



Solutions

Helping Animals and the People Who Love Them

Issue 13

September, 2005

Goodbye from Kathi McDermott

By the time you read this, Kathi McDermott will be unpacking boxes in her new home in Kanab, Utah. We were very lucky to have her as SNAP's Executive Director for three years, and we wish her the very best. Kathi didn't want to leave without saying goodbye to all the faithful SNAP supporters in Southwest Missouri...

It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to all of my friends at SNAP and to all of you who have been such an important part of SNAP's success. As many of you know, almost a year and a half ago, Best Friends Animal Society hired me to work on the national No More Homeless Pets campaign. I have been doing my work from my home in Nixa and have also continued to volunteer as the Executive Director of SNAP. However, I found that each time I visited Kanab, Utah, where Best Friends is headquartered and where we operate our animal sanctuary, I found it harder and harder to leave. So I am relocating and will do my work from there. It is truly a magical place, and I sometimes cannot believe my good fortune to be a part of it.

I am also honored to have played a part in SNAP's success for these past 4½ years. I am proud of all that we have accomplished, and I am 100% certain that the framework we have established will carry SNAP successfully through the challenges that remain - until the mission is accomplished and pet overpopulation in the Ozarks is a thing of the past. I will continue to provide guidance and to share resources with my friends at SNAP and other animal organizations, from my office in Angel Canyon.

I hope that if you ever find yourself on a trip West to the Grand Canyon or Las Vegas, that you will make a trip to the Sanctuary and see for yourselves the wonderful work that is being done by Best Friends - and why I truly believe that the day is coming when there will be no more homeless pets. I also hope you will continue to support SNAP in their important work to make Springfield a No-Kill community, because with your help it really can happen!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and best wishes to you all, and I hope you will keep in touch. You can reach me at kathim@bestfriends.org, and you can learn more about Best Friends and the No More Homeless Pets movement at www.bestfriends.org.

Warmest regards,

Kathi McDermott



Chill-Out creates warm-in-their-hearts-and-tummies feelings for attendees

On a sweltering Saturday at the Rogersville City Park, SNAP held the third annual Ice Cream Chill-Out on July 16, 2005. Never was frozen moo milk more desirable than on such a day of sizzling weather. We started off with a Pet Parade featuring Mia, the Princess Doggy Debutante of 2005. Prizes were awarded for the Longest Hair, the Shortest, the Tallest, and Best Float dogs.

DJs Scott and Dan (from Mark's Travel Tunes) regaled the crowd with music. Meanwhile, numerous pet-friendly merchant and organization booth staffers doled out scrumptious flavors of ice cream as they educated and entertained attendees with pets, products and provender. Due to new and notable displays this year, participants were able to "Ask the Vet" important questions (kudos to Dr. Mike Divine, a SNAP board member and spay/neuter advocate). Visitors could also learn about rescue dogs from SWMOK9s and pet therapy from Kim Lilley. Many a dog enjoyed a manicure compliments of Veronica from Doggy-Doo's.

SNAP added a new booth this year featuring our Sponsor-a-Spay Dogwood tree.

Guests generously sponsored spays or neuters for 14 pets desperately in need of a fix. The beautiful live dogwood tree was later won by one of these sponsors.

At high noon, BABS, the Black Angus Bingo madam, waddled into the arena and in record time quickly attended to her daily hygiene. After careful adjudication by an expert judge, it was determined that the largest BABS deposit landed on the pasture square purchased by a Long Lane, MO resident, whose ticket netted her \$500.

NOTE: Due to the high qualifications required for

the position, we are already advertising for next year's BABS poopmeister (the judge who meticulously measures the cow pie). References required!

Refreshed by the doggy watering and treat station and reinforced by concessions and all the ice cream they could eat, dogs and their people were afforded a plethora of entertainment, including the Model-T club, antique fire trucks, Harleys, and the Jumping Jacks play fort. Framable "Paw Prints Watercolors" were available for the artistically inclined canines, and Chill-Out strollers were amused by a doggie cake walk. Avery, Zoe Gawlik's dog adopted from SWMOK9s, churned her stubby little legs to win her preliminary heat and then routed the last competition to take home honors in the Short-Legged Dog Race.

