



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

SUMMER 2004

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Warns Pet Owners: Summer Is The Deadliest Time of Year For Companion Animals

Recent data finds pesticides continue to be leading cause of summer pet poisonings.

Statistics compiled by the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) confirm that June, July and August are the most dangerous time of year for companion animals. According to 2003 data, the center received approximately 8,800 calls in July, making it the month with the highest volume of cases for the year. The data found that over 4,300 (48%) of the cases involved animals being exposed to pesticides. This includes commonly used insecticides (flea and tick products), rodenticides (mouse and rat baits) and herbicides (weed killers).

"The misuse of flea and tick products is extremely harmful and can even be deadly to our companion animals," comments Dr. Steven Hansen, Senior Vice President of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. "By taking the time to read a product label carefully a pet owner could save their animal's life." The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center consulted on over 3,100 cases in July 2003 involving insecticides, including flea and tick products. While there are many safe products available, caution must always be used when choosing and appropriately applying them on pets. The ASPCA also warns that some products that are safely used on dogs can be deadly to cats, even in small amounts. For example, there are over 18 brands of permethrin insecticide spot-on products for flea and tick control that are labeled for "use on dogs only." These permethrin products have a good margin of safety when used on dogs, but even a few drops of concentrated permethrin could be lethal to a cat. Cats are most commonly exposed to these products through inappropriate or accidental application by their owners.

Additionally, it is important to consult with a veterinarian before using a flea and tick product on a very young, pregnant or elderly animal. As an alternative to using flea products directly on such pets, the ASPCA recommends owners use a flea comb. This would be a good option for pets that enjoy being groomed, but violently refuse baths or the application of a spray. Also, after using a flea and tick product, it is necessary to observe an animal closely. If a pet exhibits unusual behavior or becomes depressed, weak, or uncoordinated the owner should seek veterinary advice immediately.

The second most serious type of cases involved rodenticides. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handled over 470 cases about rodenticides in July 2003. The most dangerous forms include zinc phosphide, strychnine and commercial rat and mouse baits. Some baits contain inert ingredients that can attract an animal. If a pet ingests a rodenticide, there is a chance that seizures, bleeding or death may result. When using any rodenticide it is important to place the product in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals.

In July and August the center received over 925 calls about herbicides. A large number of those calls were owners concerned about letting their pets walk in an area that was treated with weed killers. While many weed killers are safe for pet traffic once dry, the center urges pet owners to contact the manufacturer for specific recommendations about using herbicides around pets. Additionally, it is important to always store pesticides in areas that are inaccessible to pets.

To view additional items that are toxic to animals log onto www.apcc.aspc.org

To receive a free Warning Heat Kills card send a self address stamped envelope to:

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Dear Cats and Dogs

When I say to move, it means to go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two of you in the way.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note – placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything larger than a king-sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort.

Look at videos of dogs and cats sleeping. They can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathroom for years: canine or feline attendance is not necessary.

The proper order is to kiss me, then go smell the other dog's or cat's behind. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

Thank You

Dear Cats and Dogs letter provided by PSPCA



ANIMAL HEROISM

The American Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) honored both people and animals who demonstrated outstanding commitment to furthering the human-animal bond at the ASPCA National Humane Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, March 2, 2004.

We are very pleased to announce that one of the award winners resides in our very own state. The Trooper Award for Animal Heroism was presented to Nuggets, a heroic cat who alerted her owner, Chester Hill, PA Mayor Karen Kephart to a fire that started in the house.

ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM

The US Humane Society has an excellent program to help develop children's characters by fostering compassion, kindness, respect for self, others, animals and the environment.

It's called Adopt-A-Classroom & in Monroe County, the League presently sponsors over 200 teachers, touching the lives of over 5,000 children. To take advantage of this program, a teacher must be willing to participate by distributing, each school month, the award winning paper KIND News, and if he/she chooses, take advantage of the teaching guide provided for each issue. Call 570-476-8444 for more information and to learn how you can become a sponsor.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to circumstances beyond our control the rabies clinic that was scheduled for May 22, has been cancelled until further notice.

YARD SALE

WHEN ??? Saturday, July 17th

WHERE ??? U-Lock-It-Of-Poconos, Rt. 611, Bartonsville

We are still accepting donations for our annual yard sale. Phone 570-476-8444 (24/7) & ask for Sherry to be a volunteer or to make arrangements to drop off or have your donation picked up. No books or clothing please. This is a great opportunity to get your spring cleaning done while helping the animals of Monroe County at the same time. Volunteers are in short supply and you are always welcome to help. We need people to help work at the sale, plus load and unload the truck with yard sale items the evening before and the day of the sale. Strong men very much in demand!

Mr. Z's is now including tapes from former Weiss market in E. Stroudsburg.

