



Pet Tales



FALL & WINTER

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH IOWA

2003-2004

DEAR FRIENDS,

This is the twenty-first edition of Pet Tales. The Humane Society of North Iowa wants to continue to inform you about our organization and animal issues in general.

As the Iowa days get shorter and colder we take time to review the activities of this year. The HSNI once again helped the Dog Agility group when they held their event in June. The weather was not the best but the dogs did not seem to mind. The event lasted two days. In August, the society had a picnic for volunteers. It was a small gathering to show our appreciation and an opportunity to just get together. Next year's will hopefully be all the bigger. We have just completed our candy bars sales in October. I would like to thank everyone who took on the extra calories to help us out! Every little bit helps.

We have been meeting with the city of Mason City throughout the year. The meetings, held at the city hall twice each month, are helping both groups work on the future of animal care in the community. There is the possibility we could have a building housing both the Humane Society and the City facilities. This has the potential of saving operational expenses. Nothing has been finalized. The group is looking into different areas where a facility could be built. If you might know where a tract of land could be available for donation or sale, please contact Mary Arndt at 424-9150.



Again, one of our biggest events of the year was the 4th Annual Fall Festival held Sunday, September 14th at the National Guard Armory. We were blessed with good weather and a large crowd. Some continuing areas provided were: shelter animal visits, silent auction, bake sale, and concession stand. In addition, we had kids games and horse rides provided by Northern Wind Stables. Craig Markham, "the dog whisperer", came to share some techniques and answer questions. Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Carroll and his K9 Deputy Nato also pleased the crowd with a

demonstration. The day's event helped raise over \$6500. We are grateful to all the volunteers and community businesses in helping us help the cats and dogs.

We are currently working on our Spay and Neuter Program. Through grants we received this year we are in the process of helping 70 cats and dogs have surgeries. By the look of the responses we are receiving, this grant program is also helping some animals get annual inoculations while they visit the veterinarian. We are continuing to ask for grants. Next year we are hopeful that 200 pets can be helped.

Mary Arndt, President

We Remember . . .

The Humane Society of North Iowa was saddened to learn of the death of LaVonne Knoke. LaVonne capably served as office

manager of the Pet Adoption Center from 1992 till 1997.



She efficiently handled schedules and forms, greeted and assisted clients, and compassionately cared for the animals. Dogs were LaVonne's special love. She and husband LaVern brought many selected and stray dogs into their home. They were not pets. They were family members. At the time of her passing a toy breed named Spot was her special favorite. Adopted from the pet Adoption Center, Spot responded to LaVonne with dedication and love. Lately she enjoyed golf, mowing and outdoor activities. The First Congregational Church was dear to LaVonne as well. The H.S.N.I. extends to LaVern and son Bill and family our deep sympathy.

Remember to mark your calendars for next year's Fall Festival, tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2004

Small pets, like rabbits, hamsters, mice, rats, guinea pigs, and gerbils, need attention, also. Offer them variety in their diets. Supply fresh water daily. Clean bedding, stimulating toys, and a roomy habitat are a must.

Animal Actors

"Lassie". "The Incredible Journey". "Jumanji". The human actors in these films have legal contracts protecting their rights. What about the animal actors? In 1980 the American Humane Association's Film and Television Unit secured the rights to protect these animals through a contract with the Screen Actors Guild. After a film is completed the Association rates accordingly.

- Acceptable - AHA supervised animal action. Scenes appearing to abuse animals were simulated.
- Believed Acceptable - Although no AHA representative was present, script review and set/company consultation leads to the conclusion that animals were treated humanely.
- Questionable - While no animals were harmed intentionally during filming, some questionable practices were used.
- Unknown - AHA was not on the set nor able to acquire substantial information about animal treatment.
- Unacceptable - Animals were deliberately treated cruelly.

Only productions deemed Acceptable may display the AHA disclaimer in the ending credits. Go to www.ahafilm.org before you buy that ticket!

