



# PAW TALES

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## Heat & Animals

By Karin Jessen



With summer now in full swing, animals face a few extra challenges. Hot spots and itching are a big problem for many dogs and cats, as they may have some kind of allergic symptoms to heat, humidity and moisture. Dry your dog after they swim as the wet hair against the skin could lead to a hot spot. Pay particular attention to the ears and around the neck where the collar is worn. Dogs can develop some nasty hot spots where the metal tag stays in contact with the neck and wet fur.

Mosquitoes and the threat of transmitting heartworms to dogs and cats after an infected mosquito bites them is an expensive problem to treat and very hard on the animal. Many rescue dogs are treated for this life threatening disease. Heartworms are preventable with a monthly heartworm chew tablet obtained from a vet. Yearly heartworm blood tests are recommended to ensure your pet doesn't have heartworms.

For active dog owners: If your dog runs or jogs with you in the cooler months, be aware that it is wise to stop or greatly reduce the time and distance in the heat of the summer. Dogs cannot cool their body temperature by sweating. They pant and it is not as efficient a cooling technique. Your loyal buddy will run until he/she drops from heat exhaustion which can quickly become heat stroke. To avoid causing harm to your pet, it is best to leave him/her home and resume his/her running in the cooler months. Also when walking your dog, be aware that the sidewalk can be very hot to foot pads. If the temperature is high put your hand on the sidewalk and check. Better still, keep the dog walking on the grassy areas only. At home outdoors, ensure that your pets have access to shade and fresh water at all times. A big block of ice is a treat for your pets.

Don't take your pet with you and leave him/her in a vehicle!! Extreme heat builds within minutes in a vehicle parked in the summer heat--even in the shade with the windows cracked. All pets are susceptible to overheating, so be safe and don't risk an avoidable tragedy.

Know what to do if your pet has heat stroke: Heat stroke requires immediate veterinary attention! Heat stroke can be deadly. Signs of heat stroke include excessive panting, dark or bright red tongue and gums, lethargy, stumbling, seizures, bloody diarrhea or vomiting, and coma. If you suspect

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### HPAN ONLINE!!!

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. Will you help us get to 500 likes?

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.

We have a blog too! The blog is located at <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/> and lists the success stories where HPAN has made a difference. Please check it out!



REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!

[www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork)

## Miracles In The Rubble

*Submitted By Chris Lawson*

The howling sound of the tornado must have been deafening from inside the cramped storm shelter. I can't imagine holding on to a bathtub and praying the plumbing doesn't give way as the rest of your house does. I can't imagine sitting with my classmates in the hallway of a school and listening as the building around me begins to fly away.

These are not made up stories; these things actually happened. The tornados that went through Oklahoma were devastating. The lives lost have been horrendous. People have lost loved ones, pets, and their homes. It seems like nothing but bad news all the way around. However, if you take the magnifying glass of the mind and look closely, you will find miracles in the midst of the rubble.

We all love our pets and can't imagine something like this happening and how it would affect us. There are some good stories of reuniting and efforts to reunite. Sometimes miracles happen right before our eyes.

Here are a few:

While giving an interview on TV, Barbara Garcia talks about how she lost everything. She looks for hope out of it all and is thankful, but she hasn't been able to find her dog. You can tell this troubles her deeply. As she stands on the pieces of wood that used to be her home, and talks about what she's been through, the reporter simply says "dog". In a crevice of the rubble, about three feet away, a dog's head is seen. Barbara quickly recognizes the dog. It's her dog that she's not been able to find. She tries to get the dog out and asks for the help of people nearby. Soon the dog is out and, unbelievably, has no major injuries and is walking around like nothing ever happened. Barbara told the reporter: "God answered one prayer and let me be OK. Now, he's answered both of them." The timing of the miracle is amazing.

You would think that after six days all hope would be gone for your pet. Six days of looking, hoping, and praying that maybe, just maybe, they would still be alive. Geoff and Jo Humann's home was destroyed and their cat was nowhere to be found. It just so happened that Egor, a boy scout, was searching the remains of their home and spotted a cat litter box. He thought that maybe their cat hid inside during the storm. He looked and, sure enough, there was the cat inside the litter box hiding. The cat was taken to the vet and after only one week of care was back to normal. Jo Humann had this to say: "Our family is complete. Thank you for taking care of him during his time of need. God bless you all!!"



Another miracle took place and is still happening now. Many of the displaced pets need homes. They could have been left behind and forgotten while all of the other, needful, things were being addressed. However, there were a number of groups that decided to not sit on the sidelines and watch as these pets got left behind. Various groups and shelters worked and set-up make-shift shelters to reunite pets and their owners. There are stories where pets and owners were reunited and there are stories where the pets still remain behind. These groups are working to reunite pets with owners or to find these lonely pets new homes. Check out just some of the groups that are doing great work to reunite.

