

News from the Animal Center



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The Animal Center's Online Newsletter, July 28, 2008

Pet Parenting Course about Terriers

Be a better pet parent or learn about a breed that interests you by attending the Animal Center's 2008 Pet Parenting Class series. Classes are one Saturday each month from **10am-11:30am**. All classes are free. Please do not bring your pet to class.

August 2: Terriers

Courtesy of TN/GA Scottish Terrier Rescue, Southern States Airedale Rescue, and Russell Rescue

Class Topics Will Include:

What makes a terrier a terrier? What is the difference between breeds of terriers? Can terriers live with cats? Are all terriers high-energy? Do terriers have special health concerns?

Let us know you're coming! Contact Taylor Slemmer at tslemmer@knoxpets.org or (865) 215-6661.

Looking ahead...

September 6: Hounds

Courtesy of Coast to Coast Dachshund Rescue

The Season is the Reason

Kitten season is in full swing, and the Animal Center is full, full, full. To help little kittens maintain their weight while they wait for their forever family, the Animal Center supplements their diet of Science Diet dry food with canned kitten food. With so many kittens, our cupboards are pretty bare. If you would like to make a donation to the Center, please consider donating canned kitten (not adult cat) food. Our kittens prefer ground food to flakes. They eat it willingly, even when we sneak in extra kitten vitamin supplements—which we do every day! All donations can be delivered to the Animal Center M-F 11a-7p, Sat 11a-5p, and Sun 1p-5p. Thank MEW so much!

Look, Up in the Sky!

Thinking of new ways to save lives is what the Animal Center is all about. One of the Center's newer programs is teaming with Jon Wehrenberg, an area pilot, to fly adoptable dogs to waiting rescue groups. Mr. Wehrenberg is a lifetime animal lover and flies the animals at his own expense. Recently, he flew five dogs to North Carolina. The dogs traveled well, and they received just a bit (!) of media attention when they landed. This innovative program strengthens ties the Center has with its rescue Pet Placement Partners and hopefully introduces more people to animal sheltering and rescue. Follow the links below to see how our animals did on their trip!

News 14 Coverage

http://news14.com/content/top_stories/597682/pilot-helps-pets-find-good-homes/Default.aspx

Fox 8 Coverage

<http://www.myfoxwghp.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=7059373&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=1.1.1>

WFMY Coverage

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=107905&catid=216>

Happy Birthday, Spay Shuttle!

The Animal Center's mobile spay/neuter program, the Spay Shuttle, just celebrated its one year anniversary. They did 4,359 surgeries on owned dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies. In addition to increasing surgeries from five days a week to seven, the Spay Shuttle crew has spent the last year studying pet overpopulation in our area in an effort to determine what specifically needs to be done to solve the problem as quickly as possible. The traditional school of thought for spay/neuter programs was that altering five animals for every 1,000 who would not otherwise have the surgery would soon end pet homelessness. As it happens, for the last few years spay/neuter programs in our area have averaged 15 surgeries per 1,000 animals. The problem persists. Spay Shuttle program administrator Brian Douglas theorizes that the number of surgeries needed to end pet overpopulation likely relates more closely to the number of incoming shelter animals. The number of surgeries needed may be as high as 50% of incoming animals. That means that approximately 8,000 owned dogs, cats, kittens, and puppies must be altered to reverse the trend of pet over breeding. As it happens, the Spay Shuttle program is slated to do nearly 7,000 surgeries in 2008-2009. Given all they have accomplished in one short year, few would be surprised if they exceeded their target number. If you would like to volunteer with the Space Shuttle program, call (865) 215-6678.

The Animal Center around the Town

Look skyward and you'll probably see the Animal Center! Now through August the Animal Center has 10 billboards around town, from Clinton Highway to Cumberland Avenue. The theme of the billboards is "Adopt a New Attitude." The Center hopes that it will increase name recognition for our county's animal shelter and also draw attention to the importance of pet adoption and responsible pet ownership.

