



PAWPRINTS



CLAUDIA'S PLACE ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Welcome in the New Year with a resolution to help at least one homeless animal. Whether you take in a stray kitten or feed the wild birds, it all helps the innocent creatures who share this world with us. If you cannot help an animal directly consider a donation to a shelter so they can help animals in a more direct manner.

Fencing has been ongoing at the shelter much to the dismay of the escape artist dogs and the delight of their handlers!!

HELP!! The kennel dogs are in need of blankets: only "unstuffed" ones, no wool and no afghans (dogs get their nails hooked in them). Please bring them to the shelter.

DOGS and CATS and BIRDS Oh My!!

DOGS:

Residents: Barney, Chevy, Eli, Jesse, Kit, Ollie, Percy, Tommy,

Strays: Dinah (family name Nikita) has been claimed by her family.

Blue (family name Saska) has also been reclaimed.

Fostered: Benji, Buffy, Jane, Louie, Max

Permanent Foster (not on the adoption list): Dudley & Smartie

SAD NOTE: Corey was adopted and went to Fernie. Unfortunately he had epilepsy and began having constant seizures. When no medication could control the seizures, he had to be euthanized.

CITADEL DOG TRAINING PROJECT is working well thanks to Diana, Joan and Vicki. The dogs (Barney, Tommy, Chevy and Jane) have a couple more weeks training here before going to the coast for a further 14 week training program. We wish them good luck and a productive and happy future.

CATS:

Cat Pad: Cagney, Curtis, Halfway, Ivan, Lester, Mouse, Sampson, Selena, Shiner, Soot, Sylvie

Visitors: Sophie visited for a few days and has gone home again

Missy came back for a couple of days then returned to her foster family

Callie visited us for a week. She has now gone home.

Staff Washroom: Samba (black long hair) and Zena

Public Washroom: KitKat has been returned as he is too possessive of his person

Kennel Cat: Brat

Fostered: Patsy, Monsoon, Missy, John, Jessica, Jemma, Sophie

Seniors for Seniors: Beau, Gomer, Hercules, Hoover, Jeffrey, Lucy, Max

Permanent Foster: Trooper, Smudge, Smidgen

NOTES: Pansy, the cat adopted on Whisker Day, has managed to elude her new owner. Last news she was still on the loose.

OTHERS: Black Jack Rabbit has become a shelter resident until his owners can come for him.

HAPPY TAILS

Hank, the furry black Newfie/Lab has found a great home right here in Creston.

Charger, the bossy cat, has also found a local home to call his own.

Percy has traveled to the Nelson area with his new family.

HEALTHY HINTS

Why Do Mats Occur: Matting occurs as a result of lack of grooming or by an underlying disease such as thyroid, diabetes, kidney disease, age related degeneration, dermatitis, etc. which can lead to formation of a mat due to the underlying skin becoming unhealthy. When a dog does not self-groom or if there is a pathological process that causes matting, the owner or caretaker must provide daily grooming to prevent matting. If small mats form, larger painful mats will form over time. Long haired, double coated dogs and cats like Chows, collies, and Persians can be prone to hair mats without regular brushing and grooming. Seasonal shedding, coat make up, growth rate and shedding rate can make matting worse. Dogs that are continually housed indoors will have this seasonal effect diminished.

Effect of Matting: A mat begins to form when the hairs become entangled. With time, more hair becomes involved in this process. The mat, while loose and moveable initially, will become more tightly bound to the underlying skin. With time, they can be so closely and tightly bound to the skin to cause a disruption to the blood flow to the skin and the normal respiratory process of the skin. The end result can be a painful process where the skin is unhealthy and inflamed. This can eventually lead to the mat and its underlying associated skin sloughing off leaving an open wound. Pain results from the inflammatory process that ensues. The mat may also serve as a reservoir for debris from the environment and will also entrap normally sloughing skin cells, sweat, oils, salts and minerals. These substances themselves will become irritants to the underlying skin layer causing inflammation and pain.

Mats in the armpits and groin areas can be very painful and can cause bruising from pulling. The pet may even be reluctant to move. Mats can cause sores if the dog or cat is constantly licking or chewing on the area. A pet with painfully matted fur may flinch or snap at human contact.

Distress: Matting will cause pain and distress for dogs. Dogs will often perceive when a few hairs are out of place. To speculate that a dog would not feel the effect of a mat would not be reasonable. Chronic mats will lead to inflammation and dermatitis and pain. As a result, the presence of a mat will cause distress in a dog

Prevention: Mats are prevented by a combination of self-grooming and additional grooming when required by the caretaker/owner. If a dog is debilitated or old, they may not be able to perform self-grooming. In these cases, the care-taker must provide daily grooming. Simple daily grooming will prevent initial formation of mats. Once mats have become established, removal will usually require shaving off at the skin level. Without this intervention, mats will only worsen and become quite painful.

You can turn to a professional groomer or you can handle mats at home. Work corn starch into the wad of fur to help separate the hairs. Hold the fur with one hand so you don't pull on hair and skin. Use a wide toothed comb or slicker brush to work on the tangle. Or you can shave the mat away with electric clippers, a moustache trimmer or scissors. Slip a comb between fur mat and skin and use blunt tipped scissors to cut the mat away. Once the mat has been removed, you can relieve pain and swelling by applying ice wrapped in a washcloth for ten to fifteen minutes. If the skin is irritated from the clippers, apply witch hazel or a hydrocortisone cream to the area.