Part of our mission is humane education and this year we started essay and poster contests for kids. The winners of the essay contest were 1) Anna Frost 2) Cole Michael 3) Logan Biesmeyer and Honorable Mention James Hamey. For the Kindergarten-2nd grade poster contest, Mackenzie Smith took first, second place went to Jordan Shuey, Seth Ford won third place, and Honorable Mention went to Rowan Michael. Winners in the middle school poster contest were 1) Laura Biesmeyer, 2) Raven Wilson, 3) Ashley Pemberton and Honorable Mention Erin Conyers.

The piece de resistance had to be Animal Idol, where contestants with or without their pets vied to remain the last talent standing, as determined by four judges who had difficulties ranking the talented entrants. When the smoke cleared, Haylee Champagne was the gleeful winner; 2nd place went to Nico Portillo; and third place was awarded to Samantha Smith. (Much thanks to Great American Title for donating Animal Idol prize money!)

As tired and happy volunteers and participants made their way home at the end of the day, SNAP's coffers had been increased by \$6,659, which should enable more than 300 pets of low-income owners to be fixed. Mark your calendar for the Fourth Annual Chill-Out next July 15th, 2006. And thanks again to all our sponsors, donors, talent, and volunteers—especially Susan Tolliver and Laurel Bryant—for making the 3rd Annual Chill-Out a howling success!



*Best seat in the house?
This therapy pooch enjoyed
Chill-Out festivities from
his (or her) very own chair.*

In Memoriam

*Bee Payne-Stewart
Topper Murney*

**Please take note!**

SNAP has a new email address:
info@snap123.org

Where the money goes....

Thanks to your generosity, SNAP has helped fix

6,792 pets!

93% of SNAP's budget pays for spay/neuter surgeries, and 7% goes toward operating costs. SNAP pays no salaries or rent.

A letter from SNAP client Angela Moore

Thank you so much for providing financial assistance to me yet again. It is greatly appreciated and on behalf of the rest of the community, your tireless efforts don't go unnoticed. I enjoy our conversations and look forward to a continued friendship. Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do to effectively control pet overpopulation.

*Sincerely,
Angela Moore*

Have you sponsored a spay today?

There are some new pets on our Sponsor-a-Spay waiting list. Won't you please sponsor one of these pets, or visit our web site for a complete listing of the 75 pets currently awaiting sponsors? If you would like to sponsor one of these pets (or two or twelve or twenty...), we thank you!

Your \$25 donation will sponsor a cat; \$40 will sponsor a dog. Just fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter. Your generosity truly *saves lives!*

Kittens and cats awaiting sponsors:

- 🐾 Yoda, 2 yr Female Long-haired Black
- 🐾 Sweet Pea, 1 yr Female Long-haired Calico
- 🐾 Abigail, 1 yr Female Blue Creme
- 🐾 Dribbles, 9 mo Female Short-haired Black
- 🐾 KeeKee, 7 mo Male Short-haired Grey
- 🐾 Lilly, 1 yr Female Short-haired Tortie
- 🐾 Yancy, 1 yr Female Short-haired Grey

Dogs awaiting sponsors:

- 🐾 Zeus, 4 yr Male Dachshund
- 🐾 Riese, 1 yr Female Pit Bull mix
and some oldies still need your help...
- 🐾 Phoebe, 9 mo Female Hound Mix
- 🐾 Tramp, 2 yr Male Red Terrier
- 🐾 Tater, 2 yr Male Chow/Bulldog Mix
- 🐾 Snoopy, Male Rat Terrier Black & White

Keyes Gallery exhibit benefits SNAP

The *Dog and Cat Days of Summer* art exhibit was on display throughout the month of August at Keyes Gallery, located at 229 S. Market in Springfield. Keyes contacted SNAP and asked if we would like to put up a display of literature during the exhibit. Several SNAP board members went to the show's opening on August 4, where we met the gallery's two resident cats, saw some great art—all by local artists—enjoyed some delicious refreshments, and even met the terrier who was a model for one of the paintings! Keyes graciously donated a portion of the sales of its paintings for the month to SNAP. We are so grateful for the support and hope this is the beginning of a long relationship with Keyes Gallery.



