



PAW TALES

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Helping Paws Animal Network

Launches NEW Website



It's here! After months of preparation for this exciting day, Helping Paws Animal Network is delighted to officially announce the launch of our website. The site launched on Monday, March 24, 2014, and is now available.

The URL is: <http://www.helpingpawsanimalnetwork.org>.

Our goal for the website is to provide information related to Helping Paws Animal Network's mission, newsletters, events and volunteer opportunities, financial accountability, and links to our blog, Facebook, Twitter, and donation pages.

The Helping Paws Animal Network newsletters bring you information about the animals that you have helped, plus upcoming events, pet care tips, and more. From our events page on the website, you can now volunteer for upcoming events. For success stories, the website links to the Helping Paws Animal Network Blog, <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/>. The website also provides easy access for donating to hungry, hurting, and homeless animals. You can learn more about animals in need by visiting our Twitter and Facebook pages too.

So, whether you are looking to find a new member of your family through pet adoption, interested in fostering an animal, volunteering, donating, or just an animal lover willing to spread our message by sharing the website, blog and "liking" our Facebook page, we truly appreciate your support and willingness to help hungry, hurting and homeless animals, and we hope the website will be a valuable resource to you. Thank you!

By Holly Hardin

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REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

Message from Incoming President, Janet Kile

I grew up with a love of animals. From the time I can remember my family had pets, mostly cats, dogs, and horses, with a duck or two thrown in. My parents taught me and my siblings to respect and care for our pets, including the importance of spaying and neutering. This love and respect of animals has carried over to adulthood.

The tragedy is that not everyone respects and loves animals. If they did, there would not be a need for rescue groups and animal shelters. When I first heard the concept for HPAN, I thought, how cool is that! A way to ease the expenses of area rescue groups and ensure they can save as many animals as possible.

My time involved with HPAN, both as a contributor and a Board Member, has truly been a rewarding experience. The joy when a rescue group thanks us for our assistance and sends pictures of the animals we helped, the knowledge that six cats don't have to die today because we paid their expenses at the shelter to help their adoption and rescue possibilities, the knowledge that four dogs don't have to die today because we paid to help transport them to loving homes in other states; who says money can't buy happiness? Just ask any of the numerous animals HPAN has helped.

I want to thank the original charter members (Patti Badam, Karin Jessen, Sophia Kitts, Tim Ledford, Leigh Ann Pennington, and Amy Starkey) for their vision and hard work to make HPAN a viable organization. I am committing as the incoming President to continue the good work and growth of this important organization. I ask that you join me in this ride. If you have skills at fund raising, writing grant proposals, or just want to enjoy participating in one of the fundraising events that HPAN hosts/attends, please let us know. Or, if you haven't already, sign up to contribute through payroll deduction, it's easy (contact Amy Starkey and she will send you the information needed to sign up). HPAN is dependent on your generosity. Help us save animals.

I want to leave you with this thought and one of my favorite quotes: "Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them." John Grogan, *Marley and Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog*



Humane Society of the United States offers pet tips for Easter and springtime

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/article/humane-society-of-the-united-states-offers-pet-tips-for-easter-and-springtime>

The spring is here and Easter is just around the corner. The Humane Society of the United States offers the following tips to keep pets safe and happy.

Baby chicks and rabbits are not Easter gifts: Bringing a new companion animal into your home is a serious commitment that should only be made if your family is prepared to provide lifelong care for the animal. Some local and state laws regulate the ownership of animals like chickens and ducks, and those animals are not always appropriate pets. If you are sure about making this Easter the time to get a new family pet, The HSUS asks you to adopt from your local animal shelter. Animal shelters are full of sweet, loving pets looking for homes, including many cute rabbits and other adorable animals. Another consideration would be giving children a plush toy or a dark chocolate rabbit.

"Unless your entire family is committed to a pet who will need proper socialization, care and companionship for many years, think twice before adding a baby animal to your Easter celebrations," said KC Theisen, The HSUS' director of pet care issues.

After cats and dogs, rabbits are the animals most frequently surrendered to animal shelters, largely because people acquire them as youngsters but aren't prepared for the long-term commitment involved. Others are simply released into backyards by people who mistakenly believe they will



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Sponsored rescue: Warrior Angels for East Tennessee Animals

Submitted By Amy Starkey

Warrior Angels for East Tennessee Animals was originally started to help surrounding county rescues and shelters share, cross post, and support each other. The Facebook page is successfully doing this. We are connecting Campbell, Oak Ridge, Claiborne, Scott, Knox and Loudon.



