



MONROE ANIMAL LEAGUE

P.O. Box 23 • Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 476-8444
www.monroe-animals.org

AN INDEPENDENT, ALL VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO HELPING THE ANIMALS IN MONROE COUNTY SINCE 1943.

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

TAG DAY

The days are getting longer, and soon we'll be enjoying the delightful days of spring. Everyone will be looking to spend time outdoors, including our pets. They will have "wander-lust," the same as we. Please remember to be sure they are wearing an I.D. - even the indoor kitty, who might just slip by.

A study on strays shows only 16.6% of the nation's 3.8 million stray dogs and 2.1% of the nation's 2.3 million stray cats ever make it home again. For less than \$10., though, you can give your best friend a one-way ticket home - an I.D. tag. The tag should include name, address, phone number (day and evening is best) and the pet's name.

Show You Care. Identify Your Pets



TAG DAY

April 2nd





DOG LICENSES



Renewals were due Jan. 1. According to State Law, it is unlawful "to keep or harbor any dog 3 months of age or older without a current dog license." 2005 Fees: Male - \$8 - neutered \$6; Female \$8 - spayed \$6. For those persons with a disability or a senior citizen: Male \$6 - neutered \$4; Female \$6 - spayed \$4. If you are applying for a license that requires the dog owner be a senior citizen or person with disability; you must provide proof of age or disability to the County Treasurer or Agent. Licenses may be purchased at the County Treasurer's Office, One Quaker Plaza, Room 103, Stroudsburg (420-3510) or through many of the local veterinarians at an additional charge.

A LITTLE BIRD WENT TWEET, TWEET, TWEET

I looked out the window and noticed Bama, our American bull dog, borrowing and pawing in the snow under the birdfeeder. She does this often in wintertime hoping to catch a mouse in search of dinner! This time, however, something seemed a little strange. I investigated, and, lo and behold, a small titmouse was trying to fly away and couldn't.

Of course I brought the bird inside and rigged up a decorative bird cage (one I bought at MAL's auction last year). The wires were too far apart, but I covered the back and sides and found a piece of screening for the front.

local sponsorships of elementary school classrooms in the Adopt-a-Classroom Program. For \$30, an individual can sponsor one classroom for a full school year. In 2004 over 200 Monroe County classrooms participated in this wonderful program. For information, contact the Monroe Animal League at 570-476-8444. If you are a teacher and would like your classroom to participate (free of charge), contact MAL. We should receive requests by May 15th to start the program in September.

If you belong to a business or organization that would be willing to help financially support this program, we would welcome your help.

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Chemical Hazards in the Yard

by Katie Crane (Wegman's Pet Gazette)

Preparing your lawn and garden for the summer often involves using fertilizer or other chemicals. Arsenic, lime, mercury, and copper compounds are a few of the highly toxic substances found in some lawn treatments. Your pet can be exposed to the chemicals by walking over the grass and absorbing them through the skin and footpads or can ingest the chemicals by eating grass that has been sprayed.

- Fertilizer combined with bone meal can cause seizures, fluid in the lungs, and pancreatic failure.
- Cocoa-shell mulch contains theobromine, the same ingredient in chocolate that is potentially dangerous.
- The pits, leaves, and stems of some fruits (such as apples, cherries, and peaches) contain the poison cyanide.
- Be sure to keep rodent, ant, and snail baits out of your pet's way. These sometimes contain ingredients such as molasses, sugar, jelly, and peanut butter, which can be very attractive to animals.
- A less obvious hazard is the compost heap. The decaying vegetation and food scraps can be irresistible to your pet. Molds, fungus, salmonella, and the toxin that causes botulism can be living there. Keep the compost pile closed off from curious animals.

Use healthy alternatives—enrich your yard and garden with fertilizers labeled non-toxic or organic. Some common pests, such as aphids, can be controlled by wiping the plants with a solution of soap and water. Ladybugs, praying mantis, and other insect predators can help control those annoying critters that consume your plants and shrubs.