Remember to save your Dad's UPC symbols, S&H Green Stamps and register receipts from Kinsley's and Mr. Z's supermarkets.

WEST END FAIR

The Monroe Animal League will have our usual booth at the West End Fair once again this year and we do need any help or support that you are able to provide. Volunteers are never turned away. In the past we've won awards for beautifying the grounds and if you have suggestions as to how we can do so this year we would appreciate your input.

Be sure to shop at our booth for great deals on T-Shirts and Sweatshirts, purchase some raffle tickets, buy an Entertainment Book, enter the free dog bone contest & browse our large selection of educational brochures. Phone 570-476-8444 (24/7) for more info & ask for Jo.

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of: Rosemary Bartoli, Caroline Coniglio, Lewis R. Craven Jr., Edith & Fred Ecker, John P. Meekins, & Charles C. Widmer

In Honor Of: Kathryn Mikel's birthday

Pets:

In Memory Of: the cat Princess Marie Anne Jr., & Zanzibar, the dog

PERMANENTLY CHAINING DOGS UP IS INHUMANE, INEXCUSABLE

Knight Ridder Tribune

By Dr. Marty Becker

Every time I drive from our ranch to my hometown in northern Idaho, I pass dogs along the side of the road that are chained to a tree, a doghouse or just to a stake that's been driven into the ground.

Make no mistake. These aren't loving, responsible pet owners with outdoor dogs who want to make sure they're safe at night or when unsupervised, so they secure them temporarily. These dogs are imprisoned within the chain's radius, 24/7/365.

In fact, in the six years I've lived here, I've never seen them run free. Sadly, millions of other pets across this country share their fate.

I seldom catch their gaze but I always feel sadness in my heart for their plight and frustration at their caretaker's lack of understanding that chaining a dog up all the time can have serious consequences for both the pet and the pet's guardian.

Experts agree that chaining increases aggression in some dogs.

"Rather than protecting the owner or property, a chained dog is often fearful for itself, particularly poorly socialized dogs, or those with a previous negative experience," says Dr. Rolan Tripp, affiliate professor of animal behavior at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University.

"When tethered and exposed to a potentially threatening stimulus, one thing the dog definitely knows is 'I can't get away.' In that circumstance, a reasonable response might be, 'therefore I'm going to try and scare you away by growling or worse yet, biting.'"

Dr. Myrna Milani, a veterinary ethologist and author of several books on animal behavior, agrees. "I specifically see increased aggression when a dog feels responsible for protectin the owner and that person's belongings. Under those circumstances, restraint of any kind makes it impossible for the dog to freely explore any perceived threat to determine whether it poses any danger or get away from it if it does."

Finally adding to this chorus is Dr. Elizabeth Shull, president of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and a board-certified neurologist from Knoxville, Tenn. Schull gave a presentation on this subject at the 2002 American Veterinary Medical Association Meeting.

"In addition to frustration, the constant physical restraint promotes excessive territoriality, which may be manifested as aggression. These attacks are completely unnecessary as they are easily preventable by using a secure fence for containment." Shull says.

This leaves the dog with the option of making a lot of noise (barking its heads off!) and looking as scary as possible (lips curled, teeth showing, coat fluffed) in hopes of frightening the perceived threat or to bite when that threat gets too close. Thus, too often biting becomes the chosen response when a good old bark would have done.

Sadly, the person on the other end of the teeth is often a child, a delivery person or another dog that just wanted to play. Dog-bite statistics show that children are the most common victims. This then becomes a tragedy for all involved; the victim, the dog and the owner, who is now liable for those injuries, which could have been avoided.

"Another thing to consider is that dogs are social animals," says Janice Willard, veterinary ethologist from Moscow, Idaho. "They need to have company to live normal, healthy lives. Most dogs live in a human family which fills their biological need for companionship."

Willard continues: "but a chained, solitary dog is in the worst of circumstances. Not only are3 they starved for social contact but often have poor social skills from lack of experience. And they often live in a state of sensory deprivation. Their environment is barren and they have nothing to explore or play with. They have nothing to do but to pace the tiny space allotted to them. Or they become frustrated by the tantalizing world just out of their reach, increasing their anxiety and agitation."

The worst punishment for people in prison is solitary confinement, while the military uses the silent treatment as a nonviolent but highly effective means of reprimand. For people, these are only temporary measures; a dog may be committed to the same punishment for most of its life. These punishments are only evoked on humans for terrible crimes; but that crimes did these poor dogs commit to deserve such a fate?

Think what happens to a dog's physical being and spirit if they never know freedom, companionship, play, joy?

If you need to secure your dog, get a big fence. If you need a security system, then install an electronic one. If you want a dog, but aren't willing to love it and consider its needs, get a stuffed one.

