



Paw Prints

Issue 3

The Delaware Office of Animal Welfare Newsletter

Spring 2015

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QUOTE OF NOTE

"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."

- Abraham Lincoln



THE DELAWARE OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

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A Moment's Paws ...

By Hetti Brown
Executive Director

The Office of Animal Welfare, one of few such agencies in the country, is innovative in that the office was placed under the umbrella of Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health. Delaware recognizes the health and social impacts pets have on people — animal welfare is a social welfare issue.



Anyone who has worked in the field of animal protection can provide examples of why this recognition is important. My personal experience brought me into contact with people who refused to leave their dangerous, flooded homes after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, because they would not abandon their pets to seek safety. In another instance, a man experiencing homelessness lived with his pets in an abandoned building during the bitter cold of winter. He declined offers to move into a warm shelter when he learned that they would not accept the animals he loved so much. Of course, our experiences aren't always so dramatic. In this field we see examples every day of people who care, or seek care for their

pets, even when they will not ask for help for themselves.

At the Office of Animal Welfare we celebrate and promote the human-animal bond, and recognize it as an important social relationship. Before you can achieve a healthy community, you must have healthy families. Since the majority of homes in the United States have pets, we consider the pet as part of the family unit - and seek to understand the needs of the unit as a whole. Examples of these families include the man who lived in the abandoned building and fed his pets with food he received from the local food bank, even though it meant going without food himself. And the woman who stayed in her flooded home, experiencing severe asthma symptoms due to mold, but who believed that being separated from her pet would be worse.

In this issue of *Paw Prints*, we provide other examples of the community impact of pets and how our office is developing services in recognition of the human-animal bond. In Delaware we celebrate and recognize the complex relationship between people and their pets. The Office of Animal Welfare believes it is an essential component in developing social welfare programs and services that create and maintain healthy families in healthy communities.

Bill would to protect animals left in hot cars

The Office of Animal Welfare previously outlined how dangerous a car can be for a pet, even when temperatures are not extreme. We urge pet owners to leave animals at home if they cannot stay with them at all times. Read the full article: <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/oaw/files/oawpawprints201408.pdf>.

We are happy to announce Sen. Karen Peterson (D-Stanton) and other compassionate Delaware legislators have furthered this issue by introducing legislation to protect animals left in cars. Senate Bill 22 prohibits leaving animals inside a parked car when the temperatures are too high or too low to be safe. The bill allows first responders, including law enforcement officers, animal control officers, and firefighters to rescue an animal left inside a vehicle under conditions that are likely to cause suffering, injury, or death. The full bill is available at [http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/SB+22/\\$file/legis.html?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis148.nsf/vwLegislation/SB+22/$file/legis.html?open).



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Office of Animal Welfare

Spring off on the right paw with your dog

By Mark Tobin

Animal Welfare Enforcement Officer

The spring brings sunshine, warmer temperatures, spring cleaning projects, and more outside fun with your pets. Proper preparation will help you and your dog get out of the house and take that long walk in the park. Below is a list of tips to get you started on the right paw.

Backyard safety

Check your fences for damage that could enable your pet to escape, and check the lawn for any big holes that could hurt your pet when they run. If you treat your lawn, only use animal-safe chemicals and pay attention to instructions for pet exposure.

Before and after walks

Check your dog's collars and leashes to make sure they are in proper working order. Slowly increase your walks with your pets. Gradually increase distance to help your pet get used to the walk. Try not to feed your dog right before or after a long walk. Also, don't put large bowls of water out after a long walk. Too much food or water after a long walk can lead to a dangerous condition called bloat.

Health considerations

Schedule an appointment with a veterinarian to make sure your dog is healthy for spring activities and that all of his vaccinations are current.

Your veterinarian can also prescribe heartworm prevention medication. Heartworms are a parasite spread by mosquitoes and can be deadly if contracted by your dog.