We are working on an outdoor dog event for the spring. If you have an idea or would like to help, please give Mary Arndt a call at 424-9150

Toasty Tips to Keep your Dog Warm All Winter

Winter will soon be upon us. Just as with people, some dogs love a romp in the snow, while others are much happier snuggled inside somewhere.

There are important things to remember about winter care, no matter where your dog lives or how he like winter.

If your dog lives outside:

- Get him gradually acclimated to the weather.
- Provide shelter - insulated doghouses with loose bedding are best.
- Make sure water is always available - dogs can not get adequate liquid from licking ice or snow. Purchase a heated water bowl or change the water frequently before it has a chance to freeze.
- Rinse any rock salt or debris off paws.
- Watch for frostbite. Check thinner areas of the body such as ear flaps, tail and between the footpad for areas that appear dark or black due to lack of blood.
- Watch for hypothermia. Symptoms include: diminished consciousness, slow or infrequent breathing, dilated pupils, delayed reflexes and shivering.
- If it gets really cold, consider allowing your dog in your garage or house.

If your dog lives inside:

- Bundle him up when you go out.
- Clear a path for him to relieve himself or paper train him for staying inside.
- Keep the heat up in the house and watch for drafty areas.
- Don't overheat those canine companions. Don't use electric blankets and watch your pets around space heaters.
- Keep your dog dry and never take him outside if he is even slightly damp.
- Keep your dog well-groomed - a well-groomed coat provides better insulation.

Winter can be a challenge, but with some simple accommodations, it can be fun for that canine and his master.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

What could be the cause of that irritating barking? And how do the neighbors feel about it?

Your dog may bark because:

- He is guarding territory.
- He misses you.
- He's bored.
- You have reinforced that barking (by mistake).
- He is afraid or hears strange noises.
- He's just excitable and high-strung.
- He's just in the habit of barking.
- He just loves to bark.

If your dog's barking habits are bothering you, first check with your vet to make sure there is no medical problem. Then, try to pinpoint what the reason might be. Sometimes owners mistakenly reinforce dog's barking. For example, if your pet starts barking because he is bored, and you give him attention, then he will bark again to get your attention. If your dog is high-stung, it might feel safer to him if he stays indoors most of the time. If your dog simply loves to bark, go outside with him and correct him when he barks inappropriately with such things as a squirt of water from a squirt gun, shaking a can full of pennies at him, or a strong vocal reprimand. There are special collars that you can use to help with this barking - some give a mild shock, some emit a loud noise, and others give a spray of citronella. It is important to work at keeping peace in your neighborhood, so be consistent with your training and treatment of your canine companion and be open to suggestions from your neighbors.

Spay and Neuter Success

The Humane Society of North Iowa is pleased to report the success of the Spay and Neuter Program promoted last summer. Because altered pets are healthier and happier animals who do not contribute to pet overpopulation, fund and grant monies were solicited to support the effort. Responding were:

- Muse Norris Foundation
- Bertha Stebens Foundation
- First Citizens Bank
- Thrivent Financial
- Dorothy Curtis Trust

Over 70 certificates to help with the cost of spaying or neutering a pet were issued. The certificates may not have covered the entire cost, yet responsible owners stepped forward to assume the remaining bill. The HSNI wishes to thank the generous donors, participating veterinarians, and caring pet owners for assisting with the project. As soon as more funds are available, a notice will be published in the Globe Gazette to alert more pet owners who may wish to take advantage of the program.

Be proactive. Let your governmental representatives know you are against elephant ivory and snow leopard skins for importation. Speak up for those who have no voice.

Remembering Our Responsibilities

Millions of types of animals co-habit the earth with humans. We alone, though, have the power and responsibility of caring for all. Even without a pet we can do our part.

Take it easy with yard pesticides.

Plant backyard vegetation.

Support companies that care.
Buy cruelty free cosmetics and biodegradable household products.

