



Where Happy Endings Begin!



Since the last newsletter....we've been busy!

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Since it's sunny springtime, we'll move really quickly through our recap of holiday events so we don't dwell on the colder months.

1. Thanks to Applebee's in Ionia, we had a couple of fun-filled Saturdays in Nov/Dec serving pancakes to the neighborhood. Money was raised for the Safe Haven fur kids, and we all had a great time pretending we were extremely efficient wait staff. Thanks Applebee's!

2. In December, Santa arrived at Tractor Supply in Ionia to have his picture taken with lots of kids, both with and without fur. In all, 80 sittings with Santa were photographed, and again everyone had fun doing this fundraiser. Thanks Tractor Supply and Santa!



Santa and his kids

3. In March, the Ionia Community Theater invited us to host a concession stand at their final performances of Willy Wonka. The community was wonderfully generous, and this turned out to

be a great fundraiser for Safe Haven. Thanks Ionia Community Theater!

4. March also marked the beginning of our passionate project to reduce the springtime litters of kittens that show up everywhere. Many of these litters would be brought to the county shelters, stacking up in greater numbers than homes are available for them. We all know what that means for their future. Our "Beat the Heat" spay subsidies helped spay 166 female cats during March and April.

5. April means the West Michigan Pet Expo at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. Safe Haven and the Ionia County Animal Shelter shared booth space at this huge event (8-10,000 people in attendance). Together we found homes for 58 dogs: 39 from the Ionia Shelter and 19 from Safe Haven foster homes. What a great, fun weekend!

Thanks to everyone who helped at an event, attended an event, donated, spayed or adopted. All these efforts are making a better world for the animals and for us.



Safe Haven and the Ionia County Animal Shelter share a booth at the Pet Expo in April. The theme of the booth was the Wizard of Oz

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."

Martin Luther King Jr.



Parvo—Five days to live

The parvo virus is a horrible killer of puppies. If you get a 'free' puppy, get its shots **FAST!** Parvo can live in the grass, on other surfaces, and in dried feces of infected dogs for many months. If your pup shows any symptoms, seek veterinary attention immediately for testing and available treatment. Do Not Wait! If you wait, your pup may only have five days to live.

Here's a mercifully quick recap of a recent personal experience of one of our volunteers:

- ✎ Received a phone call from young daughter of a friend that her puppy (new, free puppy) was ill, had not eaten in four days and had bloody diarrhea.
- ✎ Volunteer picked up the dog and sought emergency attention, on a Saturday, at her own expense.
- ✎ This sweet, once happy dog who the previous week was wrestling with kids and giving kisses tested positive for parvo and was deemed too overwhelmed by the virus to recover.

Here's the personal ending to this story: *"We went in and said our good-nights, hoping he would not feel our stress, which I'm sure I couldn't hide. He had to be quarantined, so seeing him lying there just staring at the wall waiting to feel better was even more heart wrenching. We took him home and dug a hole that night and buried him snuggly in his blanky (yes I know that's silly, but I had to — it's a security thing)"*

Please remember this story. This pup should have been vaccinated when he was 6-8 weeks old! Puppies are so susceptible to the parvo virus, and it's almost totally preventable with an inexpensive vaccination. Give your puppy a chance to become an adult. Please vaccinate soon and booster annually thereafter. Your dog's life depends on it.

Dogs' Best Friend



Cynthia Bruinsma

Cynthia Bruinsma has been fostering dogs for Safe Haven Humane Society since 1999. To date she has been a foster mom to over 325 dogs.

Cynde loves dogs. "It brings me joy to watch how broken spirits can mend with a little love. Fostering is a small way that I can help them," she said.

Cynthia advises anyone who is thinking about fostering dogs, to read all they can about them, such as temperament and illnesses and behavioral issues, etc. She also suggests that people volunteer at an animal shelter to see first hand the many issues that surround how animals are treated. "And if you can leave there dry eyed, fostering may not be for you," she said.

