



Paw Prints

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QUOTE OF NOTE

"Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day." - John Grogan

DELAWARE OAW STAFF

Christina Motoyoshi
Executive Director

Mark Tobin
Delaware Animal Services Chief

Shauna McVey
Program Coordinator

Dr. Kathryn Stoltzfus
Chief Veterinary Advisor

Karen Clark
Delaware Animal Response Coordinator

Michelle Zdeb
Administrative Specialist

Hope McCloskey
Management Analyst

CONTACT US:

Websites:

animalservices.delaware.gov
www.fixedandfab.com
<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/oaw/oawhome.html>

Main Phone: 302-255-4620
Del. Animal Services: 302-255-4646

Fax: 302-255-4621

E-mail: DHSS_OAW@state.de.us

Puppies Abandoned Along Sussex Road Recover, Get Adopted Together

Kevin Knowles thought he discovered a dead puppy and its surviving sibling in the middle of a road near Milton while going about his day June 4. The Freightliner sales representative, who lives in Berlin, Md., and has over 40 years of helping others as a firefighter under his belt, couldn't just pass the puppies by.

"There was one puppy that was stretched out in the middle of the road and the other was hovered over her," he said. "I couldn't help but stop, especially with puppies in the middle of the road. As soon as I got there, they both kind of perked up."

He placed two calls — one to the Office of Animal Welfare's Delaware Animal Services (DAS) dispatch line to report the abandoned strays, and another to his boss to report that he couldn't leave the puppies stranded. Knowles said it was heartbreaking to see someone had abandoned dogs, especially along a roadway, but heartwarming how many passersby stopped to offer assistance and how much the responding DAS officer cared about the animals.

"The animal control person, I couldn't have been more impressed with," he said. "It was clearly more than a job."

The puppies were about 10 weeks old at the time and were admitted to Brandywine Valley SPCA's (BVSPCA) Georgetown shelter, where they were diagnosed with emodectic mange and secondary skin infections. Walt Fenstermacher, BVSPCA's Delaware director who fostered the puppies in his home until they were ready for adoption, said they were two peas in a pod.

"When they weren't wrestling, playing tug of war, or chasing each other, they



These puppies were adopted together after they were discovered June 4 by Kevin Knowles of Berlin, Md., rescued by OAW's Delaware Animal Services unit, and rehabilitated by Brandywine Valley SPCA.

Photos courtesy of BVSPCA

would literally sleep on one another. They could never be close enough," he said. "At first we thought it was because they were cold, not having any fur [at first], but they continued to lay on top of each other until the day they were adopted into the same home!"

Those who come across dogs running at large should contact DAS immediately at 302-255-4646 and make a stray dog report.





Beagles rescued from a life of laboratory testing had everybody in smiles as Governor John Carney signed Senate Bill 101. The law requires cats and dogs that are used for research to be available for adoption after they are no longer needed. Pictured with Governor Carney are, from left, Walt Fenstermacher, Brandywine Valley SPCA Delaware director; Mark Tobin, Office of Animal Welfare Chief of Delaware Animal Services; Gail Thompson of the Rescue + Freedom Project; Sen. Stephanie Hansen; Rep. Kim Williams; Sen. John Walsh; and Jane Pierantozzi, director of Faithful Friends Animal Society. John Starkey photo

New laws on the books to protect cats and dogs in Delaware

The Delaware General Assembly passed several bills this year that will help improve the lives of animals.

Senate Bill 101, sponsored by Senator John Walsh, requires research facilities that receive public funding to offer their cats and dogs for adoption, if healthy, instead of euthanizing them when they are no longer needed. Preference for adoption would go to staff or students of such research facilities. Each facility must contract with an animal rescue or shelter for animals that aren't adopted internally.

House Bill 235 is the culmination of several years of meet-

ings hosted by the Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) with various stakeholders including veterinarians, wildlife advocates, and animal welfare organizations. The resulting legislation is aimed at reducing the community cat population in Delaware and increasing public safety through vaccination against rabies while taking care to minimize cats' impact on sensitive wildlife areas. It will also strengthen the animal cruelty law to clarify that protection includes unowned dogs and cats. Rep. Michael Mulrooney sponsored the legislation. Brandywine Valley SPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, and OAW were all supporters.

Delaware Animal Response Needs You!

