



# **PAWPRINTS**



## **CLAUDIA'S PLACE**

There is color in the shelter now!! The painting is nearly finished with just a bit of touching up left to do. Next will be the dropped ceilings in the “people” part of the building.

Trees would be a great asset to the grounds. If you would like to donate one for yourself or as a memorial gift to a past pet or as a gift for a friend, please contact the office for details.

As usual we could use help with keeping the grounds tidy. Mowing is the biggest task at this time of the year. The trees need to be watered and fertilized, too. If you can help please call the office.

We are still in need of foster homes. These can be for large dogs, small dogs, cats, kittens, birds, rabbits, small rodents, etc. etc. etc. If you are able to help by opening your home and heart to a little homeless one, please call the office for a Member/Foster Form.

## **PET PROFILE**

**AMY** is a beautiful Black Lab crossed with a Border Collie. She is about a year old now, spayed and vaccinated. She's a healthy, smart and active dog that really needs a forever home now. She has so much to offer and her foster family does not have the time to spend with her. She has good house manners, is used to being kenneled in a dog run, pees on command, has great doggie social skills, and has been started on leash work and formal training. She knows sit very well, her stay is pretty good, and her recall is great for the most part, unless she knows she is staying home alone then she has a great down and tries to stay cemented. She will play by herself. At times she likes to take her bed or blankets outside for an airing. Amy is entertaining with her sense of humour. She is so eager to please and wants to do the right thing. She loves kids of all sizes and is quite gentle with them and happy to be around them. She has participated in the Therapy dog program at school with the children. When out gardening she knows her boundaries and is very good with a gentle “out” as reminder. She's good with cats as well but will chase them if they let her. Amy truly has so much to offer her new family.

## **DOGS and CATS and BIRDS Oh My!!**

**Shanny** is a special needs pet because she has special issues regarding other dogs. But we love Shanny! She deserves the greatest home in the world. As her foster family we cannot and will not have her euthanized just because she doesn't trust other dogs. She is not aggressive to people and never has been. She deserves the chance to find the “right” forever family. She takes a while to build trust between her and other dogs. Right now she is living with 4 other dogs and has done so for the past 6 months with 2 new dogs coming into the pack. She gets along great with them and there are no issues. She is happy with her friends at home.

**Chloe and Meggie** still need a home of their very own. This Shih Tzu mom and Shih Tzu-Bichon daughter need to stay together. Both are friendly, leash trained and very sociable.

**Sidley** is a large beautifully tiger striped boy. He is Irish Wolf Hound and mystery breed. This big fellow would love his own home. Sidley is young and energetic.

## **PET POINTS**

**RED-EARED SLIDERS:** Semi-aquatic turtles that live on land and in water. They are a high-maintenance pet, requiring a lot of work due to their housing and the precautions needed to avoid transmission of salmonella, which occurs naturally in their stool.

**PROS:** Quiet; long life span.

**CONS:** Can be expensive (special equipment, housing, etc.); can bite; strict cleaning required to prevent disease.

**FOOD:** Commercial turtle pellets; fresh plant matter and aquatic plants like water ferns; raw vegetables; freshwater snails, crickets or earthworms as treats.

**HOUSING:** Large aquarium (40 to 120 gallon); heat lamp; water filter; water heater.

**POSSIBLE MEDICAL ISSUES:** Parasites; “soft shell” (metabolic bone disease); respiratory tract infections.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** Twenty to 40 years.

**NOTE: Cleanliness is key.** There’s a lot of work involved in keeping their environment as safe as possible, so there’s a lot of cleaning and a lot of water changes.

## **DOLLARS AND SENSE**

If you would like to sponsor a kennel, bench, room, etc. at the shelter please let us know. For a fee of at least \$100 we will have your name engraved on a plaque to be displayed in the appropriate place. Some suggestions for sponsoring: dog kennel; cat kennel; cat room; bench (on future walking trail); tree (in future walking trail area or for shade and noise control); equipment for a particular room (quiet room, grooming room, prep room, etc.) and plaques in the lobby for large donations. These would make wonderful gifts for family or friends and great memorials for past or present pets.

## **MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS**

**Lloyd Pawson** has been a steady, actively involved volunteer even before the construction shelter foundation was started. He was there with a helping hand for the fencing, thistle control, weed control, septic tanks and fields, foundation forms, cement flooring, wall forms, roof trusses, roofing, walls, insulation, duct work, interior walls, drywalling, painting, material purchasing and many more tasks. PAWS thanks this wonderful volunteer for all his hard and dedicated work. Many needy animals will benefit from his expertise, help and caring.

## **PURRS and GRRRS**

**Purrs** - to the many citizens who are concerned about the welfare of the feral cats. These cats did not put themselves in this position – people did. It is up to people to help them live in peace and dignity by making sure they are healthy and adequately housed instead of making them pay with their lives for what humans have made them.

**Grrrs** - to the few citizens who shirk their responsibilities, show a drastic lack of compassion and make the past irresponsible human behavior cost innocent animals their lives.

