



News from the Animal Center

3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 (865) 215-6599 www.knoxpets.org

The Animal Center's Online Newsletter, September 1, 2005



Do you love animals and don't mind doing the clean and dirty work animals require? If so, the Animal Center invites you to join our team!

The Young-Williams Animal Center (YWAC) is the public shelter for the city of Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee. The YWAC has a new 22,000 square foot facility that opened in the spring of 2004, having moved from a temporary facility that had served as the public shelter for three years. In 2004, YWAC housed 15,799 animals, of which 3,582 were adopted or

transferred to the care of rescue groups. YWAC has an annual budget of \$1.2 million and has approximately 40 employees. YWAC was chosen by PetSmart Charities to be one of 21 shelters in the midwest/southeast regions of the United States to provide animals for shelters in Wisconsin and Michigan through their Rescue Waggin' program. As part of the selection process for Rescue Waggin', YWAC was reviewed by the ASPCA who said, "This is an incredible 'must see' shelter for southern areas to visit."

The Animal Center seeks caring, compassionate, and dedicated individuals to be kennel technicians. Duties include, but are not limited to: care and feeding of the animals, kennel cleaning (lots!), record keeping, assisting the public, adoption counseling, and receptionist duties. Technicians may participate when appropriate in administration of vaccinations and medication as directed by the veterinarian. A high school diploma is strongly recommended and a willingness to pursue euthanasia certification is also strongly recommended but may be waived in cases of specialized assignments.

The starting salary is \$7.50/hour with Knox County benefits for full-time employees. To apply, visit the Animal Center at 3201 Division Street.

Hurricane Katrina has devastated many communities, and it's not clear how long it will take for those regions to recover. In addition to families with pets, there are several animal shelters in those areas that need your assistance. Visit www.asPCA.org or www.redcross.org to make donations.



Although East Tennessee was spared Katrina's wrath, the Animal Center is experiencing record-setting animal intake numbers this year. Some days, 80-100 animals arrive at the Animal Center as a stray or a pet surrendered by their owner. The pet overpopulation problem is an ongoing crisis, and we are asking for your help.

How to Help:

Spread the Word

Many of the people you meet each day probably don't know how many homeless pets there actually are. Let them know that 80-100 animals arrive at our Center each day, and that 80-100 adopters do not.

To Breed or Not To Breed

Not. Approximately 25% of animals arriving at animal shelters are purebred, and there are literally thousands of homeless animals in the US. Also, a quick check of www.petfinder.com shows that a person can rescue any type of companion animal. If you wish to add a rat, chinchilla, steer, or snake to your family, someone before you has surrendered theirs pet store or flea market purchase to a rescue group or animal shelter. Adopt a pet and save a life!

Knowledge is Power!

Pet stores are *for-profit* businesses. They buy their stock (animals) from people who are not interested in bettering a breed but rather to make money themselves (www.prisonersofgreed.org). As such, the animals are bred for looks and not health and temperament. Pet store animals are often very expensive and often develop health and behavior problems. We hear so often of a person who "rescued"



an animal from a pet store because the living conditions were inhumane. It's easily understood, but purchasing the animal encourages pet store to maintain those horrible conditions and to keep selling animals. Instead, voice your concerns to the management on site and write a letter to the parent company. You can also report those pet stores to Animal Control. These small efforts can have big results!

Pick Up the Tab

It's thrilling to meet people who report that all of their animals are spayed/neutered! We encourage those friends to pay the surgery fee for someone who can't. There are many low-cost spay/neuter clinics in our area, so this act of kindness doesn't have to break the bank.

The Almighty Dollar

Choose not to shop in businesses that sell animals, support breeding, or profit in any way from the inhumane treatment of animals. If you eliminate the demand, the supply will dwindle. We're the only voice the animals have.



**Pet overpopulation is a fixable problem.
With your help, we'll see its end.**

Although domestic dogs are descended from meat-eating wolves, today's dog are neither carnivores (meat eaters) nor herbivores (plant eaters). Rather, they are classified as omnivores, which means they will eat anything ...and usually do.



Calling All Teachers!

AND PARENTS!

Welcome back to school! Did you know that the Young-Williams Animal Center offers free classroom visits to Knox County schools and hosts students of all ages and from all counties at the main Center in Knoxville?

Please print this newsletter and ask your school-aged child to pass it along to their teacher. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Animal Center's Humane Educator, Taylor Slemmer at tslemmer@knoxpets.org or (865) 215-6661, to inquire about types of programs offered, program length, and projects for students that help shelter animals.



Through the Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper, teachers also have a unique curriculum available to them. *Learning to Save Lives* promotes grade-appropriate academic skills while encouraging the humane treatment of animals and community action. Visit the Programs page at www.knoxnews.com/nie to learn more about award-winning program.

Teacher's Pet



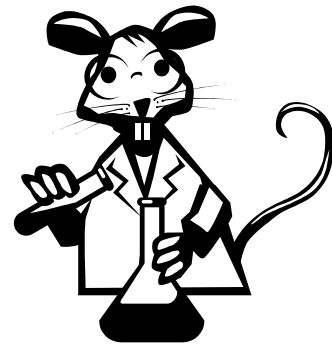
The Animal Center recognizes the value animals bring to our lives and the lesson in care, compassion, and responsibility they can give to children. We have visited several schools where teachers have chosen to incorporate an animal into the class experience.

Before bringing a pet into your class, please consider this:

1. Research companion animals to determine which pet is right for you and your students and if you can provide the necessary care.
2. Realize that ultimately, this classroom pet is the responsibility of the teacher for the lifetime of the animal. Students can be super helpers (feeding, cleaning, making toys), but animals will need a place to go during weekends, holidays, and summer vacations, and they'll need someone to pay for supplies and medical care.
3. Please rescue a pet from a shelter (www.knoxpets.org). What better lesson in responsibility is there than to save the life of a homeless animal?

Small Mammal Did You Know:

1. Syrian hamsters are solitary while dwarf hamsters and gerbils may enjoy living with same-sex littermates.
2. Guinea pigs can live six years and must have timothy hay and vitamin C enriched pellets to eat at all times.
3. Gerbils, dwarf hamsters, and guinea pigs modify their activity pattern to compliment that of their surroundings, while Syrian hamsters are nocturnal.
4. Rabbits don't like to be held, but they like usually like to be petted and fed treats.
5. Rats are smart and clean and like to live in same-sex pairs.
6. Mice live 2 years or so and enjoy salads and fresh fruit in their diet.
7. The Animal Center almost **always** has small mammals to adopt.



For more information about small mammals, visit the Library page of www.petfinder.com.



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.