Things you may not know about Pit Bulls

- ✎ The American Pit Bull Terrier was the most popular family dog during the first part of the 20th Century
- ✎ According to the American Canine Temperament Testing Association, 82.5% of Pit Bulls tested passed the standard temperament test, compared with 77% passing rate for all breeds average. Pit bulls have achieved the fourth highest passing rate of all 122 breeds tested. The first sign of aggression or panic is a failure of the test.
- ✎ In August 2002, based on expert opinion, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled in a case involving four pit bull puppies, "that no

breed of dog is genetically dangerous."

- ✎ Pit bulls that arrive at animal shelters displaying heavy scarring are normally there because they would NOT fight and were discarded by dog fighters.
- ✎ According to U.S. statistics, of all the pit bulls ending up in animal shelters, only 1 in every 600 will find a home.
- ✎ Dog fighting is the number one abuse towards animals in an urban environment. That is why when you watch Animal Precinct on Animal Planet, almost every arrest involves cruelty toward pit bulls.
- ✎ A Pit bull by the name of Sergeant Stubby was the most decorated war dog of World War I. He met presidents, was a lifetime member of the American Legion, Red Cross and YMCA and after his death in 1926, he was stuffed and can be seen wearing all his medals at the Smithsonian Institute.



Sergeant Stubby



Petey of The Little Rascals

- ✎ One of the most recognized dogs in movie history is the trusty sidekick of the "Little Rascals" or the "Our Gang" series. Petey was his name and Pit bull was his breed.

✎ Pit Bulls are the only breed that has graced the covers of Life Magazine more than once; 3 times to be exact.





The size of the problem . . .

Each day 10,000 humans are born in the U.S., and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born.

As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy loving cats, dogs, kittens and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, animals, and cruel humans.

What can you do to stop the suffering? Spay and neuter your pets! AND support spay/neuter projects in your community.

An unsprayed female cat, her mate, and all of their offspring, producing two litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter, can total . . .

1 year: 12 cats
2 years: 67
3 years: 376
4 years: 2,107
5 years: 11,801
6 years: 66,088

7 years: 370,092
8 years: 2,072,514
9 years: 11,606,077
(North Shore Animal League America)

Need we say more?



I would like to help Safe Haven by

☐ Donating: My check made payable to Safe Haven Humane Society is enclosed for

☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

(you can also donate online at www.shhs pets.com)

☐ Fostering. Please send me information about fostering cats or dogs

☐ Becoming a member of Safe Haven: \$10 individual or \$18 family

☐ Other:

☐ Help transport animals

☐ Hold or help with fundraiser

☐ Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

We are always looking for feedback for our newsletter. Please tell us what you think: what you would like to see more of or less of. Thank you. _____

cut out and mail this form to:
Safe Haven Human Society
P.O. Box 55
Ionia, MI 48846

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SAFE HAVEN HUMANE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 55
Ionia, MI 48846
Telephone: 616-522-1611
FAX: 517-579-5948
email: shhspets@hotmail.com
www.shhspets.com

"Where Happy Endings Begin!"

If you would prefer not to receive future copies of our newsletter, please call or email us and let us know.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

That's Splash

Last November, area portraiture artist Arlene Tannheimer graciously offered to auction a pet portrait to help raise funds for Safe Haven. In addition, she offered to make a monetary donation by matching the amount of the winning bid.

Portraits Mrs. Tannheimer has done in the past are now gracing collections across the United States and Europe, and Safe Haven was thrilled with her offer.

Normally when Mrs. Tannheimer paints an oil portrait, the process begins with her taking dozens of photos of the subject, searching for the right image. In the case of the winner of this auction, the artist worked from an existing photo of a deceased pet.

Bruce and Stacy Langlois of Lowell, the winners of the auction, chose to have the portrait done of their daughter's beloved dog Splash, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, who passed away last year. The portrait was a surprise birthday gift for their daughter.

Safe Haven Humane Society is so happy that Mrs. Tannheimer chose to help the animals in our care with this kind offer. And not only have the homeless animals benefitted from the artist's generosity, but the Langlois family has a lovely, enduring commemoration of Splash.



Splash



If you would like to become a member of Safe Haven, or would like to foster a pet or volunteer in some other way, please call us at 616-522-1611 or email us at shhspets@hotmail.com.