



PAW TALES



Volume 3, Issue 2 | Winter 2013

About Helping Paws Animal Network

By Patti Mynatt



Helping Paws Animal Network strives to aid local animals (in Anderson and surrounding counties) in dire situations that are hungry, hurting or homeless. We started the network in May 2011 as a group of people who found in each other a love of animals and a desire to help where we can. We first came together to help a dog who needed a new home and boarding costs paid. In an hour, we raised approximately \$186 for Bow, enough to pay for his needs and more! That success spurred us to help other animals and eventually led to the official network that officially incorporated in August 2012. Donations help us assist verified rescue groups when funding is needed for food, shelter, vet services, boarding, etc. One-hundred percent of all donations go toward animal welfare.

Our network is made up of members of the general public who love animals as much as we do; we have seven members on our Board. All of us are volunteers who share a love for animals. Anyone, whether you know us or not, who would like to contact a team member with a comment or question may send a personal message via Facebook, or send separate mail to helping-paws37830@gmail.com.

There are no obligations or expectations of our members, and we provide total transparency where funding is concerned. We want to help every animal in need, but the needs exceed the means; therefore, we prioritize verified cases based on available funds at the time of the request, and no money is given directly to an individual or individual pet owner. We pay the veterinarian, the kennel, or the appropriate vendor, and/or purchase the required needs, such as food, supplies, or medicine. We also serve as a network for electronically posting homeless animals and assist with spay/neuter costs prior to homing when needed and feasible.

Our Facebook team posts animals in need on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork>. Please "like" this page and share the posts with your Facebook friends. Also notice that there is a link to donate via PayPal on the Facebook site. We are also on Twitter at @HPAN37830. All Facebook posts are automatically tweeted to this address and directed back to Facebook for the full story.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mardi Grawl.....March 2
Market Square, Knoxville

WHAT'S NEW!!!

In addition to the PayPal secure link on Facebook, donations may now be made via a secure PayPal link on the HPAN blog site. Unlike the link on Facebook, the blog link does not charge usage fees to HPAN. The blog is located at <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/>.



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

Proper Winter Care for Your Pets

Submitted By Karin Jessen

Many people assume dogs and cats don't get cold...after all, they do have a fur coat. Many people think dogs and cats will be fine when outside. Both these statements are not true. Cold weather is hard on pets and can be life threatening. The very best place for your pets is inside with you. Some animals can be outside for longer periods of time, such as long haired breeds like Huskies and Samoyeds. Smaller dog breeds and cats will generally feel the cold sooner than large animals. Young and old animals are vulnerable to the cold as are sick animals, such as those with kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes and hormonal imbalances where the pet cannot regulate his or her body temperature.



Here are some general guidelines to help keep your pets safe and warm during cold weather:

- Make sure your pet is healthy and does not have medical problems.
- Keep your pets inside as much as you can. When you take them outside, stay outside with them. Chances are if you are cold, so are they.
- If you have an outside pet, make sure they have a warm, dry place with thick bedding such as dry straw, shavings and/or blanket strips that trap warm air. Check their bedding frequently to ensure it is dry and clean.
- Water needs to be plentiful and NOT frozen.
- Thirsty pets will lap up antifreeze. Just a few licks can be fatal.
- Cats will find any place warm, including car engines. Knock on the hood of your car, blow the horn or check beneath your car prior to starting it up. You may save a cat's life.
- Clean your pet's feet prior to coming into the house. Rock salt and chemical ice melts can make a pet sick when they lick their feet. Trim the hair between your dog's toes. Ice balls can form between their pads and cause pain. Some dogs will tolerate boots, which will provide protection for their feet.
- Cold weather can leave joints stiff and tender for elderly and arthritic pets. Walk behind your pet when going upstairs.
- Pets can slip on ice; this can cause a significant injury.



- Pets lose most of their body heat through the pads on their feet, their ears and their respiratory tract. They may get frostbite and hypothermia. If you suspect your pet has frostbite or hypothermia, wrap him in warm blankets and call your veterinarian immediately.
- Your pets are better left in the house when doing errands, a car gets pretty cold quickly and so do your pets.

Winter can be a beautiful time of year. Your pets may enjoy playing in the snow, chasing snowflakes, running with their nose in the snow, finding a ball in the snow. But when play time is over make sure to bring your pets inside where it is warm and they can curl up beside you.

Correction: Heartworm Treatment

By Karin Jessen

In the Summer 2012 publication of Paw Tales, in the article titled Heartworm Treatment, I regrettably made the error of stating that Diagnosis of heartworms is done by taking a fecal sample from the pet. This should read, Diagnosis of heartworms is done by taking a blood sample from the pet. We apologize for the error.