Chaining a dog up all the time is no way to treat a thinking, breathing, trusting loving creature.

Dr. Marty Becker is the resident veterinarian on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America." Write to him in care of Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, 790 National Press Building, Washington, DC 2004.

Muttscomics.com 05/28



Fido's Reward! – Dog biscuit

¾ cup Hot Water or Meat Juices

½ cup Powdered Milk

1 Egg, Beaten

1/3 cup Margarine

½ tbl Salt (optional)

3 cup Whole Wheat Flour

In a large bowl pour hot water over Margarine. Stir in powdered milk, salt and Egg. Add flour ½ cup at a time mixing well After each addition. Knead 3 to 4 minutes, Adding more flour if necessary to make a Very stiff dough. Pat or roll to ½ inch Thickness and cut into bone shapes. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Allow to cool and dry out until hard. Makes approximately 1 ¼ pounds. Costs approximately \$.25 per pound.

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AAHA! THEY GET IT!

In response to growing awareness of animal protection, the American Animal Hospital Association has redefined some of their official positions on key animal welfare issues.

One of the strongest changes is a policy shift on declawing cats. The AAHA's new position is that the procedure is not medically necessary and should only be considered when wounds created by claws would present health risks to humans, such as the elderly or those with immune suppression issues. "Veterinarians have an obligation to educate cat owners completely on declawing before performing the procedure." Says the new policy. "Declawing should be considered only after attempts have been made to prevent the cat from using its claws destructively."

In another surprising but welcome move for animal protection groups, the AAHA also reversed its stance on tail docking and ear cropping. "We went from a position of just wanting practitioners to educate clients that they are optional, to actually stating we oppose them when done for cosmetic reasons." an AAHA spokesman announced. The organization's new position is that these procedures should be performed only if medically necessary, and they are actively encouraging elimination of the surgeries from breed standards. The move sends a clear message to breeders and the AKC.

The AAHA also issued a statement supporting mandatory reporting of animal abuse and greater education for hospital teams to identify it.



ROMEO IS SEARCHING FOR JULIET

Romeo is a handsome, friendly & loving 2 yr. Old neutered male. His shots are up to date and he comes complete with current medical records. He needs to find a new home as his Meowmie babysits for her granddaughter who is allergic to him.

WARNING



HEAT KILLS!

It probably seemed like a good idea to bring your pet along today, but you may be risking its life. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die of heat stroke.

On hot, or even warm, sunny days, the inside of a car heats up very quickly. The temperature inside the car with the windows slightly opened can reach 140 degrees.

If you must leave your cat/dog or other pet in the car, leave him/her for only a few minutes. Park in the shade and open the windows on both sides.

EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS: If your pet is overcome by heat stroke (Symptoms: uncontrollable panting, blank stare, collapse or unconsciousness) cool him/her immediately with cool/cold water or ice. See a veterinarian at once.

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5 CHARMING LITTER BOX TRAINED KITTENS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION VERY SOON. 1 tortie girl & 4 orange boys will soon be in need of a home. Do you have a place in your heart and home for one of these tiny babies?

THIS IS JUST A TINY FRACTION OF PETS IN NEED OF A HOME. MORE CATS & KITTENS WHO ARE NOT PICTURED HERE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF A HOME! Please phone 476-8444 (24/7) and ask for Sherry to receive more information on any of the cats or kittens that are available for adoption.

----- cut along the dotted line -----

SPECIAL DONATIONS

For: _____
 _____ in Memory of:
 _____ in Honor of:
 _____ for Pet(s)
 _____ for the Occasion of:
 _____ for MAL programs

Send notification of my gift to:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP: _____

Clip & mail completed form to Monroe Animal League, P.O. Box 23, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

----- cut along dotted line -----

Quilt Raffle:



Benefits Monroe Animal League's Spay/Neuter, Emergency Care & Educational Programs.

HANDMADE QUILT (9' X 8')

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5

We will address the tickets, keep the stubs & send the remainder of the ticket to you.

Drawing Date: August 28, 2004

You do not have to be present to win.

To participate, enter information below and send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

**Monroe Animal League
 P.O. Box 23
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

Handmade Quilt Donated by Mountain Laurel Quilters

----- cut along dotted line -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____

I would like to purchase tickets ____ (Yes), ____ (No). How many? _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
 If you would like to help sell tickets, please phone 570-476-8444 with your info or fill in a time for us to call: _____

Be a part of the solution! Neuter your pet!

A neutered pet..

Will be healthier

Will live longer

Will listen better and be easier to train

Will be calmer and more affectionate

Will be less likely to roam, run away, and fight with other animals

Will NOT produce kittens or puppies!

Invest in your pet's future...

It's a small price to pay for a lifetime of love