## **MEMORABLE MOMENTS**

Audrey Breitenbucher is being wished a very Happy Birthday this month.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

If you think having one or two litters won't hurt anybody, this fact should change your mind: according to the Humane Society of the United States, 10,000 babies are born in the U.S. on any given day. On that same day, however, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. Match those two statistics up, and you'll see that there will never be enough homes for all the animals born in this country unless we all take responsibility for spaying and neutering our pets. Change begins with YOU! Spay or neuter your pet! Last year, over 15 million cats and dogs were killed in animal shelters and pounds in the United States, and this figure does not include the many pets that were thrown out of cars, left by the side of the road, or dropped in woods and fields. Yet we can't kill the myths that are perpetuating their destruction. Which myths do you still believe?

**Myth:** *The operation costs too much money:*

**Fact:** There is A LOT of financial help available. If your pet isn't spayed or neutered, make an appointment for surgery. The more altered animals there are, the fewer homeless ones there will be.

## **ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

### **Does My Dog Have Heat Stroke?**

Signs of heat stroke include (but are not limited to): body temperatures of 40-43c degrees, excessive panting, dark or bright red tongue and gums, staggering, stupor, seizures, bloody diarrhea or vomiting, coma, death. Brachycephalic breeds (the short-nosed breeds, such as Bulldogs and Pugs), large heavy-coated breeds, and those dogs with heart or respiratory problems are more at risk for heat stroke.

If you suspect heat stroke in your pet, seek Veterinary attention immediately! Use cool water, not ice water, to cool your pet. (Very cold water will cause constriction of the blood vessels and impede cooling.) Do not aid cooling below 39c degrees - some animals can actually get HYPOTHERMIC, too cold. Offer ice cubes for the animal to lick on until you can reach your Veterinarian. Just because your animal is cooled and "appears" OK, do NOT assume everything is fine. Internal organs such as liver, kidneys, brain, etc., are definitely affected by the body temperature elevation, and blood tests and veterinary examination are needed to assess this. There is also a complex blood problem, called DIC (Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation) that can be a secondary complication to heat stroke that can be fatal.

## **TRIVIA and TIDBITS**

### **CATS, DOGS, AND OTHER MEDICINE**

The caring goes both ways. People who take good care of their pets help protect them – and the whole household – from bringing disease into the home. And pets can take care of people, too. They “stimulate talk, provide touch, ease loneliness, and facilitate social interaction with others,” says Alan M. Beck, Sc.D., director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine.

All of which may explain why research has linked pet ownership with better emotional health and possibly physical health.

#### **A Menagerie Of Benefits - Pets may boost health by:**

**Encouraging physical activity.** An insistent dog whining at the door or a playful one eager for a romp can get you out of the house for some exercise.

**Boosting the heart.** A study of some 420 people with heart disease found that those with pets, especially dogs, were much more likely to survive for a year compared with those without pets.

**Speeding rehab.** Pets help patients recover faster from Heart attacks, strokes and surgery, possibly by easing stress.

**Soothing Alzheimer's patients.** Nursing homes like having pets around because they stimulate touch and good memories. And watching residents interact with pets reminds staff members that their clients aren't objects.

**Preventing allergies.** Kids who grow up with pets appear less prone to allergies, perhaps because early exposure to bacteria and viruses may strengthen immunity.

**Ease autism.** Dogs may help children with autism by providing social interaction. And trained dogs can also act as watchdogs.

## **ZOONOSIS**

That's the medical term for disease that's transmitted from animals to humans. "Pets have moved from the barnyard to the backyard, and even the kitchen and bedroom," says Marty Becker, D.V.M., author of *The Healing Power of Pets*. "So it's no surprise we're now at greater risk of zoonotic disease."

But several steps can minimize the risks and still give owners the benefits of a pet prescription.

**See a vet once a year.** He or she should check stool sample for giardia, a bacterium that can trigger stomach problems in humans, and make sure that the pet is up-to-date on vaccinations, especially rabies and leptospirosis. That bacterial infection, once limited to southern states, is now found across the country.

**Rein in pests.** Regularly apply or give medicines to protect against ticks (which can spread Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever); fleas (which can cause rashes and, in rare cases, transmit the plague bacterium); and mosquitoes (which can transmit such parasites as hookworms).

**Practice good hygiene.** Wash up after discarding their waste, playing with them, or being scratched.

**Special precautions.** Cat feces sometimes contain a parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*, that can cause birth defects when spread from mother to fetus. It can also damage the brain and lungs of people with weak immune systems. So those people should be sure to ask someone else to empty the kitty litter for them.

Consumer Reports on Health June 2009-06-10

*Dogs have Owners – Cats have Staff.*

## **TAIL END**

Important Links:

Cranbrook SPCA – 250-426-6751

Trail SPCA – 250-368-5910

Nelson 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance – 250-352-2228

Creston Vet Hospital – 428-9494

Kootenay Vet Clinic – 428 2822

Animal Control (Town of Creston only) – 428-2214

If you are interested in adopting a new companion, need to re-home one or have found a pet or lost one – please check out our ***Weekly Wag and Meow Mart*** which is posted at both Vet Clinics, Iron Kettle Restaurant, Sunset Seed or Lil' Mutt Grooming. Or check with the PAWS office - 1420 Northwest Boulevard - or on our website.

Everyone is invited to participate in PAWS events, projects, meetings and fund raisers.  
If you are interested in volunteering, fostering or becoming a member please contact us.

### **CRESTON PET ADOPTION & WELFARE SOCIETY**

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