The focus has changed, however, in a very large way to cats and kittens. What I discovered when reaching out to other shelters and rescues, is that many groups are supporting dogs, but in some shelters there were no pictures taken of the cats, so we decided to make our focus on cats.

Simply photographing and sharing the cats and kittens to cat rescues has enabled us to rescue hundreds since December 2013. Campbell County alone has sent over 100 cats and kitten to Ohio and Nashville. Many of the Oak Ridge cats have also been transported to Ohio and to Nashville. This continues to grow in the amount of accepting cat rescues and volunteers focusing on the cats. Thanks to the Helping Paws Animal Network, many cats have been spayed and neutered and vetted. We appreciate your confidence in us. These cats have a huge chance of adoption because of this vetting, and a better chance of being accepted to rescues.

Warrior Angels is a small group of volunteers. We have spent out of pocket and round-the-clock time on rescue, foster and transport animals in need. Our future goal is to become a 501(c)3 and to obtain a building that will contain our own cat rescue, so we may better, vet, care for, and send to transport and rescue more cats that need help.

After kitten season is over, we are meeting to begin the plans to consolidate and to find a building for our own cat rescue facility. We want to be able to transport cats and kittens to rescues that can accept the level of cats that need help. We will also attempt to focus communities on spay and neuter of these cats.

Thank you so much for all you do for the animals.

Shawn Kincaid, Warrior Angels for East Tennessee Animals

Patti Bradam Says Goodbye as President

I will be stepping down as the Helping Paws Animal Network President on May 19. I have enjoyed my tenure, which began from the early days of the network in 2011 to our amazing growth and success through present day. One of my favorite memories is of Bubba, a bulldog that we helped back in 2011. He was the first animal that we helped.

I am so proud of our network and am happy to remain on the Board, working on our website with Holly Hardin and coordinating our newsletter with Christina Kelly. I am also monitoring and maintaining our Twitter account, which is @HPAN37830.

I am so excited to see what the future holds for our network. We have already helped hundreds of animals, from dogs to cats to horses and there are thousands more to come, I am sure. I am stepping away from the role of president in order to provide opportunity for others, as well as enable myself to take on other challenges and adventures. Janet Kile was voted in as our new president, taking that role when I step back in May. We have so much opportunity and I am ready to help all the animals that we can. Thank you Helping Paws supporters for this wonderful experience! I have to say an extra special thank you to other Board members for helping this dream of an official nonprofit 501(c)3 animal network to support rescues become a reality. I can't wait for the next step on our path to save animals. The sky is the limit!



Care and Nurturing of Senior Pets

By Karin Jessen

Senior Pets are the best! They need lots of love and attention and are generally very easy to care for. But caring for a senior pet requires some attention to health needs and observing how your pet has changed over the years. If you have had your pet since puppyhood or kitten hood, undoubtedly you have noticed your pet has slowed down as he or she has aged. Your pet may not be as playful or energetic as he once was. He may be sleeping more, rise more slowly, be more tentative when going up or down stairs. He may not be eating with gusto like he used to. If your dog used to love to swim and he only wades, he may not be as confident in the water as he used to be. Your aging cat may not jump up on the counter as easily as he used to!



Senior Dogs: The typical lifespan of a dog is about 12-15 years; bigger dogs may not live quite as long and small dogs may live longer. Some dogs may age more quickly due to a “ruff” start in life or just poor genes. Senior dogs should be seen by your vet every six months for a health check. A lot can change in a short amount of time. Your senior dog should be on a senior diet which has lower protein and higher nutrient levels, which take a lesser toll on the kidneys and fewer calories to help prevent weight gain. Your dog still needs to be active, so consider shorter, more frequent, slower walks. Consider a high quality orthopedic bed. Hopefully your senior dog will use it and be much more comfortable!

Health issues common in dogs include arthritis, loss of eyesight and/or hearing, dementia and kidney problems. Unfortunately, cancer is all too common in dogs. Although younger dogs are affected, the seniors are more commonly affected. This is one reason why health screening is so important. The sooner the health issue, such as cancer, is caught, the better chance of early treatment and survival. You may notice some growths or warts on your senior. This is common, but should be checked out to make sure they are not cancerous. Obesity may creep up on your dog as he ages. Cut back on the amount of food, if need be, and keep your dog active. An overweight dog can have additional health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

