



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 24

June 2008

SNAP's mission is to eliminate the need for euthanasia in our community's shelters, to reduce the number of homeless animals, and to educate the public about the importance of spay/neuter.

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Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope! As always, thanks for your support.

Help “stamp out pet overpopulation”

We are testing some new fundraising offerings, and the “Stamp Out Pet Overpopulation” is our first experiment. Depending on your response, we will decide whether or not to pursue this fundraising venture.

The program is very simple – SNAP sells 42 cent stamps in a variety of packages. The best part about this is that your very own pet can be the star attraction! The program will be considered a success if we have **10 purchases by June 30, 2008**. So if you see a package you like, order it by the deadline date of June 30.

To order, send an email to snap123stamps@gmail.com and indicate which package you would like to purchase. Note that these packages are wonderful gifts for family and friends. Each time a stamp is used it spreads the message about spay and neuter, and it can feature your own favorite feline or canine. In addition, your donation is partially tax-deductible. Details will be given when you place your order.

Package 1: Basic stamps half-sheet

- Half sheet of 42 cent stamps displaying our Spay & Neuter logo (10 stamps)
- Price: \$10 (includes processing and delivery)

Package 2: Basic Stamps full-sheet

- full sheet of 42 cent stamps displaying our Spay & Neuter logo (20 stamps)
- Price: \$20 (includes processing and delivery)

Package 3: Your Pet stamps full-sheet

- full sheet of 42 cent stamps displaying YOUR PET (20 stamps)
- Price: \$25 (includes processing and delivery)
- **You must send us a photo of your pet!**



(Continued on page 4)

Letter from SNAP client

SNAP,

I just wanted to thank you for your assistance in getting our cat Kimmi spayed. She came to us as a stray and every time she wandered out, we would worry. Your program is wonderful. I don't know how you do it. Thank you so much.



Natalie

In Memoriam

*Del Caywood
Dorothy Davis
Donald Wayne Grove, Sr.
John Vincel*

In Honor of

*Kay Mathews
Dawn Mihlfeld*



Summer Reading



Spring has sprung, the grass is green, but soon the Dog Days of Summer will be here! What a great time to pour yourself a tall glass of lemonade and head to a comfy place to read! Here are a few selections recommended by our very own SNAP volunteers, sure to capture the interest and hearts of pet lovers!

Walking in Circles Before Lying Down by Merrill Markoe . Ever wonder why dogs always walk in circles before lying down?

You will find the answer to this age-old question, as well other insights into how dogs think about human behavior, straight from the dog's mouth! Funny, charming story filled with quirky characters, and full of tidbits of wisdom offered up by a dog who can talk!

Rescuing Sprite by Mark R. Levin. Profoundly moving story about the love and the loss of a beloved pet. Shortly after adopting Sprite, the author and his family are faced with the painful realization that Sprite is dying, and that they must make difficult and heart-wrenching decisions about how to deal with this inevitable truth. This is a real tear-jerker, but it also offers a great deal of comfort for those of us who have been down the same path, or who are facing similar challenges with our beloved pets.

Lest we forget our furry feline friends who also make their way into literature, here are a couple of recommendations:

The Cat Who Came in from the Cold by Deric Longden. Lighthearted story about a lost kitten who the author adopts and names, "Thermal" (you'll have to read the book to find out about his name!) and who subsequently steals the heart of his new owner. Longden gives speaking rights to his character, and you will find some of Thermal's cat musings to be quote-worthy! Perfect blend of humor and tenderness.

Cat on the Edge: A Joe Grey Mystery by Shirley Rousseau Murphy. Who can resist a good mystery, especially when the main character is a feline detective who has recently witnessed a murder! Lots of surprises, twists and turns as Joe and several of his other feline friends help police solve the crime. This is the first book in Murphy's very popular series. Read this one, and you'll be hooked!

