



# New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter News



[www.nafcanimalshelter.org](http://www.nafcanimalshelter.org)

May 2014

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## Classifieds



Hillie  
Hound X  
10 Months Old  
S. Female

I am a happy girl looking for a little conversation. Apartment living really doesn't fit me. Come see me!



Oswald  
DSH  
2 years  
N. Male

Hello! I am a very spunky guy looking for some fun! If you want some excitement in your life, visit me at the Feeders Supply on State Street!



## Fleas and Ticks! Oh My!

Every year, fleas and ticks become a problem for many pet owners. They are not just a nuisance; they can also make your pets sick. In addition to skin disease, fleas can cause allergies and anemia, and can spread the plague and tapeworms. Ticks can cause infections and spread diseases such as Lyme Disease. Every attempt should be made to keep these parasites off your pets.

There are many excellent, new products that can help eliminate fleas and ticks. Many of these products are applied as drops to the skin between the shoulder blades. These drops are usually repeated each month. There are many different brands with different ingredients. Some kill only fleas, some kill ticks and fleas, and some contain insect growth regulators that help get rid of immature

fleas and flea eggs. It is very important to read the product labels to find the correct one for your pet. Make sure that the product you choose is correct for your pet's type, age, and weight, and that it controls the parasites that bother your pet. Even pets on monthly tick control products should be checked daily for ticks. Embedded ticks can be removed with tweezers while wearing disposable gloves. The ticks should be grasped at the head and pulled slowly out of the skin without twisting or turning. Removing ticks every day can prevent disease spread.

In addition, oral medications and veterinary prescribed flea collars may be recommended by your veterinarian for prevention and to maintain the health of your animals.

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# A Rise in Diabetic Pets

As with people, the incidence of diabetes in cats and dogs is increasing. While rare, some statistics show diabetes now affects as many as one in 50 animals, especially pudgy pets.

Diabetes in pets is a complex disease caused by either a lack of the hormone insulin or an inadequate response to insulin.

After a pet eats, his digestive system breaks food into various components, including glucose—which is carried into his cells by insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas. When a pet does not produce insulin or cannot utilize it normally, his blood sugar levels elevate. The result is hyperglycemia, which, if left untreated, can cause many complicated health problems for a pet.

It is important to understand, however, that diabetes is considered a manageable disorder—and many diabetic pets can lead happy, healthy lives.

Diabetes can be classified as either Type 1 (lack of insulin production) or Type II (impaired insulin production along with an inadequate response to the hormone.)

The most common form of the disease in dogs is Type 1, insulin-dependent diabetes, which occurs when the pancreas is incapable of producing or secreting adequate levels of insulin. Pets who have Type I require insulin therapy to survive. Type II diabetes is found in cats and is a lack of normal response to insulin.

The following symptoms should be investigated as they could be indicators that your pet has diabetes:

- Change in appetite
- Excessive thirst/increase in water consumption
- Weight loss
- Increased urination
- Unusually sweet-smelling or fruity breath
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Urinary tract infections
- Vomiting
- Cataract formation, blindness
- Chronic skin infections

The exact cause of diabetes is unknown. However, autoimmune disease, genetics, obesity, chronic pancreatitis, certain medications and abnormal protein deposits in the pancreas can play a major role in the development of the disease.

It is thought that obese pets and female pets may run a greater risk of developing diabetes later in life (6-9 years of age). Some breeds may also run a greater risk, including Australian terriers, standard and miniature schnauzers, dachshunds, poodles, keeshonds and samoyeds. Juvenile diabetes can also be seen and is particularly prevalent in golden retrievers and keeshonds.

In order to properly diagnose diabetes, your veterinarian will collect information about your pet's clinical signs, perform a physical examination and check blood work and a urinalysis.

Diabetes treatment is based on how severe the symptoms and lab work are and whether there are any other health issues that could complicate therapy. Each pet will respond a little bit differently to treatment, and therapy must be tailored to the



individual pet throughout his life.

The severity of the illness when diagnosed will determine on the type of treatment needed. For some, a change in diet and exercise may be enough to maintain their insulin needs. Others may need to be started on insulin injections. Your veterinarian will be the best person to advice you on the appropriate method.

Although a certain form of diabetes—the type found in pets less than a year of age—is inherited, proper diet and regular exercise can be very effective in helping to prevent the onset of diabetes in older pets. Aside from other negative health effects, obesity is known to contribute to an ability to respond normally to insulin.

If your pet is showing any of the clinical signs listed above, please see your veterinarian right away. If diabetes progresses without being treated, pets can develop secondary health problems like cataracts and severe urinary tract problems. Ultimately, untreated diabetes can cause coma and death.