**Hurricane Season is here. Winter is right around the corner.
Volunteers are needed to keep Delaware's animals safe.**

Find out how you can help ensure Delaware's animals are safe and cared for during emergencies and disasters.

Contact DAR Coordinator Karen Clark
at karen.clark@state.de.us or 302-242-3594.



DAR volunteers learn first aid/CPR, large-animal emergency rescue

The Delaware Animal Response (DAR) teams have been busy over the last few months with Pet CPR & First Aid courses in April, Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training in May, and a full-scale emergency shelter exercise in June.

Pet First Aid and CPR

The first day of Pet First Aid and CPR taught members of the public techniques to address cats and dogs in distress as quickly as possible. The second day equipped DAR volunteers, who are first responders for animal emergencies, with situational awareness and lifesaving skills for injuries and illnesses that can occur in pets during disasters and emergencies.

The courses were taught by Tom Rinelli of Paws N Claws 911, who said the purpose of the training is to address animals in distress as quickly as possible.

“We’re not trying to cut the veterinarian out,” he said. “We’re looking to mitigate the emergency, in essence to stop it and give that veterinarian a viable patient to work with.”

While Delaware has a wealth of veterinary practices statewide, the timing of when a pet receives care is critical. Training pet owners and animal first responders to address emergencies on the spot prior to veterinary care can help increase an animal’s chance of recovery.

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue

The Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training brought emergency responders, large-animal owners, veterinary professionals, and DAR volunteers together for three days to practice rescuing large animals from emergency situations.

Rebecca Gimenez, author and leading authority on large animal evacuation and rescue, taught the course using classroom instruction, hands-on demonstrations, and simulated rescues in an integrated approach to improve tactics, techniques, and procedures for helping large animals in disaster and emergency situations.

“The weekend taught those who attended to function within an incident command structure,” said DAR Coordinator Karen Clark. “By the end of the training, the group was able to effectively communicate and pull together their individual expertise to resolve a variety of emergency situations.”

Full-Scale Emergency Shelter Exercise

The Division of Public Health’s (DPH) Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section hosted a two-day, operations-based exercise in June at Sussex Central High School. The purpose of the exercise was to test the division’s ability to operate a shelter for residents who may be displaced or unable to occupy their homes in the event of a disaster.

Clark said the mass care exercise allowed the DAR State Animal Response Team and Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC) to test their capacity for activation, setting up, staffing and demobilization of an emergency pet shelter in a co-located mass care setting. DAR volunteers used the training to practice skills crucial to providing care for pets when their owners/caretakers enter an evacuation shelter during a disaster.

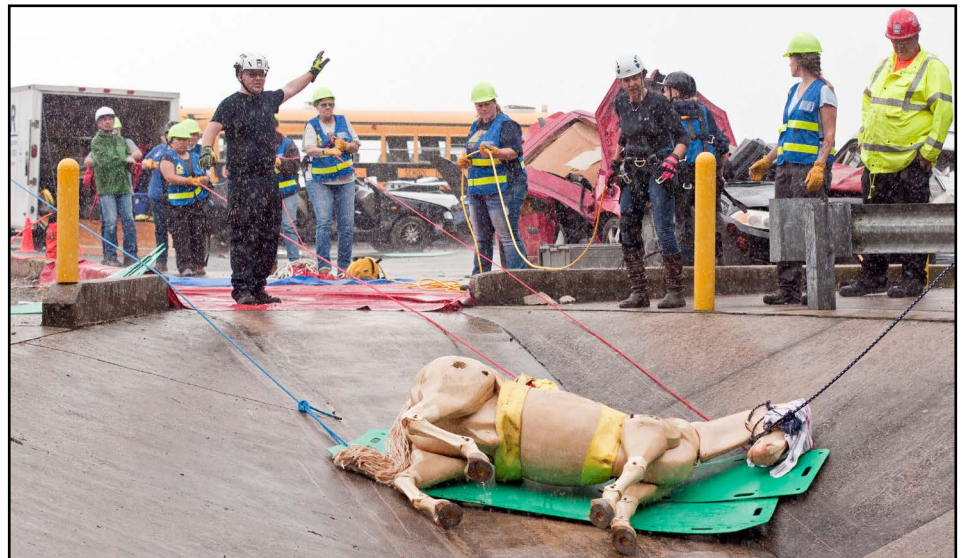
Elizabeth Lasswell, a veterinary techni-



Cynthia Moulson of It Takes a Village Animal Rescue took the Pet First Aid and CPR offered in April by Delaware Animal Response so she could better help animals in her care.

cian and VMRC volunteer, said the exercise allowed DAR volunteers to come together to set up and break down in real time, which helps them become a more cohesive group.