HPAN Attends Pet Fest and Blessing

Submitted By Amy Starkey

For the first time, HPAN was invited to set up a booth at the 11th Annual Pet Fest and Blessing at Grace Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge on October 6, 2012. Our involvement was made possible in sort of a random way. At our last yard sale fundraiser, it just so happened that the coordinator of the event stopped by to get in on some bargains. When she saw our sign, she started to tell us about her church's Pet Fest and Blessing and invited us to attend. We joined 30 animal rescue groups in the church parking lot for an afternoon of networking and fundraising. Entertainment was provided in an adjacent pavilion by Heart and Soul. In the late afternoon, Pastor Stephen Damos conducted the pet blessing for members of the public who attended with their four-legged family members. The ceremony was made up of recitations by the pastor and the people and included the St. Francis Animal Blessing: "As God has blessed you with these pets, so may they be blessed by your love and care. May you enjoy life and good health together and find joy with the God who created you and loves you." After a couple songs, prayers, and recitations, the ceremony ended with individual pet blessings where the Pastor individually blessed each animal in line, and presented a collar tag with the inscription, "I have been blessed." It was a great day where we were able to have some exposure, make a little money, and meet others who love animals as much as we do.



Protect Your Pet from Contaminated Food

Taken from The Roane County Shopper:

While millions of pets eat their food every day without a problem, news of pet food recalls and contamination can worry pet owners. Reports of dogs and cats becoming ill from food and treat-related salmonella outbreaks and artificial contaminants getting into pet food can leave pet owners wondering what they can do to protect their beloved animals. Fortunately there are things you can do to minimize the risk of your pet consuming contaminated food.

Be Aware of Recalls

- You can find updated lists of recalled animal products on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website, www.fda.gov.

- Check the Humane Society's recall lists at www.humane-society.org. You can also sign up for their free Pet of the Week newsletter to receive recall information.
- If you find out your pet food or treats have been recalled, immediately stop feeding them to your pet.
- Return the product to the store you bought it from for a refund, or throw it away in an area your pets cannot access.
- If you think your pet may have eaten a recalled product, contact your veterinarian-even if your pet isn't showing symptoms.

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Annabelle

By Patti Mynatt

Annabelle was left at the pound earlier this year by her family and was near her last days. She had become depressed after so much time without her people and was only facing the wall, not barking, not looking as people passed. She had given up hope, which was incidentally her given name at the time - Hope. This little beagle was resigned to being abandoned, no longer looking for help, not active or really eating and ready for death.

Sharon Bryant from BlackJack Animal Rescue tried desperately to find her a home. She emailed Helping Paws in her effort and I received the email when I was cross posting animals that need rescue on our Facebook page. I didn't have room or money for another dog but Hope (now Annabelle) caught my heart. Sharon brought her to me to foster while a forever home was found. I knew when I met her that her name had to change. She became Annabelle, which means "God has answered beautifully".

I had her spayed, vetted and had to get medical attention for a wound on her back end under her left leg. That wound made it harder for her to walk, which I realized once she came out of the crate the first time. We treated it with antibiotic cream and I gently washed it regularly. For the first few days, Annabelle stayed in her crate in my living room, only venturing out to do her business rarely. Wonderfully, after a week in my house with me and my other three dogs, I came home one day and found her cuddled on my couch instead. I really knew that she was going to be ok when she fussed at Jake, my 80lb dog and rolled around with Joey, one of my other dogs. She found a basket of stuffed animals and wrapping ribbon in a closet and I found her there cuddled in with the stuffed animals one day (pictured below).

Sharon Bryant let me know that Jeni Skarda in Chicago wanted to adopt her after a couple of weeks, shortly before she got spayed. I didn't want to let her go! But I



knew I couldn't keep a fourth dog. I only ended getting to live with Annabelle for a month, but she claimed a piece of my heart forever. Annabelle was flown to Chicago by Pilots N'Paws.

Jeni is now a friend of mine and has sent the update below about Annabelle. Annabelle's wound has healed but Jeni's vet in Chicago discovered that she has an enlarged heart and heart failure. She is doing well but her time is so precious now. I feel so blessed that I got to be part of her life and help her return to joy. Jeni says she is a doggy diva now, which she deserves to be! To think that she had given up hope, but now her life is bright and beautiful because someone took the time to rescue her. Helping Paws makes such a difference!