The Animal Center is pleased to be the exclusive sponsor of WVLT Channel 8 "Dog Days of Summer." This promotion runs through September 1, and people can post pictures and videos of their pets at www.volunteertv.com. Click on the "Volzeye.com" link just beneath the headlines and follow the instructions. Channel 8 will select photos to air on their broadcasts. Show your support and post your pooch today!

A big thanks to the Halls Shopper for inviting Animal Center staff to submit Staff Pet Picks. Each week, photos and short bios will be submitted to the Shopper for two adoptable animals. Our staff works closely with our animals every day, so who better to write their life stories? The Shopper's popularity is growing every day, and their distribution is wide. We're delighted to begin this special partnership and know that many lives will be saved because of it.

Donation Challenge: Catnip Socks

The votes are in! We asked our kittens and cats on the adoption floor to name their favorite toy. Catnip socks are the winner! We love to give our animals toys, but we have found that catnip socks do not have the same effect on our cats after they have been washed. This means that we need a fresh sock toy for each cat when they arrive on the adoption floor (they can keep the same toy until they are adopted). That's a lot of sock toys! These toys are fun and easy to make, and it only takes a few moments to make a bunch. Please consider gathering your old socks together and making a few toys for our kittens and cats. They'll be thrilled you did.

To Make a Catnip Sock Toy:

- Take a child's-sized, clean sock (adult socks are a bit large for this craft, but they work in a pinch)
- Put a pinch of catnip in the toe of the sock
- Tie a knot in the sock so the catnip can't escape
- Optional: color the outside of the sock with cloth markers, add a cotton ball and/or jingle bell to the sock's contents

This Summer's Party for Cats is in its Last Month!

August is the last month for the Animal Center's 2008 Feline Fiesta! The adult cat (cats six months to seven years old) adoption fee has been reduced from \$120 to \$75 and senior cats (eight years and older)

are just \$50! Wow Meow! As always, kittens younger than six months are \$150. Make this summer especially festive, and come celebrate the Feline Fiesta today!

New Volunteer Program has Gone to the Dogs (and Cats!)

Animal Center volunteers are now helping our adoption-floor animals in new and special ways. “Pet Sponsors” are volunteers who commit to spending extra time with certain dogs and cats. These animals are typically long-term Center residents. Volunteers do basic obedience, walk, and snuggle with dogs, while others spend extra quiet time with our cats. No matter how high our quality of care, animal shelter is stressful on our furry residents. There is activity all day, people coming and going, and new sounds and smells, too. Our volunteer sponsors give our animals undivided attention, which can be a calming influence. Behavioral evaluations of our sponsored pets show that they are tolerating busy shelter life much better and are able to maintain their wonderful personalities until just the right adopter comes for them. Thank you, volunteers, for all you do. Thank you, volunteer sponsors, for giving the animals even more time and love. If you would like to join our volunteer program to help with this or another project, please contact the Center’s volunteer coordinator, Deonna Light, at dlight@knoxpets.org or (865) 215-6662.

A Special Thanks

Earlier this year the Animal Center had its third annual Easter Bonnet contest. Prizes were awarded three-deep in these categories: “Funniest,” “Ugliest,” “Most Creative” bonnet, and Judges Award. The staff had a wonderful time, and they would like to thank those people and agencies that donated prizes. They were: Bath & Body Works, Cirque Chine, Comedy Barn, Cotton Eyed Joe, Country Tonite, Dollywood, Filbol Dog Treats, Food City, Kroger, Marble Slab Creamery, McDonalds, Memories Theatre, Museum of Appalachia, Panera Bread, Pat Summit, Regal, Ripley’s Aquarium, Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!, Sonic, Southern Market and Studio Visage.

Have You Visited the Events Page at www.knoxpets.org?

If you haven’t you should! It is the most comprehensive list of animal events in our area. Animal Center events and those of our rescue friends are listed with dates and times so you can be sure not to miss a clawed, pawed, feathered, or furred thing!

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