



News from the Animal Center

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The Animal Center's Online Newsletter, August 26, 2005

At the Animal Center, the name of the game is...

EnRICHment



en·rich·ment (ĕn-rĭch'mənt)

n 1: act of making fuller or more meaningful or rewarding

Even at the best animal shelter, life can get a little monotonous for the animals. Physical and mental exercise is required to keep animals healthy and happy, and toys are essential! We try very hard to provide toys to all of our fuzzy residents. However, ours toys take quite a beating, with repeated chewing, tearing, and washing. We have found that homemade toys are easy on the wallet and very fun for our animals.

If you'd like to help our shelter animals have a rich, fun life while they are waiting for their furr-ever homes, here are some fun projects that would be just right for the animals.

A Special Recycling Project!

Here's a fun and easy-to-make toy for our dogs.

Directions:

1. Drink some delicious colas in 16 or 20 ounce sizes.
2. Rinse bottles and caps with hot water and remove labels. Set aside.
3. In a blender, add:
 - 🐾 one (1) can of wet dog food
 - 🐾 ½ cup of dry dog food
 - 🐾 ½ cup of warm water
4. Mix together until it becomes a loose gruel
 - 🐾 Play around with food and water quantities to get the right consistency—lumpy but loose!
5. Fill empty cola bottles half full with gruel
6. Replace cap as tightly as possible
7. Free bottles overnight or until solid
8. Remove from freezer and enjoy!



Feel free to bring a batch of frozen bottles to our Center. Don't know how many to make? Take a dog count from our website, www.knoxpets.org, which is typically updated three times a week. If you bring extra, we'll freeze them for a later date!



Rabbits, They Want To Have Fun...

Each year, the Animal Center shelters approximately 200 rabbits and 100 rodents (mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs). Enrichment is also important for these little guys, and we have found that a happy rabbit or rodent can improve their chances of adoption.

Luckily, it is pretty easy to entertain these animals, and it won't break the bank. Here are some fun projects to make for this fun group of animals.

Hay Tubes

Stuff timothy or other hay into toilet paper, paper towel, or wrapping paper tubes.

Haystacks

Cut a nine inch piece of raffia or natural twine and stretch it out on a table. Lay pieces of hay perpendicular to the hay. Tie raffia in a knot or bow. Entirely edible!

Bunny Baskets

Purchase untreated/painted willow (with or without bark) or wicker baskets. These are easy to find in craft or super stores. Embellish the basket by tying on edibles like raffia, pinecones, fruit tree twigs (no pesticides!), and pieces of dried apple. Put a little hay in the basket, and get ready for fun!



In a creative effort to stem animal cruelty, Wichita, Kansas, a city of 400,000, recently passed a law that limits to one hour the time a dog may be tethered outdoors. Animal control officers will investigate any report of non-compliance from the community, and violators will face a fine up to \$500. www.unchainyourdog.org

Jingle All the Way!



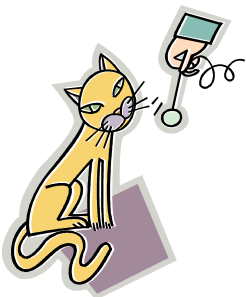
Too often, cats are overlooked by animal shelter visitors. Could it be the loud barking of the dogs that draws people in or the guaranteed enthusiasm of a dog when a treat is offered?

At the Animal Center, we know that cats are people too, so to speak, and we've thought of another easy, toy project that is fun to make and entertaining for the cats.

Use a two foot shoestring, twine, or other durable cord for this project. Tie very large buttons, jingle bells, feathers, pompons, straws, pipe cleaners, and similar items along the length of the string. Leave at least six inches at one end of the string so it can be tied to the cage door or the door handle of a cat colony room.

For even more fun, lay the finished toys in a shoebox and sprinkle them with catnip. Let the toys "marinate" for a couple of hours. The toys will have an extra punch to them, and the shoeboxes will entertain our cats in the larger rooms. Good luck!

One Meow Thing...



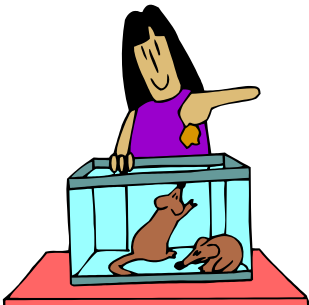
Thanks to our Animal Center friends who have made catnip socks for our kitties. Just a little FYI: we have found that just a little bit of catnip in a tied-off sock seems to entice the cats as well as a sock full of catnip. It also helps you make more toys! This project is an ongoing need for our animals.

Savings!



Recently, the Animal Center received a donation of several coupons for free pet food and cat litter. However, to get the free food, you must buy the product on the coupon. We are asking friends of the Animal Center to stop by our Division Street facility and pick up a few of these coupons. When you buy pet food for yourself, please save the free food for our Center's animals. We also have coupons for scoopable litter, which we don't use. Please help yourself to these and other coupons at our front reception counter. Thanks!

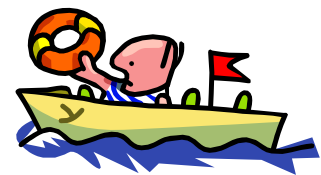
Donations Needed!



1. Two ten gallon aquariums with lids
2. One large bag of corn cob litter
3. Small water bottles and holders for aquariums
4. Gerbil-size exercise wheels
5. Bottle of chinchilla grooming dust
6. Small mammal treats
7. Towels and small blankets

Adoption Fees

With nearly 17,000 animals receiving care at the Animal Center each year, additional revenue was needed to ensure that every animal at the Animal Center receives the very best care available. To do this, we have changed our adoption fees.



Small Mammals

- \$5 for a gerbil, rat, hamster, or mouse
- \$20 for a guinea pig
- \$35 for a rabbit (includes spay/neuter)

Dogs/Cats

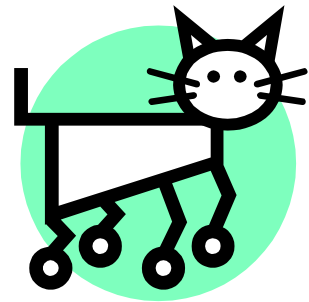
- \$100 for a single cat, kitten, puppy, or dog
- \$170 for two pets (on the same day) and \$60 for each additional pet (on same day)

Adoption Fee Includes:

- Spay/Neuter
- Preliminary health check
- Vaccinations
(except for rabies, which you must get from your vet; pets younger than one year may need additional vaccinations from your vet)
- Treatment for intestinal parasites
- Heartworm test for dogs
- Feline leukemia test for all cats & FIV test for adult cats
(FIV = Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)

- Spot-on flea treatment, good for one month
- Microchip
(all stray animals are screened for chips when they are brought to the Animal Center-it's the identification tag that never falls off!)

*** Adopters must be at least 18 years old**



STORY IDEAS?

If you have an idea for our online newsletter or our printed quarterly newsletter, "The Howl", please email the editor at tslemmer@knoxpets.org.