Kookie's story

My humans often discussed the possibility that I was an alien disguised as a cat. They knew I was recording their actions with my wise eyes and reporting back to the mother ship. And I have much to report! I was found meowing in a back yard on a bright spring day. My human, L, found me on the first day of Spring Break. Our house backed up to a private girl's college. Much was supposed about my background, but I always thought it was much like Dulcinea's story from Man of La Mancha. L quickly fell in love with my voice, my incredible softness, and we seemed to match spirits well. L was well-intentioned but naive back then, and I became pregnant. Being a very small cat, I only had two kittens. They both looked like me, with smudges on their heads. I was also all white and my smudge was the perfect shape of a roach. That is why L named me La Cucaracha. Even though my babies were darling, I was wasting away feeding them. Unfortunately, while weaning, I became pregnant again. L took me to the vet because I was losing weight. She was worried sick and the vet had to perform an operation to save my life. L vowed never, ever to let another cat of hers go through that again. I was relieved.

Life changed over the next few years. L moved to Springfield, and I moved too, of course, and soon settled in to a new home. Life with L was great. I learned to fetch; my favorite was wads of small paper balls. There was lots of company, which I loved, being a social, chatty cat. I was even in L's wedding on St. Patrick's Day. I guess I was the flower girl in this backyard wedding. L put a hair scrunchy around my neck & strung daffodils, so I wore a yellow flower yoke. I think there are some pictures out there with me looking unhappy. Pretty kookie, but that was my nickname.

I don't know when it started, but L began bringing in strays. How many dogs and cats I had to put up

with! To be honest, I think she loved me so dearly that she learned compassion for animals from me. It took her awhile, but she learned the right way for a human to care for an animal. Every stray was fixed and doctored by Dr. Sifferman or his staff before they were placed with their own humans.

Finally, L got involved with SNAP volunteering rather than trying to individually save every Fido, Kitty, or Zeus. Lord knows they kept coming. The only one we kept was my dear sister, Mata Hari. She is black as night, very pretty, and quickly captivated all of us. L did better by my siblings...she learned and fixed them early, and gave

them excellent vet care. I don't begrudge her mistakes with me because I know that I reserve a special place in her heart. Perhaps I was not an alien, as the joke went, but I know there was kindred spirit stuff between my beloved humans and I.



A lot more happened in my long life, 17 years. I loved it when my extended friends and family would come stay the night. Extra petting was always appreciated. Later in my life L got a new boyfriend,

a tall sunshine man that I loved. He was another one human that hated cats until he met me. He gave great ear scratches. Then we went to the dogs! Chicken Little was brought home as a test, and she was properly kowtowed enough that L thought we could make it work. Next came Gypsy, a loveable loud mouth, ice storm refugee. She wasn't supposed to stay, but after getting returned we took her in too. Surprisingly, I learned to love those two dogs. They were gentle to me. At the last when I couldn't groom well Gypsy would lick me, trying to make me feel better. But I had cancer; I couldn't get better this time. Dr. Ruggeri, L, and the tall sunshine man couldn't save me. L gave me grace by letting me rest; I died purring. I gave L lessons engraved in her heart. I hope she keeps listening. I gave the world love, and my spirit lives on in many. I am La Cucaracha, the Kookie cat.

Help “stamp out pet overpopulation” (continued from page 1)

Package 4: Deluxe Stamp Package featuring Your Pet

- Framed 8 x 10 set of stamps (10 stamps of 42¢ denomination) displaying your pet
- Framed 5 x 7 enlarged stamp photo of your pet
- Half sheet of stamps (10 stamps of 42¢ denomination) for mailing
- Includes processing and delivery
- Price: \$50.00
- **You must send us a photo of your pet!**



Remember to send us an email to place your order (snap123stamps@gmail.com), and don't forget the deadline is June 30. If you'd like to see a larger version of these images, go to www.snap123stamps.blogspot.com.

Pet health alert: Sugarless gum

A pack of sugarless gum seems harmless enough, right? Wrong. It contains an ingredient called Xylitol, a sweetener found in many sugarless products. A SNAP volunteer's daughter recently had the scary experience of having to rush her dog to the emergency vet clinic after she ingested a package of sugarless gum.

By the time they arrived at the vet, the dog's blood sugar had dropped and her liver functions were already affected. Vomiting was induced and the dog was started on a dextrose drip, which she remained on for the next 72 hours. Luckily, she was saved, but only because of the quick action taken by her owner.

A warning to us all: Always check to make sure that what seems harmless really is.

