



New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter News



www.nafcanimalshelter.org

November 2013

Inside

- All I Want for Christmas
- Classifieds
- Overweight Pets - Addressing an Epidemic
- Preparing for the Winter Holiday
- Small and Furry Adoptable Animals
- Happy Tails: Darwin
- Comics
- Thank You, Fink's!

Classifieds

SPONSORS NEEDED for our 12 Strays of Christmas! Money for the 12 strays can be donated to the shelter by mail, in person, or online via paypal. Please include a note that you would like included on the selected pet, such as a dedication. Dog sponsorship is \$110 dollars and cat sponsorships are \$50. The extra money helps with advertisement fees. Here is an example of one of last years 12 Strays newspaper and television ads!!



All I want for Christmas is YOU

2013 HOMES 4 THE HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

presented by: New Albany Floyd County Animal Control & Shelter

WHISKER WONDERLAND 36 HOUR ADOPT-A-THON
Friday December 6th until midnight Saturday night we will be open for 36 hours straight for pet adoptions! Come enjoy fun and refreshments around the clock!

12 STRAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE BEGINS 12/12/2013
The last 12 days before Christmas, at least 1 cat and 1 dog will be selected to have their adoption fee sponsored!

CHRISTMAS IN A SHELTER IN NO PLACE TO BE
Ever consider being a foster parent for the Shelter? We are looking for foster parents for our adoptable animals to give them a chance to experience the Christmas Holiday in a home.

JINGLE BELL BOARDING
Animals adopted after December 21st, can be held for Christmas Eve pick-up for \$5 per day.

Please contact the Shelter with any questions on how to help!
215 W. Market St., New Albany - (812)948-5355 - nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com

All I Want for Christmas!

With the holidays just around the corner, the NAFC Animal Shelter's Homes 4 the Holiday Programs are about to begin!

We are currently looking for donations to help fund and support our Homes 4 the Holidays Campaign!

🐾 To kick off Homes for the Holidays, we will be holding our second annual Whisker Wonderland 36 Hour Adopt-A-Thon! From noon on Friday the 6th until midnight on Saturday the 7th, we will be open around the clock for adoption! Volunteers will be needed!

🐾 Each of the 12 days before Christmas, 1 dog and 1 cat will be selected for our special advertising

campaign and will have their adoption fee sponsored. These animals have been here the longest or may be a little more difficult to find homes for. Your family can sponsor one of these animals to help them go home for Christmas.

🐾 Have you ever wanted to try fostering a pet? Now is the perfect time! We will be fostering out our adoptable pets so that no pet is left behind during the holidays!

Contact the shelter with any questions that you may have. Lets make this holiday season great for the homeless animals of Floyd County.

Overweight Pets - Addressing an Epidemic



Did you know a 20 lb. pug is equivalent to a 161 lb. 5'4" woman or 188 lb. 5'9" man? That is 11% overweight for a pug. We know that an estimated 54% of U.S. cats and dogs are overweight or obese. If you are part of the 22% of pet owners in denial about your pet's weight, hopefully you have come to the realization that a change must be made or your dog will most likely pay the price. Overeating, eating unhealthy foods, and not exercising is a deadly combination; so let's make a change.

-Problem: Overeating

Some pets will eat a whole bag of pet food if you let them. They inhale their kibble and then look at you like, "is that all?" In cases like this, free feeding (filling the bowl and letting your pet eat when he wants) does not work. You need to measure out the appropriate amount of food stated on the food bag or use as instructed by your veterinarian.

The number two culprit in weight gain is fatty wet food. Portions of wet food should be monitored closely. Just a few extra scoops here or there can easily add 10 extra pounds to a pet. However, while wet food can help pack on the pounds, an excess of treats is the number one problem in most overweight cases. A treat after breakfast, a treat for lunch, a treat before dinner, and then a treat for dessert. Believe it or not, your pet can go a lot longer without eating than you can.