<https://www.facebook.com/OKpets>

<http://www.peoplepets.com/people/pets/article/0,,20702818,00.html>

<http://www.okclostpets.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/animalresourcecenter>



## **Roux**

*Submitted By Verda Adkins-Ferber*

This past January I was doing my assigned Monday postings to Facebook for the Helping Paws Animal Network when I pulled up a picture of the cutest little Chihuahua ever! His name was Roux, three years old, neutered, good with people and other animals. He was left at the Loudon County Shelter with a note that read "unable to care for". The shelter was taking the animals on a trip to Pet Smart, but Roux was unable to go cause he tested positive for heartworm. That only broke my heart!!!!!! I kept his picture on my phone and would continue to pull it up to look at it cause he was sooooo cute!!!! I already had a cat and cats are not really crazy about dogs, but I couldn't help myself!



I called the shelter on Wednesday and asked if I could "rescue" Roux, but was told that he had already been promised to a rescue group!!!!!! I was sooo brokenhearted! I started thinking that maybe I had used the wrong wording and should have said "adopt". I conferred with the resident expert, Amy Starkey, and indeed I should have said "adopt"! I called them back (crying!!!!!!!!!!!!!!) and asked for his rescue to be cancelled so I could adopt him! The shelter told me that they would hate to cancel his rescue in the event that I didn't show up to get him, but that if I came and got him that day, they would let me have him! I called my son and told him to get some cash and come pick me up to make the trip to Loudon!!!!!!!!!!

Roux has been the very best little buddy ever! Our whole family loves him as he is very sweet and thinks he's a lap dog! Which is fine until I need to use my laptop to do my Monday postings to HPAN! HA! I have taken him on car trips and even to a family reunion in Michigan! He loves to ride! He also loves to burrow up in blankets and take long naps! I recently bought a leopard print pet carrier to put my cat in and attach Roux's leash to and we go walking all over the neighborhood! The neighbors think it's a scream!

## **Rescuing Horses**

*By Kristi Rutherford*

My love of horses (and all animals) started at an early age and rescuing them is something I've always done without really thinking... just grab a stray cat or dog and drag it home and my parents "reluctantly" accepted them and I rarely ever found them a different home than mine. Naturally, my love of horses should translate to rescue and it should be the same process for cats and dogs... RIGHT? No, unfortunately the world of horse rescue is much different and doesn't always have strictly a happy ending.

The first issue has to do with the laws (or lack thereof) and the rules of ownership. When you take in a rescue horse you first have to get the permission of the owners (as horses are usually in a fence/barn/private property type of situation) and it's not the same as picking up a small animal from the street. If the owners are reluctant to hand you over pos-

session of the horse, you must now involve the law and go through the legal process so to speak to obtain even temporary ownership. This is the hardest part. Horse laws are so loose that usually in order for animal control to get involved a horse must be near death or one or more actually be dead and visible on the property to get results. Enter my latest rescue attempt "George."

George was a cute little fella (judged to be a year old) that lived with a bunch of horses down the road from my house. I had had dealings with the owners for 2 years regarding these horses (one laid in the field dead for 3 days before they were forced to remove it and one got out because it was starving and was hit multiple times by cars in the mid-

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## Dangers of Driving with an Unrestricted Pet

By Patti Bradam

According to a AAA study, driving with an unrestrained pet is the third worst driving distraction, behind texting and talking on the phone. Less than 25% of drivers who have animals in the car keep them restrained while driving. Twenty percent of drivers with dogs in the car allow their dogs to sit on their laps while driving. It's dangerous for the humans in the car for the driver to be distracted, but it's just as dangerous to the pet. If a 10lb pet is loose in the car and the car crashes at 50 miles per hour, the pet could exert 500lb of pressure, becoming a living projectile that can crush a human in its path and injure or kill the pet. Your dog or cat can be easily thrown from the vehicle during an accident, being killed or seriously injured in the process. Allowing a pet to ride in your lap increases its chance of being crushed by your body during an accident.

Allowing a pet to travel freely in the bed of a truck drastically increases the chances of the animal being thrown from the vehicle, causing death or injury to the pet. The animal may, after being thrown from the truck, cause additional damage by creating another accident when other drivers try to avoid hitting it.

We've all seen the joy dogs express when they're riding in a truck bed or with their head sticking out a window. Dogs love to catch wind! What the dog doesn't anticipate is the bug or flying debris, like a gravel, that can literally take out his eye at even a moderate rate of speed. Something to be considered before letting Fido ride the wind.

