



New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter News



www.nafcanimalshelter.org

April 2014

Inside

- Furbaby Kitten Shower
- Classifieds
- A Cat's Life - Three Stages
- Easter Pets
- Meet Your Animal Control Officer
- Happy Tails: Pete
- Information Corner: A Huge Thank You!
- Comics

Classifieds



Sage
Rott X
7 Years Old
S. Female

I am a lovely calmer girl that just wants some love. I get along with other animals, kids, and anyone else I come in contact with!



Morris
DSH
9 Months
N. Male

I am a younger guy just looking for some fun in my life! I am pretty socail and outgoing as well! Come see me!

Help us welcome all the babies this season at our

Furbaby Kitten Shower!

Date: April 24, 2014
Time: 7:30 - 8:00PM - Party
8-8:30PM - Foster Orientation
Place: 
215 W. Market St. • New Albany, IN 47150
812-948-5355



Furbaby Foster

Furbaby Kitten Shower!

Kitten season is beginning at the New Albany Animal Shelter! While cats can get pregnant year round, in the beginning of summer shelters around the world begin to see an influx of nursing moms and babies.

In most cases, litters of kittens must stay at the shelter for several weeks. They need to finish nursing and grow to a safe size for surgery. Mother cats and kittens have a harder time handling the stress of a shelter environment and may not be able to maintain their babies, or own health for an extended stay.

To welcome all of the new feline families, and their fosters, the New Albany Animal Shelter is hosting a Furbaby Kitten Shower on April 24th from

7:30-8:30 PM! Please contact us or attend the shower if you are interested in helping us save more kittens by becoming a Furbaby Foster Family! Families will be able to sign-up to be a Furbaby Foster Family. Enjoy lots of shower games, refreshments, and of course kittens, if we have any!

Admission is free, but donations would be appreciated. They will be collected in the Furbaby Playpen from April 12th-26th at the Shelter. A wishlist of donated items can be found at the shelters website or at www.amazon.com (search nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com). Monetary and other donations are always welcome as well!

Phone (812)948-5355

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215 W. Market St., New Albany, IN 47150

A Cat's Life - 3 Stages

Although domestic cats are living longer thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, they still age quite quickly in comparison to the human lifespan.

Understanding the life stages that your cat goes through and the care that is required as they age can help your cat to live a long and healthy life. Outlined below is a guide to the life stages of cats, as well as information about how cat owners can best care for their felines during each stage.

In general, most veterinarians and cat specialists refer to three stages of a cat's life:

Stage #1: Kittenhood

The first phase in the life stages of cats is kittenhood. For house cats, kittenhood generally lasts from birth to about 12 months of age. Just as human babies need extra care during their first few months of life, so do kittens. During the first 6 to 8 weeks after birth, newborn kittens should stay with their mother, so she can feed them and keep them clean. In the wild, cats are some of the most protective mothers in the animal kingdom and will even consume their kittens' waste to keep the nesting area clean and free from odors that might attract predators.

At around three weeks of age, kittens have the strength to stand on their own and begin developing their first teeth. Soon after, they are able to eat solid foods and can be trained to use a litter box. By six weeks, most kittens are fully weaned and are full of energy and spunk. At eight weeks, they usually are ready to leave their mothers, but it's best to wait until the kittens are 12 weeks old to separate them, if you

can, as a longer bond encourages optimal social development for the kittens.

Cat owners should continue to feed kittens specially formulated kitten food until they reach 12 months of age, unless otherwise advised by a veterinarian. At six months, a kitten should be spayed or neutered as it is now old enough to mate.

Stage #2:

Adolescence and adulthood

Adolescence and adulthood are overlapping stages in the lives of cats. These stages generally make up the majority of your cat's years. In general, your cat can be considered an adult from about 12 months to 10 years of age. From 12 months to eight years old, your cat is in his prime and generally requires the least special care. Take your cat to the vet at least once per year for an exam and make sure to stay up-to-date on any vaccinations, including rabies shots. Unless your cat has weight issues or other medical concerns, you can now feed him regular cat food.

Help your cats stay active and maintain optimal health by playing with them often and offering a nutritious diet of dry and/or canned cat food. From age eight to 10 years, your cat is still considered pregeriatric, but it is normal for a cat to begin to slow down a bit during this time.

Stage #3: Maturity

Maturity, or old age, is the final phase in a guide to the life stages of cats. Like humans, cats entering old age may require special care,



including more frequent visits to the veterinarian, medications to treat health issues and help with performing daily functions. Your cat will likely slow down further after age 10, as joints become stiff. You may also observe changes in your cat's moods. Because of age and discomfort, your cat may have less patience for children or other people and may become more easily irritated.

You can help your cats live comfortably in old age by promoting good health throughout their lifespan and giving the necessary extra care during your pet's final years. Part of this difficult process is deciding when to continue with treatment for age-related medical issues and when to let your cat pass on peacefully and with dignity.

Now that you have read a guide to the life stages of cats, you have the basic information required to care for a cat throughout the phases of life. Remember, every cat is different and may develop at a slightly different rate. If your cat is exhibiting behavior that is not consistent with the appropriate life stage, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to rule out any medical concerns.