Dog license renewals

It's the law

Delaware law requires that your dog be licensed. For dog license applications and costs, go to the appropriate website below:

New Castle County:

<http://nccde.org/705/Dog-Licenses>

Wilmington:

www.ci.wilmington.de.us/residents/animals

Kent County:

www.co.kent.de.us/dog-licensing.aspx

Sussex County:

www.sussexcountyde.gov/purchase-license

Luckily, heartworms are easily prevented with a simple treat each month. Mark your calendar for an easy reminder of when to give the medication.

Fleas and ticks are not only a nuisance to you and your pet, but they carry dangerous diseases, too. Have the appropriate flea and tick prevention medication on hand and apply these treatments to help protect your animals.

Have your dogs groomed regularly to help them to stay cool in warmer temperatures.



Adoptable Pet Spotlight

NAME: Dorito

RESCUE: Purrfect Haven Cat Rescue, Dover

Dorito came to Purrfect Haven Cat Rescue as a kitten with multiple injuries, including a broken leg, broken shoulder, and broken vertebrae in his back. Thanks to

Purrfect Haven, he received life-saving surgery and is ready for his new "furrever" home.

Dorito is extremely active, playful, inquisitive, and affectionate. He is well socialized to other animals and

people. He absolutely loves to be held, carried around and loves to snuggle at night. Due to his injuries, he will need to stay on supplements for healthy joints. Because Dorito is very social, he would do best in a home with another age-appropriate and friendly cat.

Dorito also comes with a medical scholarship that will cover all annual preventative exams and vaccines for the remainder of the cat's life. In addition, Dorito's adoption fee is only \$5.

For more information or to inquire about Dorito, go to the Purrfect Haven Petfinder website at www.petfinder.com/shelters/DE46.html or call 302-786-2219.

State Spay Day gives 130 cats, dogs a free “fix”

By Shauna McVey

Program Coordinator

Flo still had sleepy eyes as she wagged her tail for visitors to Four Paws Animal Hospital in Bridgeville on Jan. 14, 2015. The pit bull-type dog underwent a sterilization surgery earlier that day as part of the Office of Animal Welfare's State Spay Day. A portion of the Animal Welfare License Plate Fund provided 105 cats and 25 dogs with free spay and neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations at seven locations in Delaware.



Flo wakes up after surgery during State Spay Day on Jan. 14. Photo—Shauna McVey

Judy Evans of Blades, Delaware had two male cats neutered during the Spay Day at Four Paws Animal Hospital, owned and operated by Dr. Mike Metzler. Two male cats came to her doorstep the previous month and she knew they needed to be “fixed” as soon as possible, but money was tight.

“This program made it possible,” Evans said. “Any time a cat shows up at my house, I get them fixed.

There are quite a few folks who start feeding kitties, then [they become] theirs, they have to get them fixed and they can't afford to.”

Limited appointments were available on a first-come, first-served basis, and were quickly filled.

The State Spay Day was held in coordination with the launch of the new Animal Welfare License Plate, which was redesigned through a statewide contest last summer. Wilmington Illustrator Andy Lendway created the winning design, which features a dog and cat touching noses against a light yellow background with paw prints.

Of every \$50 license plate purchase through the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles, \$35 goes to the fund to provide



Dr. Marjorie Metlitz examines a cat prior to sterilization surgery at the Delaware Humane Association as part of the State Spay Day. Photo—Shauna McVey

services for homeless cats and dogs.

Existing license plate funds were divided among the Spay Day sites: the Delaware SPCA in Newark and Georgetown, the Delaware Humane Association, Faithful Friends Animal Society, the Spay/Neuter Clinic in Dover, First State Animal Center in Camden, and Four Paws Animal Hospital.

As more license plates are sold, funds will be used for future spay day events, to provide spay and neuter surgeries for community cat colonies or specific breeds, to offer low-cost or free spay and neuter services for those who do not qualify for the State Spay & Neuter Program, and to supplement spay and neuter funds for Delaware shelters or for other special programs.