Senior Cats: As a general rule of thumb, cats 8-10 years or older can be considered middle to senior age and your vet can help you determine the best health care maintenance program for your cat. As your cat ages you may notice her sleeping more, slowing down, she may have difficulty grooming the hard to reach areas, running up and down the stairs, or dementia. Cats also experience hearing loss, which may not be noticeable to the owner. Cloudy or “bluish” eyes is a normal effect of aging. This is not the same as cataracts, which are white and opaque. Some cats may have a thinning of the iris, also known as iris atrophy. This does not appear to affect the vision, but some cats may become light sensitive. Just like dogs, your cat may experience muscle atrophy, especially in the hind legs. Some cats can develop diabetes which could cause nerve problems and you may notice a “dropping of the hocks.” If your cat is having a hard time walking, see your veterinarian. If you notice any of these signs, it is time to see a vet: change in appetite, change in urine output/thirst, bad breath, bleeding gums, or arthritis pain.



For dogs and cats: if you see sudden signs of blindness, hearing loss, head tilt, staggering, these can all be signs of anything ranging from infection, poisoning, or age-related cancer, and your vet should be consulted immediately.

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New Board Member - Kerry Campbell

By Patti Bradam

Kerry Campbell is the newest member of the Helping Paws Board. She was voted in as a board member at the March meeting. We are so happy to welcome her! She has two dogs, Tucker and Jack Frost. She is also loved by her two cats, Benny and Bear, both rescued from Happy Paws Kitten Rescues and Loudon County Friends of the Animals (both groups have partnered with Helping Paws to help animals in the past). In her own words: I have always had an interest in helping animals. I've brought strays home since I was 7, driving my parents crazy. I have 2 dogs and 2 cats, all rescues and they are spoiled rotten. I have also fostered many animals over the years.



Tucker



Jack Frost

While I was a bank teller, a customer came thru the drive-thru with a litter of puppies, and said was taking them to the pound. I asked him if I could take them and he just handed them over. I took them home and found loving homes for every one of them. Last Fall I took in a pregnant Siamese cat and helped keep her until she could be transferred to another foster home with a neonatal unit. Here are her kittens.



I have also fostered a couple kittens through Happy Paws Kitten Rescue from time to time until they could find homes for them.

Please join us in welcoming Kerry on board. She has been a long time Helping Paws supporter and now she can help even more as a board member. Welcome, Kerry!

Senior Pets

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Early detection of health issues can go a long way in extending the life of your pet. Consider tracking your pets vital signs...this is simple to track and good information to records. Temperature, pulse, respiration, and circulation can be tracked and can be learned from your vet. Recording this information on a weekly basis will help you and your vet identify subtle changes that may be important as your pet ages.

Being aware of changes and responding to these changes by visiting your veterinarian at regular intervals can go a long way in making sure your senior pet is as comfortable as possible in the declining years.



RIP Kioko-March 14, 2014

Easter Holiday Pet Safety Tips at Ark Animals

Source: http://www.arkanimals.com/dlg/easter_holiday_pet_safety_tips.htm

Learn pet safety tips for Easter. Animal expert, Diana L. Guerrero shares Easter pet safety hints and alternative gifts for Easter. Animal clinics and veterinary hospitals see increased visits during the spring holidays. Animal behaviorist and animal book author, Diana L. Guerrero shares tips to avoid endangering animals during Easter and other spring holiday celebrations.

Animal Expert Pet Safety Tips For Easter Celebrations

Pet precautions should be taken during the spring celebrations like Easter according to animal behaviorist, Diana L. Guerrero. "Pets, like kids, love to get into forbidden goodies. Unfortunately, raiding pets getting into the chocolate supply can face needless suffering-or death," she said.

According to Guerrero, each spring animal clinics and veterinary hospitals see an increase in visits during the springtime holidays. Easter poses the greatest hazards to critters living with chocolate lovers.

"Chocolate is toxic to animals and can be fatal because it contains a caffeine derivative (theobromine) and pets cannot fully metabolize chocolate. If enough is ingested it can create complications or kill an animal." Guerrero said.

Symptoms from chocolate ingestion include hyperactivity, tremors, racing heartbeat, and seizures. Damage to the liver can also occur and is not so obvious. Guerrero also said, "It is risky to leave boxes of candy out anywhere in the house. As little as four ounces is enough to kill a ten pound dog or cat."

Some flowers and plants can be toxic and Guerrero encourages pet owners to check with their veterinarians for a complete list for dogs, cats, or birds. Be sure to keep baskets and gifts of flowers and potted plants out of reach of your critters.