When applying fertilizer to the yard:

- Follow all instructions carefully.
- Keep all windows and doors closed and your pets inside.
- Don't allow your pets (or children) access to the lawn until the chemicals have had a chance to sink in (24 hours or more). If they do romp on the grass, promptly give them a bath.
- **Never** let your dog eat grass from a chemically treated lawn.
- **Always store hazardous products out of sight and out of reach in a secured cabinet.**

If you suspect your pet has been exposed to a poison, contact your veterinarian immediately. It's helpful to know what the active ingredients are, in what concentrations they are used, and how much you believe the animal has consumed. Bring the suspected plant, chemical, or the bottle label, so the vet can identify the source and determine the appropriate treatment.

The National Animal Poison Control Center can assist with both information and antidotes. The 24-hour number is 888-426-4435. (There is a \$50.00 consultation fee.)

You may also want to check out plants that can be harmful to animals. For a complete listing, visit the web sites of the ASPCA at aspc.org or the Humane Society of the United States at hsus.org.

Fleas and Ticks

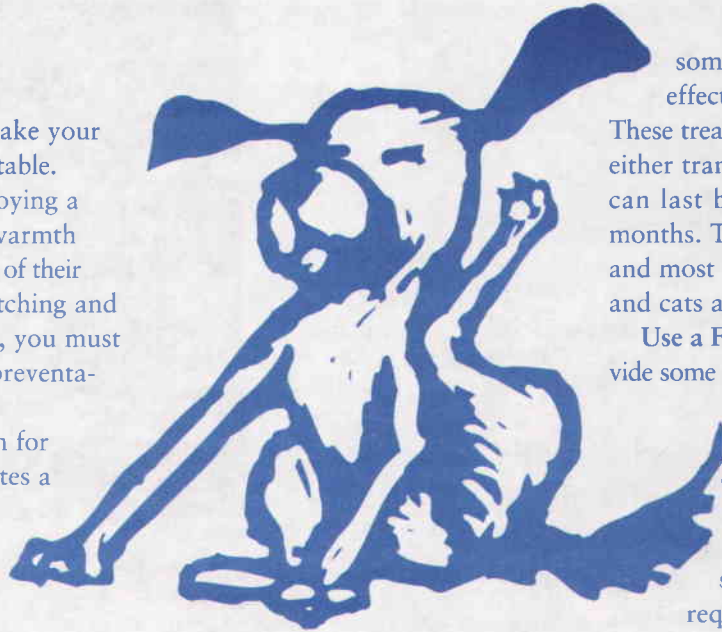
Fleas and ticks can make your cat or dog uncomfortable. They live on your pet, enjoying a constant source of food, warmth and protection. Symptoms of their presence often include scratching and red skin. To help your pet, you must take both corrective and preventative action.

Flea saliva is an allergen for many pets. When a flea bites a dog or cat, the saliva irritates the animal's skin. Ticks bite too, sucking blood out through the skin. Not only do they cause itching, they may carry diseases that can be transmitted to your pet.

In places with cold winters, fleas and ticks are a seasonal problem, with peaks in the summer and fall. In some warm states, however, it's a year-round battle.

What Can You Do?

Controlling fleas and ticks is the goal. To do that, you must understand how fleas and ticks live. The



latest research suggests that fleas spend most of their time on your pet, but are constantly shedding their eggs in the house and yard. Ticks live on and off of your pet, providing a continuous source of re-infestation.

That means you need to treat both your pet and the surrounding environment.

Treat your pet: Powders, sprays, shampoos and dips can help control fleas and ticks. But veterinarians have

some newer and even more effective treatments available.

These treatments can be administered either transdermally or orally and can last between one and three months. They are safe and effective, and most are available for both dogs and cats as young as 4 weeks of age.

Use a Flea Collar: Flea collars provide some control. However, some pets may be allergic to them.

Treat the inside of your house: Thorough cleaning and vacuuming may do the trick. However, some infestations might also require the use of sprays and foggers. When all else fails, call a professional exterminator.

Treat the outside: Sprays, foggers and other chemicals for treating the house and yard are available over-the-counter, as well as from veterinarians.