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

To Contact Us...



Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.
P. O. Box 14354
Springfield, MO 65814
Phone: (417) 823-SNAP (7627)
E-mail: info@snap123.org
Web address: www.snap123.org

SNAP is a Missouri 501c3
not-for-profit corporation.

Happy birthday to us!

It was five years ago this month that SNAP was officially founded by Anne Heim, Jackie Glass, and Connie Chitwood. Be sure to join us for our Second Annual Wine Tasting in November as we celebrate SNAP's 5th birthday (be on the lookout for an invitation later this fall). In the meantime, read the fabulous profile of SNAP in the Springfield Business Journal's August 22 issue. Thanks, SBJ, for the awesome article!

SNAP client profiles - Maddie & Ketty



Meet Maddie and Ketty. They recently spent the day at Divine Veterinary Clinic getting spayed. Maddie is a two-year old female sharpei mix. Ketty is a one-year female brown tabby. Maddie and Ketty live in Ozark with their owner and three other dogs. All five pets were taken in as strays. With SNAP's help, house-

mates Frankie, Shelby, and Hope are also scheduled to be spayed or neutered. Although the family pets had previously produced four litters, they will no longer be contributing members to Club Pet Overpopulation!



Latest report on shelter euthanasia in U.S.

The latest data from the *Animal People* survey of shelters has just been released. After a brief increase following September 11, the number of dogs and cats killed in U.S. shelters has resumed its 35-year decline. According to the survey, about 15.5 animals were killed in shelters last year for every thousand Americans. Considering that 17 million animals were put to death annually in the 1970s, the current number of 4.5 million is a truly remarkable decline.

A rate of 5.0 is the threshold for a community to be considered “no-kill.” On average, about five homeless animals per thousand humans will be too severely injured, ill, or dangerous to save.

How do the Ozarks measure up? According to the results, the death rate in Springfield and the surrounding area is 16.9. While this is slightly above the national average, things could certainly be worse. Here’s a comparison of some other Midwestern cities:

Cincinnati	13.1
St. Louis	15.6
Kansas City, MO	16.6
Minneapolis	17.9
Kansas City, KS	21.6

Rates varied widely, even within the same state. For instance, the death rate was only 5.9 in San Diego but 30.5 in Modesto. Here in Missouri, rates varied from 15.6 in St. Louis to an astounding 50.4 in Columbia.

The safest region in the country to be a homeless animal is the northeast, where

the death rate is only 3.6. Compare that to the Appalachians, where the rate is 29.2, and you can see how much progress has been made in some areas and how little in others. Where forward-thinking ideas have been put in place—namely targeted low-cost spay/neuter and Trap-Neuter-Return programs for feral cats—death rates have plummeted.

The greatest success story in the country may be New York City. In only 18 months, shelter killing has been cut nearly in half. This is partly due to the Mayor’s Alliance for New York City Animals, a partnership formed in 2002, and partly due to the leadership of Ed Boks, who became the director of New York’s Animal Care and Control after performing a similar miracle in Maricopa County, Arizona.



When it comes to social problems, some of the most progressive ideas around have been implemented in the area of animal welfare. The dramatic 35-year decline in animal deaths is proof positive. The solutions are staring us in the face. It’s up to individual communities to have the courage to carry them out.



Cocktail conversation

You’re at a cocktail party when you overhear the following: “The vet said I could go ahead and get Shadow neutered, but he’s only ten weeks old. That’s just too young.” You calmly turn and say: “Did you know it’s actually as safe to fix young puppies and kittens as it is to wait until they’re older? There are a lot of other benefits, too. It prevents cancer and behavior problems like spraying in male cats. Did you know that early-age spay/neuter has been around for over 20 years?”

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 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 _____

\$15 Student/Senior (60 & over)

\$125 Business

\$25 Individual

\$500 Lifetime

\$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.

_____ 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

Solutions!

PO Box 14354

Springfield, MO 65814

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Spay Neuter Assistance Program
The Humane Solution to Pet Overpopulation