"Animals love to explore with their mouths and make playthings out of everything so expect the worst and keep those lovely gifts and treats out of reach." Guerrero suggests. "Other hazards can include alcoholic beverages and wrapping items. Cellophane, ribbons, balloons, and other festive wrappings or decorations can be ingested and cause complications or death. Alcohol, often left out in glasses during celebrations, is another toxic item for pets and should not be given to any critter."

During Easter and May Day celebrations make sure you have special chew treats to occupy pets during egg hunts and other related activities. Also take care to note where all those tidbits are hidden so that the pets don't find them at a later date and get sick.

Guerrero said, "In the past, holiday promotions included giving live chicks, ducks and bunnies. Thousands of these animals died from lack of proper care and stress. Giving a live pet during any holiday is inhumane."

Guerrero stressed that better efforts teach children about responsible pet ownership or about being animal caretakers. More appropriate efforts included the gift of a stuffed animal and an adoption certificate, or an Easter basket with novelty items.

She said, "Many zoos, farms, and shelters allow you to sponsor the care of an animal. These efforts help creatures of all types and teach responsible stewardship. You can also sponsor wildlife habitat. Certificates or books for animal lovers can be included in your baskets "

Guerrero is the author of one such book. "What Animals Can Teach Us about Spirituality: Inspiring Lessons of Wild and Tame Creatures" (SkyLight Paths Publishing) is being included in local baskets for animal lovers and spiritual seekers. The text contains stories of wild and domestic animal behavior and analogies of how animals spark personal and spiritual growth for humans.

If you still insist on giving a live critter, remember that Easter babies require special care, feeding and temperatures. Ducks and chicks can carry salmonella and are not ideal pets since children can break their bones or cause other injuries by accident, other pets may maim or kill them, and they are not as amiable to attention. Guerrero lamented, "Most Easter pets die in a few days or end up at animal service agencies where they are destroyed because they cannot be placed."

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Springtime

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be able to fend for themselves. Unlike wild rabbits, domestic pet rabbits cannot survive on their own outdoors. Chickens also need dedicated, consistent care and far too many of them end up in shelters, rescues and sanctuaries as well. TheShelterPetProject.org or PetFinder.com lists rabbits, chickens and other pets already in local shelters and rescues waiting for a new home.

The HSUS' resources on rabbit care and adopting and caring for backyard chickens can help you decide whether a rabbit or a chicken is the right pet for you.

Safety Tips

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Bunnies are cute when young but can live long lives. Unless trained, many rabbits do not like being confined and cuddled. They can bite or inflict pain to youngster by struggling and kicking with their hind legs. Rabbits can also be destructive and messy. These lagomorphs are at risk from dogs and cats, and many kids exhibit allergies to these animals.

Guerrero suggests sharing the holidays with your humane pals and existing pets. "Provide appropriate chew treats and toys to occupy your pets during your celebrations and spend time with the pets, too. You can also take a fun trip to a petting zoo or children's zoo and accomplish close contact without the challenges."

Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals



Thank You Corner

Thank goodness for the generosity of the Helping Paws Animal Network and some wonderful individual animal lovers who have helped us care for Miss Cassie!

~ Judy, foster pet parent for Almost Home Animal Rescue

Thank you so much for letting us know about the blog pictures of Sandy & Sampson. I picked up our bill at Jackson Square animal clinic and saw where you all had paid the \$300 toward Sandy & Sampson's heartworm treatment. We really do appreciate that; every \$ helps! You guys are doing a fantastic job of helping groups all around the area; what a blessing you all are! There are many furry friends who have a better life because of your efforts. Woof Woof, Bark Bark Mew Mew Purr Purr That's dog & cat speak for Thank You With Love.

~ Shirley, Shelter Animals Rescue Group (SARG)

OMG thank you so much for your donation! Thank you from those cats. When I first started trying to help with the shelter, the cats were killed and frozen and sold for \$3 to a company for dissection. Their kill rate was pretty much 100%. Now people care about them, see their photos, they are loved and visited. There has hardly been a euthanasia of a cat since December under the new administration and with HPAN's help and the rescues that are accepting them. This is a great bunch of cats, Thank you and your wonderful group!

~ Shawn, Warrior Angels for Tennessee Animals

"Thank you so much for your generous donation to Horse Haven of TN. It is much appreciated. The support of our brothers and sisters 'in the trenches' of animal welfare means the world to us!"

~ Gratefully, Sonja of HHT

Loudon County Friends of Animals kittens are FLEA FREE and HAPPY because of all the wonderful flea prevention and food Helping Paws Animal Network donated. Loudon County Friends of Animals LOVES Helping Paws Animal Network and THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