Remember to keep both yourself and your pet safe while on the road.

Sure, it's relaxing and enjoyable to pet your dog or stroke your cat while driving and it may calm them down, but is it worth your life? Is it worth theirs?

To be safe, follow these guidelines from DMVanswers.com:

- Never allow your cat to roam freely. They like to sit on your lap or repose on the dashboard -- making them as distracting as cell phones. Always transport felines in a travel crate designed specifically for cats.
- Use a pet-designed harness or seat belt to tether your dog. If not, a sudden stop could send it hurtling forward, placing itself and other passengers in danger. Plus, a harness will prevent your dog from distracting driving-attention with licks to the ear, or, depending on size, curling around your feet near the brake and gas pedals.
- Don't let your dog hang its head out a side window. Although amusing, it becomes a driver distraction, and depending on which window, a hindrance to seeing the traffic around you. Plus, it's not safe for the dog.
- Never attach a restraining device to your pet's collar while inside a vehicle.

This article cites information from: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/08/19/driven-distraction-pets-car-just-dangerous-texting>

## Heat & Animals

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heat stroke, you should seek veterinary treatment for your pet as soon as possible. You can provide some immediate treatment using cool (but not icy) water to lower your pet's temperature by submerging the pet in a tub of water, wetting him with a hose or sponging him down. If your pet showed signs of heat stroke but has been cooled and now appears fine, do not assume that all is well. Internal organs, such as the liver, kidneys and the brain, are all affected by extreme body temperature elevation. It is best to have a veterinarian examine your pet to assess potential health complications and ensure that other risks are not overlooked.

Be cautious and be aware of the heat and how it affects your pets. You pets depend on you to make sure they are well cared for and safe. They will thank you for providing them a safe, cool place for them to be in the summer.

Remind me why there's a treat limit again?

Cuz I don't agree



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

## Thank You Corner

“Thanks to all the kind folks at HPAN for helping the cats of Happy Paws! We are so grateful for you! Thanks so much!”

*~Jill at Happy Paws Kitten Rescue*

“Thank you so much for your donation! It will go a long way with us. We currently have 101 dogs and 72 cats that are signed up in our Pet Food Pantry Program. We also help with spay and neuter in our area [Rockwood] to try to keep unwanted animals out of the shelters. Thank you again for all that you do, and if we could ever help your program, please let us know.”

*~Ann at Second Chance K-9 Rescue*

“HPAN – Thank you soooooooooooooo much for the dog food donation! I was able to buy four 50lb bags and three 22lb bags (smaller bits) of food. What a tremendous help!! Thanks again!”

*~ Sincerely, Robin of The Dogs' Inn*

“Thank you for your generous donation! It takes a village to save these animals and you are a part of the village!”

*~ Deborah of Friends of Campbell County Animals*

## 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!

## Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals

## George

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dle of the road) and the lack of care they received so I was just AGHAST when I saw a foal standing with its mother one day in the field. The moms ribs were showing (as were most of the other 12 horses in this small pasture) and I had no idea how she could raise this foal... but she did. But George did not look like other foals. He was always thin and as winter set in he got worse. After multiple calls (from multiple people on my road) to animal control in Anderson County I finally started feeding them hay from my own supply (hay is \$3 a bale and I would feed them 3 bales a day) just to keep them from starving. Enter Horse Haven. Horse Haven came out after I filed a complaint on their website and assessed the horses. The lady said that out of a body scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being starving (at risk for death) and 10 being obese; George was a 1 or 1.5 and at least 3 of the other horses were hovering around a 2. After this grim news, it was still a month (and a personal plea from me to my uncle who is the Sheriff of Anderson County) to get law enforcement officials and Horse Haven out to do something. When the law enforcement official arrived (they can force temporary custody in cases of near death) he looked at the horse and said, “Oh my goodness. I agree that this horse needs to be removed- I am giving my permission if the owner refuses.” I simply looked at him and said, “That isn’t the horse I called you about.”

We walked down by the creek to where George was laying and it almost brought me to tears, as it did every time I looked at the poor fella. Horse Haven arrived (as did a very indignant and irate owner) and away George went for medical treatment. I received news via their website that George did not make it. In his tragic early death however, there was a ray of light in that the owner was forced to take care of the horses or face federal charges if any more signs of abuse were reported. That was a year ago and I am happy to report that the remaining horses are doing well. There was hay provided over the winter and more pasture was added and they continue to look much better than before.

As mentioned before, horse rescue often consists of tragedy and hope and if you don’t participate in horse rescue, please at least consider donating to those that do... it is VERY expensive to care for horses and even much more so for those that need a LOT of medical care. Donations to Horse Haven can be made at their website: <http://horsehaventn.org/>.