Are you Animal Friendly? Show it!

The new Animal Welfare license plate is on sale for \$50.

Proceeds from each purchase go to help Delaware's cats and dogs in need.



Get yours at any DMV location or
go to dmv.de.gov,
click on Online Services, then
“Place Your Order” under Special Plate Sales.

A replacement registration sticker is included with your purchase.

These pets have the power to heal

By Christina Motoyoshi

Deputy Director

While any pet lover will tell you that pets enrich our lives, science has proven pets can also significantly improve our physical and mental health. From therapy pets who calm and lift spirits, to service dogs who increase independence and self-esteem, the healing benefits of pets has been shown to transform lives for those facing significant health challenges.

The three amazing animals featured here bring the gifts of comfort and healing to Delawareans in need.

ARLO

Arlo can be a bit mischievous, says mom Janice Baldwin-Hench of Dover. He is the clown of the family. But when he puts on his PAWS leash and scarf, he understands it is time to go to work.

Janice and her fluffy rescue pup volunteer their time as a PAWS for People (PAWS) pet therapy team several days a week. They visit children at Alfred I. du Pont Hospital for Children and adults with severe disabilities at C.E.R.T.S. Adult Action Center, and help children build literacy skills at W. Reiley Brown Elementary in Dover.

One of the locations Janice and Arlo visit each week is Dover Behavioral Health, a mental health facility that offers programs to adolescents and adults for conditions such as



Arlo the therapy dog helps brighten the day of a young girl.
Submitted photo.

depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder, and for addiction recovery from drugs and alcohol.

"Arlo goes from lap to lap," Janice said. "Many patients are separated from their families and pets while in treatment. They look forward to our visits and share stories about their pets."

Chuck Robillard, a certified therapeutic recreational specialist at Dover Behavioral Health, said patients eagerly await Janice and Arlo's visit each week.

"Their faces light up and it brings such joy to their life," he said.

Beyond the obvious joy and happiness that they bring, the visits from Janice and Arlo also provide noticeable health benefits. Socialization and coping skills are greatly elevated as a result of the sessions. Not only do patients socialize with Janice and Arlo, but they socialize more with each other. In patients

suffering from anxiety or schizophrenia, for instance, Robillard sees improved focus.

"For all patients, there is a huge calming effect," he said. "When they go back to their unit after the visit, the patients are much more relaxed."

Janice is humble about the selflessness of her work. "It is very satisfying and I love sharing the dogs with people," she said. "People are happy to see us no matter where we go."

MAX

James "Ty" Case is an administrative officer of the Business Enterprise Program for Delaware Health and Social Services' Division for the Visually Impaired. Assisting those who are blind or visually impaired is something he understands all too well. Ty has been blind for nearly 20 years after losing his eyesight to diabetes.

Lying next to his desk is Ty's "assistant," his loyal guide dog,

Max. The handsome yellow Labrador Retriever has been Ty's guide dog and companion for 18 months.

"There are so many acts of daily living and working tasks that require sight," Case said. "With Max, I can travel more efficiently. I don't have to impose on another person to guide me and, therefore, I am more independent. A guide dog also makes an excellent companion."

Ty rides to his office in New Castle each day with other State workers from Kent County.

"When the van drops us off near our door, Max takes right over and guides me to the door, through the building and right to my office door. His precision with daily repeated routines is perfect," Case said.

In non-routine situations, Ty can use commands such as "find the door," "find the elevator," or "follow Holly," his wife, and Max knows what to do. At home, Max guides

Continued on next page



Max serves as a round-the-clock assistant to James "Ty" Case, who is blind. Submitted photo.

Ty to the barn so he can feed his horses.

Max came from the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, a nonprofit organization in Smithtown, N.Y., that provides guide dogs free of charge to blind people who seek increased mobility, independence and companionship. They matched Ty with Max based on personality, lifestyle and physical needs; and the group provided extensive training.

