



Paws

and Claws



A quarterly publication of the Pulaski County Humane Society

2nd Quarter 2011

- Tips for a Pet-Safe Summer--

The carefree months of no homework and summer Fridays bring an increased risk for illness or injury for our furry pals.



Unpredictable weather, unusual routines; our animals are exposed to all sorts of hazards during June, July and August. **Your pet counts on you to keep him safe.**

Check out our tips for keeping your animal secure all summer long.

--- Give your pet access to plenty of fresh water at all times, pets can suffer from dehydration, heat stroke and sunburn if overexposed to the heat. Provide shade from trees or tarps, not just a plastic doghouse.

---Don't lather your pet with insect repellent or sunscreen **not** intended for the four-legged kind.

--Keep your pet away from matches, citronella candles and lighter fluid, which if eaten can irritate the stomach, lungs and central nervous system

---NEVER leave your dog, cat, or any animal friend alone in a car. The inside can heat up very quickly—even with a window open. **Temperatures can rise inside 20 degrees in just 10 minutes.**

--Be prepared! From tornados to floods, we've seen the devastation that severe weather has brought to families and pets this year. Develop an evacuation plan well ahead of time in case you're forced from your home in an emergency.

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Melody Simpson, our HS President, whose life is never dull, shares a day's activities as a humane society volunteer.....

Friday evening brought a call from the County Shelter about a starving abandoned Border Collie. Agreeing to check on the Border Collie found me meeting a young man and youngster with the dog at the Burnside Dollar Store. It was nearly dark, the dog was solid black, didn't resemble a Border Collie, nor was it at all skinny. Nevertheless, I picked up the dog, placed him in the back of my vehicle and took him home with me. He wouldn't walk on a leash at all, so I carried him to one of my outside kennels; but he was well behaved and stopped barking when I scolded him. That's when I noticed he smelled really good with really soft, shiny fur like he'd recently had a bath. Had this young man pulled a fast one on us just to get rid of a dog maybe? Or perhaps to get rid of someone else's dog? To be safe, I put a Found Ad in the newspaper.

After settling this pup, a call came from a rescue group reporting a Science Hill family's dog had been shot. The family with dog and puppies were outside playing when one of the pups ran into a neighbor's yard and was shot in the neck. Police were called, but no one cited, as the dog strayed to the neighbor's yard and they felt threatened! The injured dog was taken to Dr. Baumgardner and survived.

Saturday morning, 8 a.m., off to the County Animal Shelter to assist Peaceable Kingdom Rescue from New York, loading some dogs. Hmmm, I noticed the bag of change always in my vehicle was missing. Adding two and two: I'd left my driver's door open as the Burnside dog was loaded, so the younger boy must have stolen it when I was at the back. He's about \$20 richer—I hope he really needed the money.

Peaceful Kingdom picked up ten Co. Shelter dogs and still had space, so Ellie Grant (Mandy's Mission) brought two more. Dr. Patti Prather gave shots and Health Certificates. Dr. Prather informed me that the HS dog (Lucky) at Midway with the broken leg was thoroughly examined and her cast removed. Dr. Mullins discovered then the cast had been placed on the leg with an open wound and after 3 weeks was quite rancid. The fear was that the leg would need to be amputated. I said I'd try to get down there before noon to check on Lucky.

Next on the agenda was retrieving a small Rat Terrier taken in by the HS two days earlier. He'd been neutered and examined at Somerset Animal Hospital and the foster mom was to meet me and pick him up. Before I could arrive, Ellie Grant called from the County Shelter saying a couple was there looking for a small lap dog. They met me at SAH and fell in love with the little guy adopting him on the spot. So the foster went home empty handed, -----a good thing.

While still at SAH, a Co. Shelter worker called about an owner surrender—a Yorkie—did the HS want it? This little guy, named Tate, needed a bath and trim so off to Paw Prints we went. Tate was born April 25, 2010 and had spent *his entire life in a crate in the basement of his owner's home* as the owner was too old to care for him.