**Volunteer!
HSNI?
Lime Creek?**

**DON'T FEED WILD ANIMALS.
IF YOU MUST, MAKE SURE
IT'S CONTINUOUS BECAUSE
THEY BECOME DEPENDENT.**

Keep garbage cans closed.

**Recycle!
Reuse!**

Don't litter.
Cut can or bottle packaging rings so they won't endanger birds.

Walk. Cut back on driving.
Air pollution is bad for everyone.

**Only watch movies supported by the
AHA.**

Memorials Honoring Loved Ones

- Clear Lake Bank & Trust in memory of Gerald (Pete) Back
 Allan & Betty Wind in memory of Juliet Whitney Bainter
 Gene & Julie Montgomery in memory of Pete Back
 Louis & Mildred Schuler in memory of Juliet Bainter
 Lani Cook in memory of Juliet Bainter
 Dennis & Cheryl Lura in memory of Jarjoie Mack & Robert Roegner
 Robert & Virginia Ingersoll in memory of Juliet Bainter
 Marilyn Wallace in memory of Ralph R. Wallace
 Lois Knudson, Denece Knudson & Laurie Coe & Family in memory of Harold "Skip" Ames
 Connie Knudson in memory of Harold "Skip" Ames
 Teri Reed in memory of Harold "Skip" Ames
 Joan Olson in memory of Martin J. Olson
 Wallace & Jean Fiala in memory of Helen P. Martin
 Larry & Judie Lightbody in memory of Virginia Beale and her cat "Kitty"
 Kathy Hentges in memory of Paul Meleney

Pet Memorials

- Dixie Howell in memory of Toby Cat
 Henry & Amelia Stolz in memory of Spike
 Linda Bowcock in memory of Daffy
 Teri Reed in memory of Krystee Schriver (Gary Shriver's retired leader dog)
 Bonita Ames in memory of Zorka, beloved pet of Suzy Carmany

Honoring

- Eric Kerkove in honor of Kayla Johnson
 Dixie Howell in honor of Molly the cat
 Henry & Amelia Stolz in honor of Zoey
 Case Management in honor of Nancy Halford
 Marjorie Sutton in honor of Kathy Wild

Anyone wishing to honor a loved one or a special pet may mail the memorial or honorarium donation to the Humane Society of North Iowa with an informative note.

Purr-fect Sense

Every car owner wants to keep their car in perfect running condition. Right now winter tune-ups are being conducted. An ounce of prevention today prevents problems at -10° F. The same applies to keeping our bodies in shape. We visit the doctor for a yearly physical and tests. Doesn't it then make purr-fect sense to do the same for your cat? What preventative strategies apply?

1. Keep your cat indoors. Indoor cats live far longer than those allowed to come into contact with outside dangers. Outside animals have a higher risk for disease, injury, theft, and suffering.

2. Visit your veterinarian. Besides administering standard vaccinations, your cat is checked for dental, eye and ear problems. They are felt for lumps. Weight is monitored.

3. Feed a balanced diet. Use name brand foods for cats that are formulated for particular needs.

4. Spay or neuter your cat. Besides responsibly lowering the pet overpopulation problem, you're keeping your cat more social and healthier. Male spraying is reduced and the estrus cycle in females is eliminated. Also, spayed cats have a reduced chance for breast cancer.

5. Protect your cat from harmful substances. Curious cats can get into mischief. "Petproof" your home. Poisonous plants (like philodendron and dieffenbachia) should be avoided. Chemicals and medicines should be out of reach. Choose appropriate toys. String, yarn, and tinsel can kill! Opt for a ball.

6. Monitor the litter box. As you clean the litter box check stools for consistency, color, and firmness. A change in bowel habits may indicate parasites or other health concerns.