Although Max and Ty make a great team, Ty says at home, Max seems to prefer the company of Ty's wife. It may be because Max's puppy raiser was a woman.

"Here at work, he has a long list of lady friends that visit him nearly every day and he loves the attention," Case said. Not a bad day at the office.

TROUBLE

Not to be outdone by dogs, cats can also make wonderful therapy pets.

Trouble is a resident of Faithful Friends Animal Society and an active participant in their pet

therapy program. According to Faithful Friends staff, he is one of the coolest cats you'll ever meet. He was evaluated and chosen to participate in the program because of his friendly, easy-going personality.

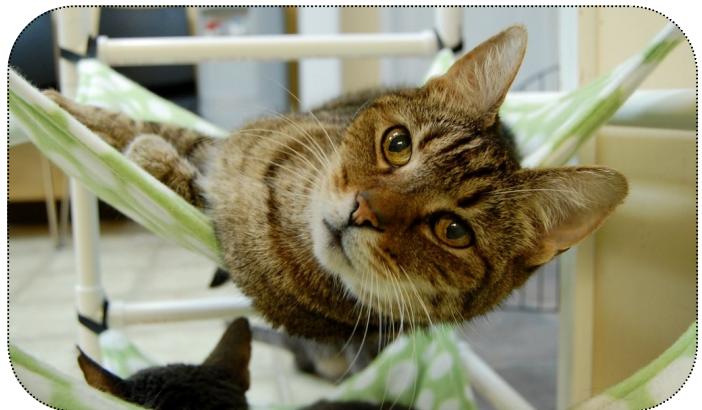
Trouble regularly visits Arden Courts, a senior memory care facility, and Hillside Center, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, both in Wilmington.

"Troubles loves the attention and is affectionate with everyone," said Jeannie DiSabatino, Operations Director for Faithful Friends Animal Society. "He is gentle and loves to be held."

Residents of the facilities he visits just light up when they see him. He lights up, too."

Barbara Zerbe, a caregiver at Arden Courts, has the highest praise for Trouble and his volunteer human partner, Tre Sullivan.

"The Tre and Trouble team are wonderful for gathering groups and calming the atmosphere in any room," she said. "They encourage both verbal and nonverbal communication and draw



Trouble lounges in a hammock at Faithful Friends Animal Society during a break from his work as a therapy pet. Submitted photo.

people into social settings, especially those who tend to avoid interaction with others."

Life hasn't always been kind to Trouble. He was adopted from Faithful Friends in 2007, but was found just two years ago on the streets of Philadelphia and surrendered to Morris Animal Refuge. Luckily he had a microchip

and the shelter was able to track him back to Faithful Friends. Today, Trouble is an office greeter and can usually be found lounging by the front desk. As an older gentleman, he has found his "forever home" at Faithful Friends, where he will live out his life greeting visitors and spreading joy to others.

For more information about the organizations mentioned in this article, go to their websites:

PAWS for People - www.pawsforpeople.org

The Guide Dog Foundation - www.guidedog.org

Faithful Friends Animal Society - www.faithfulfriends.us

Division for the Visually Impaired, Delaware Health and Social Services - www.dhss.delaware.gov/dvi

Adoptable Pet Spotlight

NAME: Edith **SHELTER:** Delaware SPCA, Newark

Adorable Edith cannot wait for her forever family to come take her home. This low-rider has had quite a few litters in her lifetime and is ready for a life of peaceful relaxation.

Edith is a low-energy dog who does not jump and would do excellent in a home with children of any age. She gets along well with other dogs but would prefer a home with no cats.

She is a very friendly, happy girl who walks well on a leash and is crate trained. Edith would love to meet you and your family today. She may not be the prettiest girl, but her sweet, easy-going nature will make you fall head over heels for her.