Depending on his activity level, he doesn't need more than two meals a day, let alone snacks in between.

-Solution: Limit food intake

Putting your pet on a diet can be difficult. They look at you with big sad eyes and whine or meow like they are starving. While this is hard to resist, stay strong! If you feel the urge to feed your pet more often than once or twice a day, break up his normal meal into smaller portions that you can give throughout the day. If you want to give a treat, only give 1 treat per day, not 3 or more. You can also use pieces of his daily kibble rations as treats.

-Problem: Unhealthy eating

Even if you do cut back on the food and treats, do you actually know what you are feeding your pet? Most consumers don't even pay attention to what is in their own food let alone their pet's food. If you read the ingredient label you might be surprised to find a lot of pet foods (and treats) are packed with fillers, calories, and 'bad' fats. While these dog foods are the cheapest alternative (due to the cheap ingredients) they are not the only option for feeding your dog.

-Solution: Change your pet's food

Your pet's veterinarian will be your best source of information when choosing the right diet for your pet. Your pet's age, general health, body condition, and activity level should all be considered when selecting an appropriate diet. There are even veterinary Prescription Diets that can be used as part of a treatment plan for specific health conditions.

If your pet is still hungry after you begin feeding a diet for weight loss, you can use vegetables to help satisfy your pet's hunger. Many pet's love

their veggies!

-Problem: Lack of exercise

Most dogs were born and bred to work but in today's society, though few are used for work like they once did. Despite these societal changes, dog's still need exercise and it means more in a dog's life than just avoiding weight gain.

Exercise does many things. It strengthens the immune system, increases blood circulation, reduces the risk of heart disease and other illnesses, reduces stress and the likelihood of depression, keeps pets from becoming obese which could result in depression and/or diabetes, and reduces boredom and anxiety. This helps reduce bad behaviors such as chewing, digging, and excessive barking.

Solution: Daily exercise

Exercise makes a happy, healthy, and well-balanced pet. It's up to you to get in the habit of making sure he gets that regular exercise because he can't do that for himself. A dog's need to work and exercise can be met by training your dog in obedience, agility, flyball, or other performance events.

If you want to change things in your pet's eating habits, you do not have to do it alone. Besides your veterinarian, other organizations can provide support. Groups like the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention provide online tools to help pet owners make a change and gain control of the situation. Check out the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention website and join the fight against pet obesity.



Preparing for the Holidays

The winter holidays are fun times for the family but can be hazardous for pets.

These tips will help keep them safe:

Christmas trees bring holiday cheer but potential hazards for pets. Tree water may contain fertilizer and bacteria that, if ingested, can upset a pet's stomach.

A teething puppy will chew on electrical cords and can be shocked or electrocuted. Be sure to tape the wires to a wall and tuck the extra cord behind furniture.

Tinsel is very enticing to dogs and cats because of its sparkling reflection and the stringlike behavior. Unfortunately, it can get stuck on your pet's tongue, become ingested and cause intestinal agony and life threatening gastrointestinal (GI) blockages.

Ice-melt salt and other chemicals used to melt ice from sidewalks can irritate your dog's paws. They are also toxic if ingested.

Antifreeze is an extremely dangerous chemical to be aware of. It is an odorless fluid with a sweet taste that dogs in particular have a fondness for—it is a major danger to a dog exploring a garage or street where cars are parked. Poisoning



is swift; around a tablespoon is deadly to an average-sized dog, and the mortality rate is about 88 percent. Always mop up any spills the instant they happen and be aware of puddles near parked cars. Sprinkling the area with an absorbent material such as sand, cat litter, wood shavings or sawdust will prevent the dog from licking the spot where the spill or leak occurred.

Think twice before leaving a bowl of chocolates on the table for guests. Chocolate is poisonous to many animals and the temptation may be too hard for pets to resist. The less sweet the chocolate, the more toxic it could be due to the caffeine and theobromine it contains. Chocolate poisoning may cause vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity and increased thirst, urination and heart rate.