Paws Off

Destructive clawing can become an annoying problem for cat owners who choose not to declaw. First, understand why the pet is clawing. It is probably related to anxiety or the need to mark territory. By rubbing you or household items with its head or pawpads, your cat is adding more of its natural anti-anxiety scent to its surroundings. Cats have glands in their paws that spread this scent. Thus, they paw or mark the furniture you frequent. They love you! But you don't love the clawing! What to do?

First try to reduce the cat's anxiety level. Spend even 15 minutes more a day in play or socialization. Introduce new pets slowly, concentrating on attending to the established cat.

Secondly, restrict access to the clawed furniture while you are away from home or sleeping.

Thirdly, provide a scratching post near the clawed item with treats placed around it for motivation. Verbally praise the cat while it scratches. Move the post gradually away from the furniture to where you want it.

Next, if you catch your cat clawing, do not hit it. A loud "off!" with a hand clap or a squirt of water from a spray bottle is more effective.

Lastly, you might toss a sheet, towel or blanket over the scratched furniture. Double-sided sticky tape or tinfoil can be a deterrent.

Be consistent! Be patient! Be kind!



HSNI on-line

www.hsni.org

Pets Are Not Presents

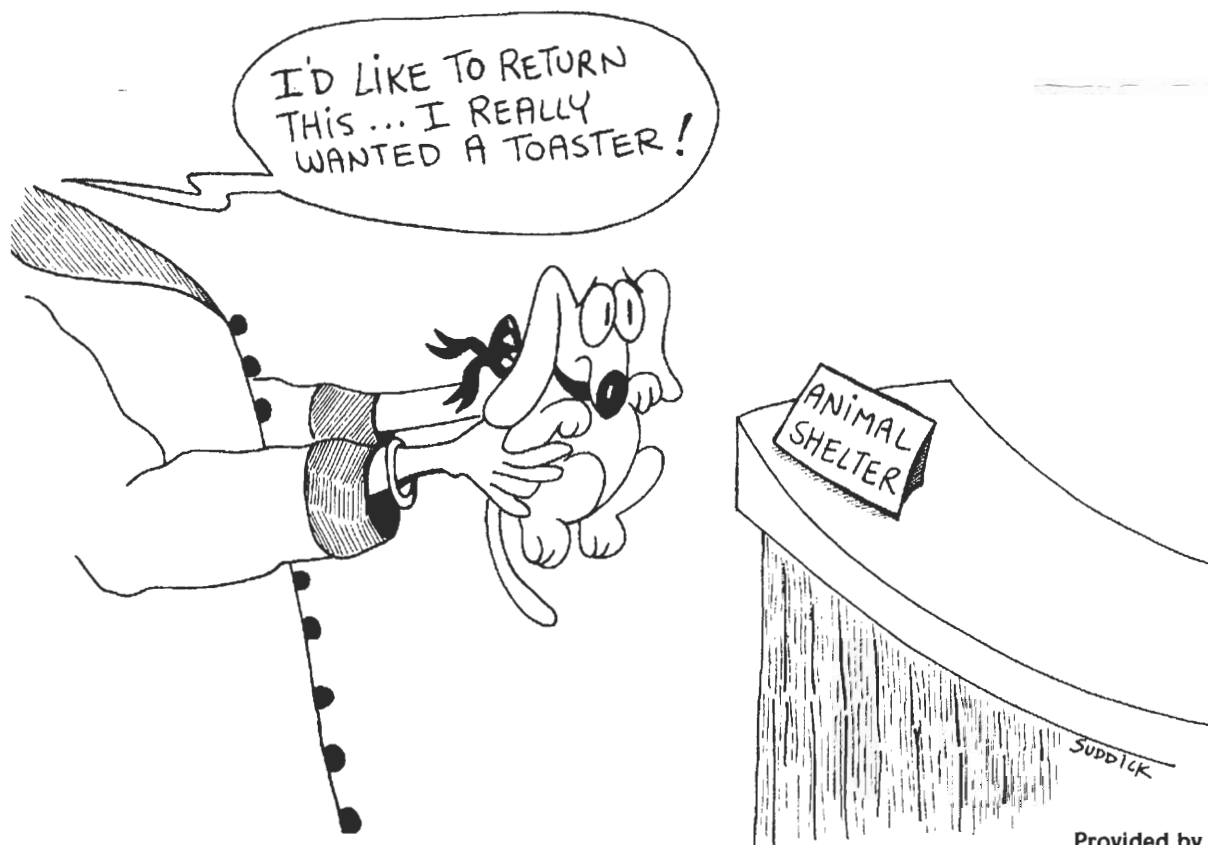
It's the holidays, and you may be imagining the look of utter joy on your children's faces when they receive a puppy or kitten as a gift. But here's the real surprise—the novelty usually wears off within days—if not hours—and you will find yourself caring for a new pet during the busiest time of year (and likely for the next ten years as well).