For more information about adopting Edith, go to www.delspca.org, call the Delaware SPCA at 302-998-2281 or visit the shelter at 455 Stanton Christiana Rd, Newark, during business hours.



DE Animal Response coordinator joins OAW team

Delaware Animal Response (DAR) Coordinator P. Jane Walmsley recently joined the Office of Animal Welfare team. Jane will develop and oversee all aspects of the DAR program.

Jane has served as the Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator at Christiana Care Health System, and as the Citizen Corps Grant and Program Coordinator at the Delaware Emergency Management Agency. She also worked as the Public Health Preparedness Planner for Bucks County, PA, and as the Emergency Planning Coordinator at the New York City Department of Health.

A life-long animal lover, Jane has numerous courses and trainings in animal emergency response under her belt. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to apply her professional emergency preparedness knowledge and skills to ensure Delaware's animals will be safe and well cared for during emergencies and disasters.



DAR Coordinator P. Jane Walmsley is pictured with her dogs, Rupert and Crawford. Submitted photo.

The Delaware Animal Response Mission



As defined in the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan (DEOP), the primary DAR program areas of responsibility in preparing for and responding to emergencies and disasters include:

- ✿ Animal evacuation and transportation
- ✿ Animal emergency sheltering for pets and service animals
- ✿ Animal search and rescue for large and small animals
- ✿ Veterinary medical services
- ✿ Animal decontamination
- ✿ Outreach and pet preparedness education

Stay tuned for more on the functions of Delaware Animal Response and its components.

DAR volunteer recruitment – We need YOU!

DAR is recruiting volunteers for the State Animal Response Team (SART) and Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC). This is an unique and exciting opportunity for volunteers to support DAR in response to emergencies and disasters that affect Delaware's animals.

Do you have small or large animal handling, control, training, sheltering or rescue experience? Or do you just love animals and want to help? If so, we would love for

you to sign up for Delaware SART. Are you a veterinarian, veterinary technician, or veterinary assistant? If so, you are a perfect fit for Delaware VMRC, a specialized unit of the SART dedicated to providing veterinary medical services during a range of DAR and SART responses.

To sign up or for more information, email DAR Coordinator at p.jane.walmsley@state.de.us.

How to choose the right veterinarian for your pet

Choosing a veterinarian for your pet is an important decision. The Office of Animal Welfare recently asked the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association (DVMA) for advice in this area, as well as a list of questions pet owners should consider when seeking a new veterinarian. Their guidance is below. To find a veterinarian near you, go to the DVMA website at www.devma.org.

How to choose your “other” family doctor

When choosing your family’s veterinarian, use the same care and criteria that you would in selecting a physician or dentist. Think about what is important to you. Location, office hours, payment options, and the range of medical services provided are all important considerations.

Your goal should be to find the veterinarian whom you believe can best meet your pet’s medical needs and with whom you feel comfortable in establishing a long-term relationship.

Your responsibility as a pet owner

For your veterinarian to maintain your pet’s good health, it is important to schedule regular checkups and practice preventative care at home. Preventative care can often save you money in the long run by keeping your pet healthier and less likely to develop illnesses that can become very expensive to treat.

At each appointment, be sure to communicate clearly your pet’s behavior and habits, as well as any problems you’ve noticed or questions or concerns you may have about your pet’s health. Since many signs of illness are subtle, even minor changes in your pet’s behavior can give your veterinarian valuable information about what might become a serious health issue.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN

Office hours and emergency care

- What are the regular office hours? Are they compatible with your schedule?
- Do they schedule appointments or accept walk-ins?
- How are emergency calls handled during regular office hours and after office hours?

Professional staff

- Can you request an appointment with a specific veterinarian?
- Does the staff dress and act professionally?
- Do you feel comfortable talking with the doctor? The technician?
- How do the staff and doctors interact with your pet?

Fees and payments

- What methods of payment are accepted? Is a payment plan or CareCredit offered?