# To Shave, or Not To Shave

Summer arrives in a blaze of heat and sun, and most of us shed clothes until we're down to shorts or swimsuits. If less is more for us when temperatures spike, shouldn't it be good for our pets, too?

Though it may seem like a no-brainer to shave your dog or cat when summer comes, does it really keep pets cooler?

Generally, most experts recommend against shaving most pets, though there are exceptions. Veterinarians often advise against shaving cats and dogs for a simple reason:



Your pet's hair isn't like yours.

A pet's coat is designed by nature to keep it cool during the summer and warm in the winter. By shaving your pet you usually interfere with this built-in temperature regulation.

Cats, in particular, are very good at regulating body temperature and "really get no benefit from being shaved," says Mark J. Stickney, DVM, clinical associate professor and director of general surgery services at Texas A&M University's veterinary medical teaching hospital.

Because cats are so much smaller relative to their exposed surface area, they're just better at getting rid of extra body heat. Cats are also almost always more mobile than dogs, so they can simply move to a shadier spot when temperatures rise.

Over the centuries, humans have bred some pets -- specifically dogs -- to have thicker coats than

others, and these breeds can sometimes use a little help cooling off during summer's heat.

If you have a dog with a very thick coat who seems to suffer from the heat, some veterinarians suggest shaving them when the mercury rises. Resist shaving shorter-haired breeds because not only do they get no benefit from it, but they also run the risk of sunburn once shaved.

Actually, any dog can suffer sunburn, so if you do shave your thick-coated dog, be sure to leave at least an inch of hair to protect your pet from the sun's rays.

You may also want to shave a dog that stays outside all the time, has a matted coat, and is likely to be wet often. In these circumstances, a dog can develop an unpleasant condition called myiasis -- maggots in the fur. If your dog is prone to hot spots, a summer shave may be helpful, but discuss this with your vet first.

## Seeking Donations & Calling all Dog Owners!

Dogs Days at the Drive in is just about a month away! This year it will be Saturday, June 14th, at the Georgetown Drive-In. One of the movies that will be showing will be "How to Train Your Dragon 2"!

For the past several years, the New Albany Animal Shelter has joined paws with the Georgetown Twin Drive In for this event. During the event, the public can bring their dogs to see the movies with them for an additional fee. We also invite other rescue groups, pet related information tables, and host many activities for both family and pets! It is one of our most popular

fundraisers each year. Last year we also held a silent auction. This generated more income than ever, all going to the homeless animals of our community.

We are currently seeking donations for this year's event on June 14th, to raise even more money! These donations can be of any size or amount. They may be offered as a door prize or part of a silent auction item. Please remember, not only are you helping the animals of Floyd County, you are also promoting your business in a positive light! We appreciate anything that your organization is willing to donate!



# 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: Gunner

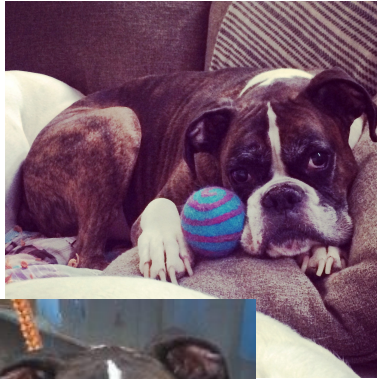
Gunner, a seven year old boxer was turned into the shelter by his owner when they decided he was too much responsibility for them. Just a few weeks later, his new family fell in love with him. In the short time he stayed here, he stole many hearts at the shelter as well.

Gunner is an incredibly sweet, good natured fellow. He is now a shadow to his new family members.

Even though he is a little older, he still has plenty of spunk left in him. He loves to play, and cuddle, with his toys.

Older dogs and cats can make great pets as well! And sometimes you can completely avoid the puppy stage!

Please send us your happy tails and you may be in our next newsletter!



### NAFC ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION

Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00-5:00PM

Saturday

11:00-2:30

Adoption Prices:

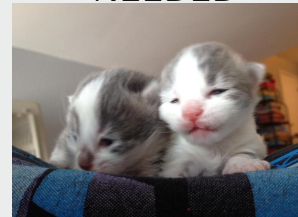
Cats over 4lbs - \$20

Cats under 4lbs - \$60

Dogs - \$80

## Information Corner

### FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED



Even though the main rush of "kitten" season hasn't really affected the shelter yet, we are looking for foster families to prepare for the influx ahead.

Moms with babies can better care for their young and themselves in a home. Shelter environments may be too stressful, causing the new families to not be able to fight off illnesses as easily. Foster homes can save their lives.

Please contact us if you are interested in fostering or getting involved. You may also email us with any questions,  
[Furbabyfoster@yahoo.com](mailto:Furbabyfoster@yahoo.com).