Giving a pet to an adult also has its problems. They often do not want the responsibility or have time for a new pet, which is why they haven't chosen one for themselves.

And these "presents" can't easily be exchanged. After the holiday season, every animal shelter gets their fill of these well-intended but unwanted "gifts."

Let's face it. Would you want someone picking out a roommate for you? Wouldn't you want your new family member to fit *your* personality and lifestyle, rather than the gift-giver's?

So instead of actually giving a pet, why not wrap a stuffed animal and a box filled with needed pet supplies—leashes, toys, dishes—along with a gift certificate for the adoption of a pet from a nearby shelter. This way you give the fun of something to open, as well as the gift of choosing a new special friend.



HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH IOWA

1520 N. Federal, Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 423-6241
www.hsni.org

Provided by
**AMERICAN
HUMANE
ASSOCIATION**
63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, CO 80112

WISH LIST

If you wish to donate please call the shelter first to determine current needs. Thank You!

- ✓ Plain paper Fax - in working condition
- ✓ Cat Litter
- ✓ Dry Kitten Food - Iams, Purina, Science Diet, or Max
- ✓ Canned Kitten Food Iams
- ✓ Revolution for kittens and cats
- ✓ Science Diet Sensitive Stomach Cat Food
- ✓ Dry Weight Loss Food for Cats and Dogs
- ✓ Dry Puppy Food - Iams, Purina, Science Diet, or Nutro
- ✓ Science Diet Z/D for Dogs
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Bleach
- ✓ Cotton Balls
- ✓ Q-Tips
- ✓ 16x25 Furnace Filters
- ✓ Cleaning Solutions-PineSol, Windex, Pledge
- ✓ Please bring in the weight circles from Purina Brand Dog Food and Puppy Foods. We earn points for free merchandise for our shelter.



Group Name

Humane Society of North Iowa

Fund Raising Days Designated:

Checker Please ✓ the box for date used

Thurs. Nov. 20, 2003

Fri. Nov. 21, 2003

Sat. Nov. 22 2003

Sun. Nov. 23, 2003

Signature of Card Bearer

Final Purchase Total: _____

Cashiers Initial: _____

Thank you for helping us help our community!

HY-VEE EAST • 424-9741
HY-VEE WEST • 424-2605
DRUGTOWN • 424-4181
MASON CITY, IOWA

By simply using this card when purchasing groceries on one of the above dates, you can do your part in helping to raise money for your organization. Your Mason City Hy-Vee stores will donate back 5% of the total purchases made during this fundraiser.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

100% Participation Generates More Funds For Your Organization!

Yes!

I understand that the Humane Society of North Iowa is dependent upon support from the people of the North Iowa Area for its continued success. I'd like to help support the Humane Society of North Iowa and the animals the Humane Society has for adoption.

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to: Humane Society of North Iowa, 1520 N. Federal, Mason City, IA 50401)

Your Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____

I'm interested in volunteering at the Humane Society of North Iowa. Please have someone contact me at the above address or phone with more information.