







News from the Animal Center

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The Animal Center's Online Newsletter, October 29, 2005

To keep your pets happy and safe this Halloween season:

-  keep them indoors in a quiet room away from boisterous, costumed trick-or-treaters
-  put all candy out of reach of pets; chocolate has toxic compounds that can cause illness or even death
-  resist the urge to dress your pets in costumes; a scared pet may run away and get hurt
-  Never try to rehome an animal with a "free to good home" ad; you can't be certain the home is in fact good, that the animal will be spayed/neutered and receive the care it needs, or that harm will not come to the animal



Keep your pets safe and free from pranks, mischief, or worse this Halloween. They'll love you for it.





New Volunteer Program is Launched!

Next month, the Animal Center will begin training new volunteers to help at our Center. These volunteers have already attended the general orientation and are able to donate at least eight hours each month to our animals. New volunteers will be contacted with training dates, and these dates will be posted on our website when they are scheduled.

If you would like to join the volunteer program, stay tuned to www.knoxpets.org for general orientation dates. If you don't have the time to be an official volunteer, we invite you to visit with our animals anytime!

Promoting Hard-to-Adopt Animals and Safety at Halloween

The most difficult animal to place in a shelter is an adult cat, and more specifically, a black cat. Some have speculated that the combination of an adult animal with a solid color coat is a recipe for invisibility for a shelter animal.

The Animal Center encourages adopters to consider the benefits of adopting an adult animal (great litter box habits, less destructive, more affectionate). We also hope that adopters will see the true beauty of a black cat—their sleek fur, reflecting the sunlight, with subtle tiger stripes often showing through.

There are many black cats looking for homes right now. Kittens, adolescents, adults—we have them all. Please take a look at our fantastic felines. If you fall in love, and we hope you do, we'll ask you to complete your adoption and plan to pick up your new perfect pet on **November 2nd**.

Each year, many animals fall into the hands of people out to do harm. However, black cats are especially at risk this time of year. Thank you for understanding our policy, and thank you for considering an adult pet when you adopt.



Simple Solutions for Shelters



Problem: Cats new to animal shelters can be nervous and scared for weeks, hiding in the back of their kennel.

Answer: Allowing cats to hide helps them relax and acclimate to their new environment. A more relaxed cat is a more adoptable cat.

Needed: *Donate your shoeboxes and other small cardboard boxes as “hidey houses” to our cats not yet on the adoption floor.*

Problem: Scooping litter boxes is very labor intensive and can increase the chance of cross-contamination.

Answer: Providing kittens and cats with a fresh litter box each day compliments the fastidious habits of felines and reduces the risk of spreading any illness.

Needed: *Ask your neighborhood grocery store to put aside their cardboard pallets (used to hold dog food, cans of cola when shipping) so you can bring them to the Center. Also, be sure to save any tops from boxes of copy paper at your office. These donated litter boxes are very absorbent and also economical.*

Another use for cardboard at the Animal Center:

- Break down large boxes and place them in the yellow cardboard dumpster behind our facility. Each time the dumpster is emptied, the animals receive the profits!

Your trash might be our treasure.
Thank you for helping our animals!



Foster Parents Needed!

The Animal Center has a growing foster program, but we are in search for new volunteers who are available to lend a hand with some furry friends.

Animals in foster care receive their veterinary care from the Animal Center, but the foster parent is asked to provide food, litter, and other basic pet supplies for their animals if possible. Although we are never able to guarantee that a particular animal will find a home, fostered animals are typically healthier, better socialized, and make a more smooth transition from the shelter to a new home than animals that have not been in foster care.

Chopper

- Altered shepherd/lab mix.
- Exceptional temperament. Enjoys other dogs.
- Adopted and returned to Center twice, through no fault of his own.
- Needs to learn basic obedience (sit, down, walking on a leash, and maybe how to sleep in a crate).
- **Estimated Time In Foster Care: 2-3 weeks**



Katie & Family

- Katie: Calico mommy cat with five six-week old kittens
- She has tested negative for FIV/FelV and is very affectionate
- Estimated Time in Foster Care:
 - Katie: **2 weeks**
-to wean the kittens and gain weight
 - Kittens: **4-6 weeks or until they weigh at least two lbs.**
-kittens will return to the Animal Center for regular check-ups, vaccinations, and deworming

Puppies

- 11 lab/rottie mix puppies are ready to leave their mommy in preparation for adoption
- They must enter foster care with at least one other sibling
- They will return to the Center for regular check-ups, vaccinations, and deworming
- **Estimated Time in Foster Care: 3 weeks**

If you can foster any of these animals, please contact Taylor Slemmer at tslemmer@knoxpets.org or (865) 215-6661.

It's a fact!



The best age to spay/neuter an animal is not dependant on an animal's age but rather on its weight. Animals must weigh enough to tolerate the anesthesia used during surgery. Younger animals recover more quickly than older animals. Pediatric spay/neuter is better for everyone.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Hotline!

974-6464

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