### **A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.....**

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment.  
  
*You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.*
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your tone of voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

***Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without our critters.***

### **Cats, Cats,.....**

A dedicated foster parent, Cheryl Cecil recently had a veritable cat commune in her home.



Due to normal spring explosions of pregnant cats and kittens the County Shelter was overwhelmed. Cheryl took five Momma cats, three with kittens already and two who delivered quickly in the safety of their foster home. Six motherless kittens from the shelter joined two other orphaned kittens from the community in the group.

Despite long arduous hours and incredible nursing work and determination by Cheryl, only eight of the 26 kittens survived. The mother cats were treated for both viral and bacterial infections. Only two mommas were able to nurse the remaining kittens and then one of those developed a high fever and needed to be isolated. These dear kittens died in part due to coccidia, round worms, and FPV (sometimes called kitten distemper). The conditions were possibly carried by one or all of the mothers, or transmitted from one or more babies to the others. As nothing was known about the felines' background, there was no way of knowing which were infected on arrival at the foster home.



This was heartbreaking care, with tears flowing each day, as Cheryl went to bottle feed little ones and finding one or more dead. Kittens are such weak little creatures; and can be suckling and seemingly healthy at one feeding and by the next, mere hours later be dead or dying. Cheryl and another hardworking foster, Johnice, state this was a very difficult education, one overwhelming in emotion. The kittens along with two other cats that died from FIV were cremated together and their ashes scattered among flower beds at Cheryl's home.

As Cheryl said: "Although their time on earth was short, they deserve and got a humane respectful burial."

*She added as she relayed the story to me, "I'm crying for those little ones that were lost; but, I smile thinking about the eight that survived."*

## Goodbye too soon.....Sophie

*Her broken heart broke my heart. I will never forget the precious moments spent and the valuable lessons learned. She touched my life in 2 months the way that few have in this lifetime.—Jenny Phillipson*



In memory of a dearest sweet little girl.

If I could live in Alice's world  
I wonder if I'd learn  
What makes her strong  
What makes her safe  
What makes her suddenly afraid  
I'd understand this little girl  
But I'll never live in Alice's world

If I could see through Alice's eyes  
I wonder what I'd see  
Is her sky blue, is her grass green  
Does she see things I've never seen  
What's in her mind she keeps inside  
I'll never see through Alice's eyes

If I could love through Alice's heart  
I wonder who I'd trust  
So silently she smiles at me  
But answers she will not reveal  
She never tells why it's so hard  
To win a place in Alice's heart

---Strawbs

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Our ongoing monthly PCHS Spay /Neuter Clinics again provided life altering surgery to numerous critters preventing unwanted litters.



All have a story, but some stand above others;

-- Sundance, a sweet yellow lab mix, rescued from a dumpster, just minutes before the trash truck arrived. After surgery recovery he's off to an East Coast rescue.



--Socks, a black and white mixed breed arrived on a Barnesburg farm, emaciated and with severe mange—so bad a farmer wanted to shoot the dog! Socks healed with a glossy coat and sweet disposition.



--Mama Cat discarded far from home, when she became in the "family way", rescued, spayed and warmly loved, now shares her owner's bed.

--Here fuzzy, adorable Persian siblings rest after their surgery, monitored closely by dedicated volunteers to ensure safe recovery.



## Mark your Calendars

**July 1:** Kroger Day –join the fun and activities as the Kroger south. 10-5

A second Kroger day is planned **August 31** before Labor Day weekend. Your participation and spreading the word to friends and family results in extra funding to help local critters. Come on down!

**Yard Sale—Bargains!!** PCHS plans to participate in the miles-long Nancy yard sale in August and will be looking for donations and workers.

**BowWow Holiday: Sunday, December 04, 2011 at the Center for Rural Development. More details to follow – with info about a possible Micro Chip clinic during the event.**

**PCHS Annual Meeting/Picnic:** Look for details soon regarding a gathering where members and pets meet for food and fun.

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**Pulaski County Humane Society**

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