly growling or snapping when you touch his ears may have an ear infection. If you are struggling with your pet's behavior, contact your veterinarian or local animal shelter for advice, and check out our behavior tip sheets, too.

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SPAY OKlahoma is part of the national "Five Saves Lives," campaign, an early age sterilization initiative intended to prevent companion animals from having, "just one litter." Early age sterilization is the most effective way to halt pet overpopulation while also preventing many health problems, including mammary tumors, at a far greater rate than later sterilization.

Five Saves Lives refers to the need to spay pets before five months of age, preventing the first heat cycle in dogs and the first litter in cats. Many people believe that pets should be spayed or neutered after the age of six months. The goal is to educate the public that it's healthier for the animal and saves lives to spay by five months of age.

A Massachusetts study completed in 1994 showed that nearly 90% of unwanted litters released to shelters were born to female dogs and cats that were later sterilized. Closing this gap with early age sterilization can help halt pet overpopulation.

Additionally, the health benefits of early age spay/ neuter include 100% prevention of mammary tumors, a value that is reduced with each heat cycle the animal enters.

www.spayok.com or 728-3144

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