“What we do in DAR is so important because every one of us as animal lovers knows that we would risk our lives to maintain that human-animal bond with our pets,” she said. “With our shelters, people don’t have to. Pets can be safe like the rest of the family.”



Shauna McVey photos

Steve Gilbert of Sussex County Technical Rescue Team leads a group of Delaware Animal Response volunteers in rescuing a dummy horse from a storm ditch during Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue weekend-long training for DAR volunteers, which was held May 18 to 20 at the Delaware State Fire School in Dover and a nearby team.

DAS Officers Help Rescue, Reunite Several Dogs This Summer

Office of Animal Welfare Delaware Animal Services (DAS) officers do what it takes every day to help animals and people in need. Here we highlight a few summer cases where DAS officers reunited a long-lost dog with its owner via language translation, rescued a stuck puppy from under a home, and swam in the Delaware Bay to rescue a drowning dog.

Stuck Puppy Rescued With Teamwork
On Aug. 9 in Bridgeville, DAS Officers

OAW Officer Reunites Stolen Dogs With Owner



Stacey Williams was beyond excited when OAW Delaware Animal Services (Officer Drew May arrived at her house with her two missing dogs. OAW photo

Stacey Williams told Officer Drew May her dogs went missing in July after someone opened her back gate and stole them. She frantically searched for the dogs, including utilizing social media.

Her dogs were located after a call was made to the DAS dispatch hotline about two stray dogs that were abandoned by an unknown man in a Claymont parking lot.

May checked the dogs for microchips, and they showed Williams' contact information.

Andrew Shockley, Brandon Dodd, and Levi Kapp rescued a litter of neglected puppies from a crawl space. Shockley and Dodd were on a patrol when they spotted an adult female, Wire-Haired Terrier mix loose in the roadway. In their attempt to contain the dog, she led them to her home.

The dog's homeowner advised the officers that there were puppies on the property, and five puppies were located under the home.

Officer Shockley climbed under the home and into its crawlspace to retrieve the puppies, but one had wedged its way into the hole of a cinder block and would not allow the officer to remove it. Brandywine Valley SPCA, OAW's shelter partner, was contacted and a veterinary technician went to the scene. The veterinary technician and Officer Shockley worked together to safely remove it from the cinder block. The mother dog and her puppies received medical attention at the BVSPCA Georgetown shelter and were placed for adoption.

Dog Rescued From Delaware River

On the afternoon of Aug. 16, DAS Officer Nicholas Ievoli and Capt. Phillip Cane were dispatched to Battery Park in New Castle to assist a family that spotted a Dachshund-type dog stuck in the marsh and reeds near the Delaware River. Upon arrival, the officers immediately began to wade in ankle-deep water to find the dog, but were unsuccessful.

New Castle City Seasonal Police Officers Scott Williams and Gavin Biddle soon joined the search, along with the original reporting family. Ievoli and one of the seasonal officers were able to locate the dog under thick reeds, but the dog escaped out of the water and ran around the park. All officers, the reporting family, and other bystanders attempted to control and contain the dog, without success. After a lengthy foot chase, the dog darted back into the bay toward open water.

Officers noted the current began to overtake the dog and it started to drown. Ievoli entered the water,



Delaware Animal Services Officer Andrew Shockley worked with a veterinary technician from Brandywine Valley SPCA to get this puppy unstuck from a cinder block in a crawlspace in August, one of many cases where officers worked with other agencies to save animal lives. OAW photo

followed by Cane, and the men swam in water up to their shoulders toward the dog. They then completed a successful rescue.

The dog was scanned for a microchip, which came back positive, but unregistered. It was transported to BVSPCA and adopted soon thereafter.

Bilingual officer helps reunite long-lost dog with owner

DAS Animal Welfare Officer Jezebel Rivera-Rivera responded to the Delaware Humane Association (DHA) on Sept. 4 to pick up a contained stray dog that was brought into the shelter. Upon scanning the dog for a microchip, Rivera identified and contacted its owner, who did not speak English well. Rivera, who is bilingual, was able to converse in the owner's primary language and discovered the dog had been missing for approximately two years. The owner was overcome with joy when reunited with her dog at DHA.