New member welcome

Individual

Tammy Beasley
Elizabeth Bock
Jennifer Dixson
Marjorie Durmann
Phyllis Kiefer
Ruth Mullikin
Barbara Oberlander

Student/Senior

Susan Markus
Jean Spinabella

Family

Joan Bender
Kris Ann Hegle
Becky Thompson

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the folks at **Springfield Regional Arts Council** for their two fabulous spring events—ArFFest and ArtsFest. Dogs got their own event this year with the first annual ArFFest. It was very well attended, despite the less than desirable weather. On the other hand, the weather at ArtsFest was picture perfect—and a bit of a surprise to those for whom ArtsFest is synonymous with rain! SNAP volunteers were on hand at both events to sell bandanas and distribute educational literature. We raised more than \$1,000! Thanks as always for letting us participate.

Warren's wish

I don't remember much about the accident, and my life before that is sorta vague. I'll tell you what I know from piecing together everything Mom, Dr. Houtsma, and Dr. Sherman (Parkcrest Vet Hospital) figured out, along with what I can dredge up from my memory. I don't care to dwell on the past since I am very happy now, but I wanted to share my story.

How I lost my people is a tale I would like to tell but cannot. I had no collar and no microchip, so I couldn't find them. Mine was a harsh existence because I was used to being indoors, choosing the comfiest furniture on which to nap, and spreading



my long, impressive physique on the plushest carpets in my people's home. Suddenly, in February, with snow, ice, and wind chilling me to the bone, I was on my own. Every time a car went by, I expected my people to come save me because they loved me. Well, that car never came, so I hooked up with two strays and we salvaged what we could to eat—deer bones, mostly. I was cold and hungry all the time. One day my newfound buddies decided to beat the 65-mile-an-hour, two-way traffic on MO State Highway 13 to forage on the other side. I thought I could keep up with them, but my short legs and long torso slowed me down enough that a car struck me and *kept on going*. I was hurled into

the air and came to rest on the thin yellow paint strip separating two busy lines of traffic. I curled as small as I could as cars raced past me. I noticed a station wagon slow down...then drive away. I knew if I got to the other side, my buddies would help me, so I hobbled quickly—but painfully—through traffic and fell in a heap by the side of the road. My buddies were gone! They hadn't waited for me after all.

The station wagon came back, and the person I now know as Mom hopped out and said, "Will you let me pick you up?" I could barely see her because of the blood running down my face, but I wagged my tail anyway. She lifted me into her car and drove to Warrensburg Animal Hospital where Dr. Houtsma took x-rays. I had four broken ribs, a fractured hip, a BB shot in my side, and multiple lacerations around my face. I died twice while they were taking care of me, once when my lungs filled with blood and another time when my lungs collapsed. But both times Dr. H saved me. Mom left me there for three days in intensive care.

My recuperation has been slow, but I'm nearly as good as new now. I sure like Beneful a lot better than deer bones, and I prefer Mom's pink leather couch to the frozen ground. At first I was still looking for my people, but now I realize Mom is my person. This has not come without its price, though, as I have upset the pecking order of Mom's other two dogs.

I love it here in Springfield, and I'm so glad my original people fixed me so I'll enjoy a long, healthy, and happy life. But because I did not have a collar or microchip, I was lost and miserable. My medical bills have reached nearly \$2,000, and I have also disrupted Mom's pack.

Dear readers, remember that while getting your pets spayed or neutered is critical, making sure that we have collars, tags, and ID chips is also crucial to our welfare. We *want* to stay with our people. So please fix us, collar us, tag us, leash us, and chip us—that is my wish. Respectfully submitted by Warren (for Warrensburg) Gosselink, Basset Hound *par excellence*.

YES!

I would like to become a member of SNAP to help reduce the number of unwanted animals born in Southwest Missouri. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, acknowledgement on the SNAP website, and an invitation to SNAP's annual meeting. (Membership is renewable annually and is tax deductible. Payment may be made by check or money order.)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior (60 & over) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | |

OR...

- _____ I want to help! Please send information about becoming a SNAP volunteer.
_____ I want to support SNAP's work with the enclosed tax-deductible donation.
_____ Please make a donation in memory of _____
_____ Please send me information on estate planning .
_____ I would like to "Sponsor-a-Spay." I am enclosing \$ _____ to sponsor:
_____ A specific pet (indicate pet's name) _____
_____ The pet at the top of SNAP's waiting list

MAIL TO: SNAP • P.O. Box 14354 • Springfield, MO 65814 • (417)823-7627

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The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation