



MAKING

ANIMAL CONNECTIONS

Volume 2 Issue 1

www.FairfieldCountyCARES.org

A FREE animal resource and referral service for Fairfield County and Central Ohio

Spring 2010

Fairfield County CARES, Inc.

Citizens for Animal Rights and Ethical Standards

A New Pet in the Family

By Colette Yates

When bringing a new dog or cat into a household with other family pets, one of the most important things you can do to ensure a smooth transition is to introduce them properly. Many owners make the mistake of plopping their new pet down in front of their current pet and expecting them to get along. By taking the time to properly introduce them you can help ensure a harmonious household in the future.

(See NEW PET Page 3)



A proper introduction of a new pet to other family pets is an important step for harmony.

QUICK PET TIPS:

Be patient with new pets

Reduce health risks with ticks, fleas and mosquitoes

Get pets heartworm checked and treated

Ivermectin can be fatal

Put ID on dogs and cats

WARNING: Ticks, Fleas & Mosquitoes pose pet risks

With warm weather come beautiful spring flowers and sunny days. The nice weather also brings the threat of ticks, fleas and mosquitoes. These pests put both humans and pets at risk for disease. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention advises humans to limit exposure to reduce the risk of infection. The CDC offers precautions to protect yourself including wearing light-colored clothing to spot ticks easily and to tuck pants legs into socks. Repellents are also advisable. For pets, see your veterinarian. Many pet products are available but use caution in buying these items over-the-counter. For example, experts advise **not to use a flea and tick product for dogs on cats**. This can be fatal to cats. Mosquitoes carry diseases as well. Heartworm can affect both cats and dogs. It's advised a blood test be done on a pet before using any heartworm treatment. This, too, can have serious consequences if the pet has heartworm.

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Coyotes: Have you seen or heard one?

Maybe you've seen one running across a field or heard their yapping howls off in the distance, coyotes are mysterious creatures. They are clever, cunning, adaptable, and at home in many communities across America. They live in both urban and rural settings. Coyotes are not native to Ohio but are now found in all 88 counties. Monitor small pets and never leave dogs tethered or tied unattended outside. Dealing with coyotes starts by understanding them. Learn why coyotes are here as well as what you & the community can do to stay safe. Look for good resources on our website plus free downloadable coyote materials.



Coyotes in our community. Watch and listen.

www.FairfieldCountyCARES.org

Fairfield County CARES

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Building Compassionate Communities
from the Bottom Up ↑

Matchmaking



Janice Kobi, President,
Fairfield County CARES

As our group of volunteers and programs grow, we are working to match those who *offer help* to those who *need help*. There are so many ways people can participate. For instance, maybe you can make phone calls, offer foster care for a pet, set up a fundraiser/program, offer dog training, drop off/pick up donations, distribute our newsletter or transport a pet to a vet. Local animal rescue groups need help as well. We'll assist by matching volunteers with an animal rescue group.

CARES has two new programs we started this year. First, our *CARES 2010 "Search & Rescue" Mission* kicked off in January following the earthquake in Haiti. Local groups and individuals wanted to help. As families in our area struggle, we offer our free services to match folks in need with folks who want to give. Simply call I & R at **2-1-1** for help.

Our other new program is just getting started. Look for our *CARES Find-A-Pet notebooks* coming soon. (see below)

We again thank our community friends for helping with our *Share with CARES* pet food program. We appreciate the generous support from the community. A special thanks to Pet Supply Plus, Carnival Foods, Morris Vet Clinic, Fifth-Third Bank, Fairfield Pet Clinic, Feeder Creek Vets and the Fairfield County District Library for their ongoing efforts to collect pet food. Many donations we collect come from owners of pets that passed away. Please know your donations are appreciated. Thanks to those who also give financial gifts. Your donations helped us expand and assist more families. We've provided emergency pet food for some who do not qualify for assistance through the food pantries or Meals on Wheels. We take requests on an individual basis. Please continue to give and let us match you with someone in need.

**SHARE WITH CARES
 PET FOOD DRIVE**

Proceeds go to local Food Pantries & Meals On Wheels

Donate Bagged or Canned Pet Food, Kitty Litter, etc.

Cash donations are also welcomed.

Please call if your pet needs help.



PO Box 844
Lancaster, Oh. 43130
Call **740-687-0500**
for Information and Referral
of Fairfield County



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The Woman who Made My Day

By Emily Matusek

Last week I had such a nice happening that I had to share it – especially with all the people who are so great in donating food and funds to purchase pet food for those in need. I help pick up the pet food at various collection points in Lancaster, and then deliver it to the food pantries. I don't see or meet any of the people who are receiving the food for their pets since that is all handled through the food pantries. The people there know those who are in need.

This day was a little different, though. I was driving to one of the food pantries when I noticed an older lady walking slowing down the sidewalk. When I got to the pantry and was helping to unload the food I saw that she had arrived there, too. She immediately noticed my two dogs in the car (they always have to travel with me unless it is too hot.) She commented that they were so nice – and then I asked her if she had a pet. She told me that she had had a little dog, too, but that he had died recently. She said she did, however, have her elderly cat. She remarked that she was so happy she still had her cat because she was such good company. "I don't know what I'd do without her," was her comment. I then told her that I had just helped deliver some cat food to the pantry and if she was in need of a little help with pet food just to let them know when she got her food. She was so happy – she didn't realize there was pet food, too. "That will help so much," she said.

I left then but later saw her walking down the sidewalk again – with a little bag of cat food in her basket. That just made my day, and I hope it made that old cat's day, too!!

Coming Soon – CARES "Find-A-Pet" Notebooks

Beginning this month, we will be compiling several notebooks containing animals available for adoption in Fairfield County and Central Ohio. Look for our "**Find-A-Pet**" notebooks in select businesses around Fairfield County. Find that perfect pet as you flip through these pages. Work with local animal rescues and shelters. You're bound to find a special friend. Most rescues and good shelters offer advice and assistance once you adopt a pet. We welcome volunteers to help us in collecting and maintaining these notebooks. Go online to our website to find many of the local animal rescue and shelter websites listed in our resource section. If you have a dog that needs a new home, please consider contacting a rescue or email us before taking the dog to a kill-shelter. We can direct you to a dog rescue group or alternative services. **~OPT-TO-ADOPT~**

Find-A-Pet Pages



Find-A-Pet Pages coming soon

Animal Health— Ask A Pet-Vet

As we come into the season of ticks, fleas and mosquitoes, Dr. Steven DeBruin and the vets at Feeder Creek Veterinary Services located at 12575 Millersport Rd. N.E. in Millersport want to help. Prevention is key in dealing with diseases spread by these insects. It's important to get your dogs up on all vaccines including rabies. The rabies virus affects mammals (including humans). You will be provided a rabies tag and encouraged to promptly put it on your dog's collar along with your dog's license tag. Diseases spread by ticks include Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Mosquitoes can transmit heartworm to your dog and affect some cats. Monthly prevention is advised.

According to the American Heartworm Society, "The peak months for heartworm transmission in the Northern Hemisphere is usually July and August..." It's best to have a blood test before starting treatment.

You can contact Dr. DeBruin and the other medical staff at Feeder Creek by calling 740-467-2949. They will gladly offer guidance in dealing with these pet issues to keep your pet healthy and happy.

For more pet health tips go online to the AVMA website:

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/disease_risks_dogs/protection.asp

Did you know...Ivermectin is a medicine used for dogs to treat a variety of medical conditions and can be fatal to dogs with genetic sensitivity? Collies, Shetland Sheepdogs and Old English Sheepdogs are at risk. Genetic sensitivities are seen in individuals outside of these breeds as well. Do some research and ask your vet about this before any treatments on your pet.

Need a low-cost spay or neuter for your cat or dog?

Contact Anne with ***There's No Place Like Home***

Call now. Limited spaces available.



Dogs up to 50 lbs. only

740-385-8772



Kids Who CARE



Kids & pets go together

Ideas to share:

- * Have child read to a pet
- * Make a pet scrapbook
- * Write a pet story together

Want your pet featured in our next issue? Send us your pet stories and photos.