Jeni's story: When Annabelle arrived in Fox Lake, Illinois, Rob and I immediately fell in love—and so did our 9 year old Beagle, Charlie. She was quiet at first, moved slowly and spent most of her time in her crate. She was on medication for a bite wound when she arrived, but after a few days, I decided to take her to my vet to get her checked out. We fought the infection with inject-able antibiotics and we noticed her getting stronger, more playful, and coming out of the crate more and more. After a month it was completely healed up, but on a checkup with the vet, we had x-rays done and found out she has an enlarged heart and the beginning stages of heart failure. Thankfully, we caught this early and have her on the perfect mixture of medications and the vet said she can live a long happy life on them. The crate is back in the closet since she no longer uses it---she's happy, extremely playful and nudges our hands constantly

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Warm & Fuzzy Rescue Story

By Amy Starkey



Sasha with her new owner

The eyes and ears of animal rescue got word that a young female German Shepherd, Macy, was living in less than ideal conditions in Nashville. She was tethered to a chain and half-way being cared for by a someone who was overwhelmed with life. The owner agreed to surrender the dog to the Southeast German Shepherd Rescue (SGSR), where she ended up being transported to the East TN Chapter. HPAN's own and SGSR member, Becki Hopson,



Sasha getting some overdue lovin'!

stepped up to have Macy's health checked out and brought up to speed. HPAN had the opportunity to partner with Becki in covering the expenses needed to get the dog spayed and up-to-date on vaccines and preventives. Once given a clean bill of health, it didn't take long for Macy to find her fur-ever home with a football coach from an area high school, where she is loved and respected. Her new name is Sasha and even the students love her and are talking about making her the team mascot and getting her a Twitter account! The progression of pictures tell the story without words. SUCCESS!



Sasha Before

Sasha After



Valentines Day is a sweet day for people, but can be very danerous to your furry loved ones. Leaving out candy, ribbon, flowers and other gifts may end in an emergency visit to your local veterinary hospital.

Treat your dog this Valentine's day with safe and healthy snacks such as carrots, apples or wheat-free dog cookies.

Jeni's Story

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for pets and back rubs! She loves her brother, Charlie and has been an incredible addition to our family. She spends her free time chasing birds in the backyard, lounging on the couch, boating and swimming.



If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Chris Kelley at 865-250-7085 or via email at ck72@comcast.net

Food

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- If your pet becomes ill or dies because of a recalled food or treat, you can report it to the FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator in your state. You can find contact information on the FDA website.

Choose Pet Food Carefully

While pet food manufacturing is highly regulated in the United States, it pays to seek out manufacturers with rigorous quality and safety control measures in place at every stage of the manufacturing process. "The ingredients in your pet's food should be subject to microbiological, sensory, chemical and foreign matter testing as appropriate to protect your pet and give you peace of mind," said Diane Loiselle, Vice President, Product Safety, Regulatory and Quality, Hill's Pet Nutrition, maker of Science Diet and Ideal Balance brand pet foods.

Loiselle said it's important to find out who actually makes the pet food. "Many people are surprised to learn that many manufacturers have their foods made by another company on the same machinery where other products are made. In the U.S., Hill's manufactures 100 percent of its dry pet food in its own plants." In addition, Loiselle says that ingredient suppliers need to meet high safety standards. She said that Hill's, for example, only buys high quality ingredients from suppliers who have reliable safety procedures in place, which Hill's confirms with its own inspectors and testing.

If you have questions about your pet food and its manufacturing process, look for a toll-free number on the food packaging. Ask if they make their products at their own plants with their own employees. Reputable manufacturers should welcome questions and feedback about their products.

Learn more about pet food safety and quality at www.HillsPet.com/PetFoodSafety.

Take Good Care of Your Pets



Fleas, Ticks & Mosquitoes will be out in force this year. Please remember to keep your pets current on Heartworm Preventative!

About HPAN

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For success stories, please view our blog site at <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/>. This blog is our way of bringing our members closer to animals that they have helped with their donations. Each post will allow you to see the animals and read the stories, such as the rescue of Kitten M, now Hobbes, saved from a Wal-Mart parking lot by our very own Deborah Grubb and Janet Kile. Or Annabelle's story, who was rescued at the last minute from a shelter. We are attempting to post everything from HPAN funding lifesaving surgery, to buying food for a hungry animal with your donations. It provides a resource that is accessible outside of Facebook for those who do not have Facebook accounts. You can follow this blog via email through the Follow Us! link available on the site. There is also a link to PayPal to donate available here.



We are so grateful for all our friends and supporters; you assist us in helping those that cannot help themselves.

Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals



Ride Like An Animal...Rides Again!

Submitted by: *Chris Kelley*

The Union County Humane Society held its 6th Annual Ride this year on October 6th. In spite of the rain and cold temperatures it was a huge success. Loyal motorcycle supporters showed up and again proved that they are a very generous group of animal advocates.



Photos courtesy of www.unioncountyhumanesociety.org