



Where Happy Endings Begin!



It's been a good year!

ALL OF US WITH SAFE HAVEN HUMANE SOCIETY ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTACTS we've made over this past year and for the support of our adopters, fosters and volunteers.

We've made lots of new friends and have seen wonderful acts of kindness, like just-turned ten-year-old Sydney Langeweg, who asked for donations for Safe Haven animals instead of birthday gifts.

So far this year, 350 pets have gone into new homes. Adopters continue to send us pictures and stories about their new "fur kids" (a few pictures are on this page).

All of these stories and pictures are so very uplifting. Animal rescue is often hard emotionally and physically,

so the pictures and stories help to keep us going.

In addition, this year we were fortunate enough to receive donations to help us subsidize many spay and neuter surgeries. These donations helped us to finish our year-long commitment of helping those who otherwise would not have been able to afford to have their pets fixed.

From May 2008 through May 2009, Safe Haven helped provide nearly 1,400 surgeries.

Thanks to everyone who transported a dog or cat, baked goodies for a bake sale, washed laundry, or donated laundry supplies or money. Your help fuels our work and rejuvenates us.

Have a safe and happy holiday season and we hope we can count on your support in the future!

Benny and Rory became fast friends.



Benny & Rory



Good cat, bad habit

Although litter box problems are extremely frustrating for cat owners, most of these problems can be resolved. Inappropriate urination (going outside the litter box) is the most common complaint from cat owners. The cause can be medical, hormonal or behavioral.

MEDICAL

The very first step in addressing litter box issues is to determine whether a medical condition exists. Urinary tract infection, bladder stones, and other elimination problems can often cause your kitty to associate the litter box with the pain of elimination and begin to avoid the “place of pain.”

IS IT MARKING OR HOUSE SOILING?

If no medical condition exists, try to determine if the cat is marking — which is a territorial thing — or simply urinating. Cats generally urinate in a squat position and deposit a fairly large amount of urine in one spot. Marking, on the other hand, is usually performed while the cat is standing upright (not squatting) and with its tail held high and quivering. Any cat can “mark” its territory; however, unneutered males are by far the biggest culprits, and 90% of those males stop marking after they’re neutered.

BEHAVIORAL

As most pet owners know, pets do experience stress and anxiety. Children, other pets, a move to a new home, or any major change in the environment can trigger a change in your cat’s behavior.



Most pets take changes in stride, but when they don’t, here are some avenues to explore:

- ❖ Create a safe haven for the kitty that is off limits to other pets and children.
- ❖ Discourage neighborhood free-roaming cats from approaching windows and doors.
- ❖ Be sure the litter box is not close to a noisy appliance.
- ❖ Be sure the litter box is kept clean. Clumping litter is normally preferred and feces and urine balls should be scooped at least once a day.
- ❖ Try different types of litter until you find one your cat prefers.
- ❖ Some cats prefer an open litter box and some prefer a covered box.
- ❖ Be sure the litter box is large enough for your cat — about 1-1/2 times the length of the cat.
- ❖ In multi-cat households, provide one litter box per cat, plus one extra litter box.
- ❖ Thoroughly clean previously soiled sites with white vinegar and restrict the area if necessary.

Remember, most litter box problems can be solved so you and your cat can live happily ever after. It’s certainly worth the try.

How your donations help

Did you know that every donation, no matter how small or large, helps our fur friends at Safe Haven? Every penny counts. Speaking of counting, just count the ways below that your donation can help our fur friends at Safe Haven Humane Society. Those pennies are crucial to our rescue and rehab efforts.

\$5 pays for:

- ◆ Simple veterinary exam for pre-adoption health certificate
- ◆ Drawing blood for feline leukemia and heartworm testing
- ◆ Fecal parasite examination
- ◆ First set of dog vaccinations

\$10 pays for:

- ◆ Antibiotic eye drops for eye infection
- ◆ First set of cat vaccinations
- ◆ 40# bag of cat litter
- ◆ 25# of cat or kitten food

\$20 pays for:

- ◆ 50# bag of dog or puppy food
- ◆ Oral antibiotic liquid
- ◆ Topical fungal, antibiotic, steroidal treatment for ear infection

\$25 pays for:

- ◆ Neuter of male cat
- ◆ Heartworm preventative for 6 small dogs or 3 large dogs
- ◆ Flea and tick treatment for 3 large dogs

\$50 pays for:

- ◆ Neuter of one dog
- ◆ Spay for one cat
- ◆ X-ray of ill or injured animal

\$100 pays for:

- ◆ Tumor biopsy
- ◆ Half the cost of amputation
- ◆ Large dog crate
- ◆ Almost half the cost of heartworm treatment



Holiday reminders, once again

We ran this article last year around the holiday season, and thought it would be a good idea to remind people about pet cautions.

Everyone hears about these pet cautions each year, but with all that's happening around the holidays, it's a good idea to put this list where you can regularly see it. Many normal aspects of the holiday season can be stressful and harmful to our pets. Here are a few things to keep in mind as we scurry through the next couple of months:

- ❗ Rich, fatty foods, like turkey skin or gravy, can cause inflammation of the pancreas in pets, a painful and serious condition requiring emergency veterinary treatment.

- ❗ Cooked bones can splinter and tear or block pet's digestive tract.



- ❗ Baking-string can cause blockage if ingested

- ❗ The list of foods harmful to pets includes grapes and raisins (can cause kidney failure), onions (can cause anemia), caffeine, alcohol and chocolate. Just remember to feed your pets their normal food and keep all other food and treats out of reach. Ask guests to do the same.

- ❗ Needles from your Christmas tree can become lodged in your pet's throat. Even drinking the water from the tree stand can cause vomiting, mouth sores and diarrhea.

- ❗ Mistletoe, holly and poinsettias all contain toxins which, if ingested, can cause a drop in blood pressure, swollen throat, stomach problems



and, even in the case of ingesting Yew, death.

- ❗ Decorative lights and candles pose obvious threats to pets. These should be placed totally out of your pet's reach.

- ❗ Tinsel and ribbon can turn into an intestinal blockage.

- ❗ Wintertime means the presence of antifreeze. Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol which causes rapid and permanent kidney damage to your pet, even if only a small amount is ingested. Spills or leaks should be cleaned up immediately.

Checking this list occasionally and keeping your pet's natural curiosity in mind will help prevent many potential problems. Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.



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 by credit card online at www.shhspets.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: _____

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



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SAFE HAVEN HUMANE SOCIETY

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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

Can't we all just get along?

Abby Galloway has a house and yard full of furry and feathery kids. Milo the pooch was adopted from Safe Haven Humane Society and is now one of the fun gang at Abby's place.

When this baby duck joined the group, Milo knew she had found a fast friend . . . one she even wanted to share her prized bone with. They became best friends.



Abby Galloway's dog, Milo, shares her bone with Baby Duck

The cat on the other hand, saw no such friend in the duckling. The cat feared for her life when the duckling was around and just prayed to be safe from the "dreaded yellow threat."



"Save me from the dreaded yellow threat!" cried the cat.

Perspective is everything, don't you think?

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.

Special thanks to Tractor Supply Co. of Ionia and Applebee's of Ionia for donating their space and manpower during our many fundraisers.