Easter Pets

Floppy-eared rabbits and soft baby chicks are so adorable, and practically impossible to resist at Easter time. However, bringing a new pet into the home for the holiday may not be such a great idea.

Typical Easter animals aren't well suited for everyone. Also, holiday impulse buys lead to many pets being returned or abandoned after the excitement wears off. Here are some things to know about Easter pets, and a few alternatives.

Bunny Rabbits can make great and friendly pets. If you truly want a pet rabbit, know that they need a fairly large cage, regular cleaning and

daily attention. Rabbits can easily take as much time for care and cleaning as cats and dogs if not more. They are not a low maintenance pet!

Rabbits aren't a great match for young children, as they are fidgety and may kick or scratch. Most children want a companion they can hold, carry and cuddle, but rabbits are fragile, ground-loving creatures who break easily when dropped. Additionally, rabbits are easily frightened by loud noises. It is unreasonable to expect a small child to make a 10-year commitment to taking care of a rabbit. All too often, the child loses interest, and the rabbit ends up neglected or abandoned at the shelter.

Baby chicks may be a possible alternative. If you live on a farm or in an area that allows farm animals, then raising chickens could be for you. But most others shouldn't bring baby chicks home for Easter. Just think: what are you going to do with that cute little fluff ball when it becomes a

large, messy chicken, which tries to fly?

In addition, the Center for Infectious Diseases warns that many chicks carry salmonella bacteria, which is especially dangerous to children.

Many believe that keeping a pet duckling is easy. They have this idea of keeping it in a plastic kiddie swimming pool in the yard. Ducks need room to roam and swim, and need to be kept safe from neighborhood dogs and other predators. They're messy! And like chicks, they can carry the salmonella bacteria. Ducks can also live for 10-20 years! Exotic veterinary bills also typically a lot more!

So if you've done all your research and decided that a bunny, chick or duckling is not right for you this Easter, what can you do? For young children (okay, adults like them too!) why not substitute a plush pet or a chocolate bunny? A floppy bunny or fluffy chick toy will look almost as cute, and be a lot less work! Chocolate is very enjoyable and has no long term commitment either!



Meet Your Animal Control Officer

Meet Melanie.

You may have seen her around the shelter, or out on the streets responding to animal control runs.

Melanie has been with the New Albany Animal Shelter for approximately 6 years. She has been doing Animal Control for the past 4 years.

Growing up in the area, and briefly living in California as an adult, she is an avid animal lover, having several cats herself that she has rescued

over the years.

When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her four children. She also spends a lot of time reading and watching television series of her favorite shows on Netflix.

She prides herself in being able to help keep the animals in Floyd County safe and well cared for, while maintaining a positive relationship with the community.

In honor of April being the National Animal

Control Officer Appreciation Month, we would to thank all of the Animal Control Officers on patrol, doing their best for the animals in their communities!



Need your Pet Spayed or Neutered? We can help!

Bimonthly, The S.N.I.P. Clinic and the NAFC Animal Shelter assist in getting your pets altered for a discounted price. Call or visit the Shelter for more information or to sign your animals up!

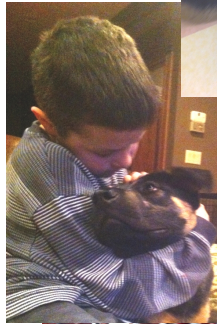
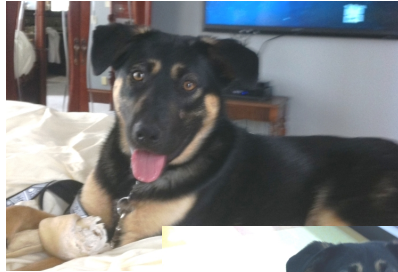
Happy Tails: Pete

Pete is an amazing shepherd mix that came to the shelter as a stray. With his charming demeanor and gentle personality, we knew he had a lot to offer a family.

Within a week of being neutered, he was adopted to his forever home. The family is training him to become a service dog for their son with Asperbers. Pete helps give the young man the confidence and security he needs in social situations in order to really shine! He also recently just passed his Canine Good Citizen Exam!

He has been such a blessing to his new family. Once again, some stray off the street proves to be a life changer.

Send us your story and pictures today of your happy tails adoption and be featured in the next edition of our monthly newsletter!



NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00-5:00PM

Saturday

11:00-2:30

Adoption Prices:

Cats over 4lbs - \$20

Cats under 4lbs - \$60

Dogs - \$80

Information Corner



A Huge Thank You!

In the picture above, Wanda Smith presents a donation to David Hall in honor of Gil Smith from The Ice Bowl which was a Golf Scramble held at the New Albany Roadhouse.

Mr. Smith was an avid animal lover who felt the need to help any animal that strayed on the golf course

We greatly appreciate people like Mr. Smith who love and care for animals so much!

thanks for the new toy.
fifteen bucks! you
shouldn't have.
too bad i hate it.



© sarah 06

small dog haiku

YES, YOU CAN GIVE ME
A BELLY RUB, BUT NO MORE
THAN 8 SECONDS. MAYBE 6...



WANDA SMITH/DAVID HALL