Always check with your veterinarian first. Combinations of more than one flea or tick treatment can sometimes be harmful to your pet. Your veterinarian will know how to avoid those combinations. 🐾

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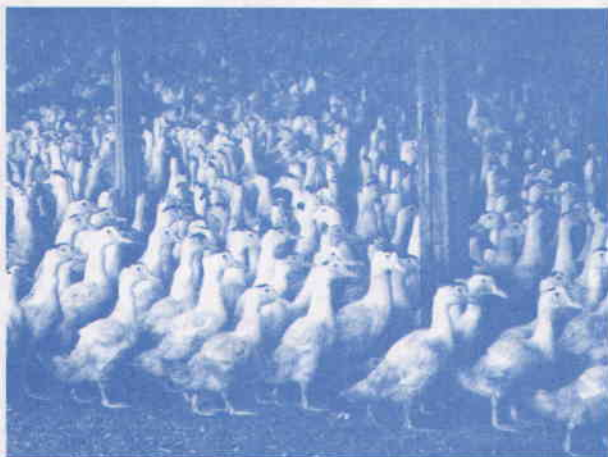
Compassion in California

Ending Foie Gras Production

LAST SEPTEMBER GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER SIGNED S.B. 1520 into law, making California the first state to prohibit the production and sale of foie gras. State Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco) sponsored the bill, which had overwhelming support in the legislature.

Foie gras is produced by forcing tubes down ducks' or geese's throats several times a day to deliver much more food than they would eat. This can cause painful bruising, lesions, and tears in the esophagus, while swelling the birds' livers as much as 10 times their normal size—making even breathing and walking difficult.

We worked diligently to advance the bill, testifying before the state Senate, activating HSUS members through *Humane Activist* and *HUMANElines*—our print and electronic newsletters for activists—and urging the governor to take action. While two production facilities still operate in New York and California's law doesn't take effect for nearly eight years, we're happy that the state has joined more than a dozen countries that already ban this barbaric practice. Visit www.hsus.org/legislation for more, and we'll keep you up to date on our ongoing efforts in New York to stop foie gras production.



Thanks in part to our efforts, last September California became the first state to ban the production and sale of foie gras.

M E M O R I A L S

In memory of: Charles Winters.....Geraldine Transue.....Edna Harmon Garrett.....
E.T. "Ted" Wolverton.

Pets:

In memory of: Chrissey Smiley (dog).....Blackie (cat).....Winston (dog).....Gigi (dog)
Bonny (dog).

In honor of: Jean and Leo Achterman.....Josephine Valentine.....Kathryn Mikels.

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U P & C O M I N G

Tuesday, February 22 is Spay Day USA - kick-off day of a nationwide effort that since 1995 has neutered hundreds of thousands of cats and dogs. In support, the Monroe Animal League will make a \$25. contribution to each Monroe County cat/dog (not already in MAL low-cost program) spayed/neutered between February 27 and March 19. Veterinarians participating are Animal Hospital of Mt. Pocono, Canadensis Veterinary Clinic, Creature Comforts Veterinarian Service, Smithfield Animal Hospital and Stroudsburg Animal Hospital.

Wednesday, March 9. Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce EXPO 2005, ESU's Koehler Field House, Normal and Smith Streets, East Stroudsburg. Stop and visit MAL's booth. Enter to win our drawing - A Gift Certificate for grooming at Mountain Mutts Grooming Salon & Unique Retail in Stroudsburg and a dog/cat surprise basket.

Sunday, March 20. St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1:30 p.m. Two mile route - Stroudsburg High School, West Main Street, to the Municipal Building, East Stroudsburg. If you'd like to parade - all good-natured dogs invited, too - please leave message - 476-8444 24/7. Thank you.

Donate! Bid! Buy!

Wednesday, April 6. MAL's Annual Auction. Stroud Township Fire Hall, Route 611 in front of Sears. Please plan on attending. MAL is now accepting new or excellent condition salable items. Please leave a message for Jo at 476-8444 with information as to when to return your call. Thank you.

Saturday, July 9. MAL's Annual Yard Sale. Please check your attic, garage, home for items; we will pick up beginning April 15. Leave message for Nancy at 476-8444 24/7 - please include call back time.

CAUTION: One-way, please! A gentleman attended our Yard Sale last year and bought some items he knew his wife would like....only to discover his wife had donated them.

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By loving and understanding animals, perhaps we humans shall come to understand each other. - Dr. Louis J. Camuti