Kids and Pets

There are so many wonderful ways to educate children with a family pet. In addition, research shows babies raised in a home with a dog can reduce their risk of having pet allergies. According to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), "A child who learns to care for an animal, and treat it kindly and patiently, may get invaluable training in learning to treat people the same way. Careless treatment of animals is unhealthy for both the pet and the child involved." Parents play an important role in selecting the right pet, monitoring care and treatment of pets, and serve as role models. Think safety first for the child and the pet. Never select an aggressive pet. Do some research and use common sense in taking on a pet.

In Memoriam



Zeke, the dog trapped in a drainage pipe on Thanksgiving 2008, made national news for the collective efforts to rescue him in Ohio, passed away in January.



In our last CARES newsletter a story about **Cisca**, a rescued German Shepherd, was featured. One of her family members, Nya Feinstein, wrote about her special Christmas day hike with Cisca. It is very sad to report that Cisca passed away in March.

Our best to the families of these pets.

"Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives."

John Galsworthy

(NEW PET continued)

It is best to introduce a new dog to your current dog(s) in a neutral area, each handled by a separate person. A neutral area is a space unfamiliar to your current dog(s), such as a park or a friend's home. If you are introducing the new dog to more than one dog it is better to introduce them one at a time. Pay special attention to their body language during this introduction. Separate them and seek professional help if either shows signs of aggression.

It is important to make the introduction a positive experience. This can be done by feeding the dogs a favorite treat or taking them on a walk together. Only after they have had a chance to sniff each other, and seem comfortable with or indifferent towards each other, should you take them home together. At home, make an effort to give your current dog(s) extra attention, and continue to build positive associations between them with special treats and walks.

When introducing a new cat into your household, keep the new cat in a separate room for the first two weeks they are in your home. During this two-week period place a bed or blanket that your current cat(s) spend a lot of time on in the room with the new cat. Additionally, gently rub the new cat with a towel or take bedding it has been using, and put it with your current cat(s). Lastly, dampen two washcloths and gently wipe your new cat with one and your current cat(s) with the other. Then wipe each cat with the other's washcloth, transferring each cat's scent onto the other. By doing these things you will familiarize the cats with each other's smell. On the last day of the two week period put your cat(s) in the room that the new cat occupied and let them investigate. At the same time, let the new cat explore the rest of the home. On the 15th day open the door to the room at a time when you are able to supervise their first meeting. If the cats are aggressive towards each other separate them immediately and seek professional help.

Dogs like this enter our pounds and shelters daily



Many are lost, scared and confused.
Many deemed aggressive are destroyed.
Given time... many are lovers at heart.

Help us save more.

Do your part. Get your dog license tags.
Don't hesitate...**put tags on your dog.**
With a tag, by law, are held for 14 days.
Without a tag on ...only 3 days.
ID tags help your pet find it's way home.

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Calendar of Events

APRIL

18— Whiskers Family Fun Day

MAY

13— Town & Country - Stan Robinson

2-8— *Be Kind to Animals & Nat'l Pet Week*

JUNE—Adopt-A-Cat Month

****Youth programs and fundraisers ****

Watch for them to be announced

JULY

4th of July parades (watch for us)



Animals Heroes



Do you know someone who lives or works in Fairfield County or Central Ohio who has done something special for animals?

Nominate them for an "I CARE" Award.

Fairfield County CARES Survey Questionnaire

What animal issues matter to you?

1. Animal health & wellness
2. Businesses and careers in animal fields
3. Dog training courses
4. Low-cost spay & neuter services
5. Pet services (doggie daycare & pet-sitting)
6. Provide programs on (feral cats, puppy mills,...)
7. Setting up a dog park or No-kill shelter
8. Understanding Ohio animal laws and regulations
9. Wildlife programs (coyotes, laws & regulations)
10. Other animal-related ideas and interests

Go online, email or mail us your suggestions.

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Become a member.

Make a donation.

Volunteer

Fairfield County CARES



**Building Compassionate
Communities from the
Bottom Up
by fostering loving
relationships between
humans and animals.**