Do not feed your dog leftover meat bones. You may think you are giving him a treat that he will enjoy, but the reality is they are dangerous. Meat bones are easily chewed into sharp splinters that can lodge in the GI tract and may

cause esophageal or intestinal laceration, or partial or complete obstructions. Never induce vomiting if your pet has swallowed any bone that can splinter because it may cause an esophageal laceration.

Also, make sure your pets are prepared for the drastic drop in temperatures. Outside animals need well insulated shelters with straw, with the opening facing away from the wind, either east or south..

Water bowls are also likely to freeze. Metal bowls are more likely to freeze than plastic. Make sure water is checked very frequently and get a water bowl heater to allow your dog to always have access to water and prevent ice formation.

When animals come in from playing in the snow, make sure to clean the snowballs off their feet. Packed ice between the pads can cause serious irritation or injury.

Increase the amount of food given to your outside pets, and be certain that it is adequate in quality. Pets need 15% more calories for every 20 degree drop in temperature.

The holidays can be very stressful and busy. Watch your pets during the season to avoid the added stress of a pet emergency expense.

Small & Furry



Most people think only dogs and cats are at the shelter. Right now,

we have so much more than that!

Currently, in foster care, we have 8 cockatiels that are available for adoption. Some

have feather loss due to neglect and stress in the previous environment, but otherwise seem healthy. If you are interested in seeing them, see can arrange contact with the foster family.

We also currently have two male bunnies that are \$5 for both but do not include a cage. These sweet bunnies were found running loose in a yarda and they love each other!

There are also have a male guinea pig that are looking for a home. He is \$10 and does come with a cage!

Pictures of the guinea pig and rabbits can be seen on our website at www.nafcanimalshelter.org

Please contact us if you are interested in fostering or adoption one of these small animals.

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: Darwin

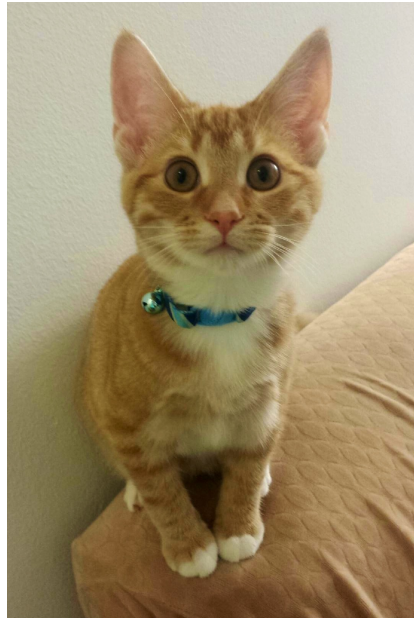
Darwin came into the shelter as a weak little kitten with the rest of his unwanted litter.

When he was adopted, the family was specifically looking for a new kitten for the golden retriever to play with. The golden loves kittens and Darwin loves dogs!

While Darwin does like to play with his new golden friend, he also loves to chase around and play with the three legged chihuahua in the house.

He is an amazing addition to his new family and couldn't be happier with his new friends, big and small.

Do you have a happy tails story? Please email us your pet adoption story with pictures to nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com to be featured in 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

Thanks, Finks!

For the third year, Fink's Motorcycle Shop has decided to use their parking lot during Harvest Homecoming to benefit a charity. They donate all of the money raised from their parking fee to a local organization. This year they chose the New Albany Floyd County Animal Shelter.

This year was by far the best ever, and it was with GREAT pleasure that they presented the Shelter with \$700 which was collected for parking.

David Hall, the Shelter Director and Duncan York, who helps out at the Shelter, went to Fink's to receive the donation.

Of course, they couldn't have done it this year without a wonderful volunteer who spent many hours, long into the nights, monitoring and attending the parking. A big thank you to him, Jeff Arndt for his time.