I know that dogs are pack animals, but it is difficult to imagine a pack of standard poodles...and if there was such a thing as a pack of standard poodles, where would they rove to? Bloomingdale's?

--Yvonne Clifford, American actress

PET POINTS

New Year dangers for pets include drinks, food, decorations and, of course, open doors. Every time a visitor arrives there is the chance your pet may spook and race out the door. This could lead to a very cold night away from home at the least to traffic dangers, large animal attacks or being “dog-napped” by a stranger. Of course there will be unguarded treats that will tempt any well behaved pet. Drinks can also be a problem as some are sweet smelling and tasting and very tempting to the pet. You may have decorated your home with tinsel, streamers, foil decorations and flowers as well as holly with berries and other fresh greenery. All of these can be dangerous perhaps even fatal to your pet. Take care to keep these items out of your pets reach so you can both have a Happy New Year.

MEOW-SSAGES

Cats are particularly susceptible to frostbite and the areas most commonly affected are the ears. Stiff ears are the first sign your cat might be suffering from frost bite. As the ear warms, it's common to see a purple or red tinge before a straight line develops between discolored and normal tissue. Frostbitten ears tend to flop over. In extreme cases, cats can lose the tips or even the entire ear.

Cats' tails are also susceptible to frost bite. It isn't easy spotting tail frostbite. Frostbitten tails are particularly painful for cats. The condition often goes unrecognized until the tail becomes stiff and hard. While dogs are also affected by frostbite it's not as common. Smaller and short-haired breeds face the most risk.

The best way to protect your companion animals from frostbite is to keep them indoors during cold snaps, or closely monitor their time out of doors. Remember: frostbite is completely preventable.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Pet Pictures with Santa on December 2nd was a great success. Many breeds, sizes and colors of both dogs and cats made a personal request to Santa. Even a turtle “hurried in” to give Santa his list.

Our last Bake Sale also proved quite successful. Even though we only had a one day sale we still had a nice income. Once again our fabulous bakers outdid themselves with such a great variety of baking there was something for everyone. We also had a great selection of dog treats and catnip cat toys to offer our customers which were very popular – especially those in decorative Christmas containers.

Christmas Party by PAWS was also a success with many businesses taking advantage of the opportunity to hold their Christmas Party the easy way. A wonderful supper catered by Dick Douma was followed by a dance to the music of Full Circle Band.

PET PANTRY

KITTY KISSES

1 can favorite canned cat food

Piping bag with small plain tip or ziploc baggy with a little hole cut out corner

Whirr cat food in blender or food processor till the consistency of frosting.

Put into pastry or piping bag and make "kisses" on parchment paper lined cookie sheet.

Bake at 300' until sort of dry and done. Time depends on size of kisses.

If you make small ones it takes about 15 minutes.

All dogs smell. We don't mean they're stinky, but they can smell, extremely well. A dog's sense of smell, in fact, is more than 100,000 times stronger than yours. So don't fool yourself, he knows where you hid the bone.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

PAWS Volunteer of the Month for December is Carol Eggert. Nothing stops this wonderful lady. She has helped PAWS in so many ways, from fostering, to caring for the shelter animals, to doing laundry so that all those animals have clean and warm bedding. On top of all that, she helps with raffles, bake sales and in the shelter office, and she always has the coffee on! She is always willing to help in whatever way she can, and we know we can always count on her. Thank you Carol. You are a treasure.

BREED READ

SHIH TZU

The Shih Tzu's ancestors can be traced back to 5th century Asia, particularly Tibet. They became known as a royal house pet to the Ming Dynasty. The name originates from the Chinese word for "lion" because of the breed's lion-like appearance.

It is known as a house pet and "lap dog," never having been bred for any other known purpose.

It ranges in weight from 9 to 16 pounds and can be nearly any color, but are most commonly seen in black, white, blue, gold, liver or any combination of these.

Health Problems: some hereditary health problems can occur in the breed, such as:

- Brachycephalic Syndrome (snorting and snoring)
- Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (Dry Eye)
- Intervertebral Disc Disease
- Distichiasis

A small but sturdy dog with a lush, long double hair coat, it is alert, confident, playful and courageous. It's demeanor may be interpreted as stubborn and outspoken.

Because of its long, luxurious coat, daily brushing and a strict grooming routine are absolutely required.

The Shih Tzu is just one of many hypoallergenic dog breeds.

The natural personality of this breed can definitely benefit from basic training. It does not need a tremendous amount of exercise but thrives with a daily exercise routine.

The small size of the Shih Tzu makes it ideal for apartments and small homes. Be prepared for snorting and snoring - the Shih Tzu is considered a brachycephalic breed because of its head shape and short "smooshed" face. Most owners of the breed will tell you that the Shih Tzu is truly a lovable dog breed!

TAIL END

Creston Vet Hospital – 428-9494

PAWS office – 428-7297

Cranbrook SPCA – 250-426-6751

Trail SPCA – 250-368-5910

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

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.

PAWS is operated by un-paid volunteers. Funding comes from grants, donations and fund-raising.

PAWS is a NO-KILL shelter.

CRESTON PET ADOPTION & WELFARE SOCIETY

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