Services

- What is the range of medical services that the practice provides?
- Are there non-medical services such as boarding, grooming, and training classes available?
- If necessary, does the veterinarian have a network of specialists for referrals?

Facility

- Is the building environment clean and orderly? Are there unpleasant odors?
- Can you take a tour of the non-public areas?

Additionally, the Office of Animal Welfare suggests you ask about the fee structure for routine and emergency care, educational materials offered by the veterinary staff, and whether the hospital encourages continuing medical education for the professional staff.

- Courtesy of the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association

CAT TIP: There's more than catnip.

Indoor cats thrive on activities that fulfill their natural drive to hunt and stimulate their brain. Hide treats in household items, such as cups or toilet paper rolls, to create enrichment games.

Search the Internet for other “cat enrichment” ideas that provide mental and physical benefits, and watch your cat have fun with its mind and paws.



Clara, the cat of OAW Executive Director Hetti Brown, explores newspaper to find a treat. Photo—Hetti Brown

Help keep your pet healthy with these tips

Veterinary care and pet ownership go hand-in-hand, but it's hard to gauge the healthcare needs of cats and dogs. The old adage of "It's better to be safe than sorry" is certainly true when it comes to the health of a pet. Regular veterinary visits and diagnostic tests can help give them the best chance at a long and healthy life. A few of our veterinarian partners provided tips for when and why to take four-legged family members to an animal doctor.

WELLNESS EXAMS

"Since our pets can't tell us when they experience early signs of illness or pain, veterinarians need to do a good physical examination on all pets once yearly and every six months on pets over seven years of age."

– Dr. Kim Hermann, VCA Kirkwood Animal Hospital



OAW Deputy Director Christina Motoyoshi recently took her dog, Lucy the Labrador Retriever, to see Dr. Michelle Crosier for a senior exam.

"Dr. Crosier did a thorough exam and ran blood work, which showed all her major organs are working well," Motoyoshi said. "At 10 years old, the exam and bloodwork gives me peace of mind knowing she is healthy. If there were any issues, we could address them early on."

VACCINES

"There are several vaccines that may be administered based on the lifestyle and risks to the dog. For dogs that visit dog parks, daycare or boarding facilities, or are groomed regularly, the Bordatella and/or influenza vaccines may be recommended to help prevent respiratory infections.

"For dogs that live in areas where ticks or deer are plentiful, the Lyme vaccine may be indicated. In cases where dogs reside or visit areas where a significant amount wildlife lives, the Leptospirosis vaccine may be recommended."

– Dr. Michelle Crosier, Lums Pond Animal Hospital

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

"A preventative plan which includes a blood panel, is instrumental in monitoring what the owner doesn't see. Weight loss, weight gain, general laziness, lameness, excessive or inadequate appetite, or frequent vomiting may all be indicators of a disease process. Not all conditions can wait until it is time for the annual visit, and an earlier check-up may be necessary."

– Dr. Christian Brandt, Selbyville Animal Hospital

"Lumps and bumps (masses) on or under the skin are easier to remove when smaller, especially if the mass is in a location where there is not much skin, like the legs. We can also aspirate the mass."

– Dr. Greg Greene, Bay Animal Hospital

DENTAL HEALTH

"Dental disease is often overlooked. If we start brushing our pets' teeth when they are young, they can get accustomed to it and it will most likely not be a battle.

"If you cannot brush, there are several products that will help prevent tartar from building up. With routine dental checks, we can monitor their teeth and tartar buildup and recommend a dental cleaning before it gets to the point where their teeth need to be extracted or start to fall out."

– Dr. Greg Greene, Bay Animal Hospital

OBESITY

"Reasons pets are overweight can include overfeeding, lack of exercise [or] medical problems. Obesity can lead to arthritis, diabetes, heart issues, and respiratory problems, and can shorten their life span. If caught early, it is easier to lose a few pounds than 20 pounds."

– Dr. Greg Greene, Bay Animal Hospital