



Autumn 2009

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Dates to Remember!

- October is Adopt-a-Shelter Dog Month
- Halloween  
October 31<sup>st</sup>
- November is Adopt-a-Senior Dog Month
- Shopping Extravaganza at Woodburn Co. Stores  
November 7<sup>th</sup>
- Veteran's Day  
November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving  
November 26<sup>th</sup>
- Black Friday Sale!  
November 27<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day  
December 25<sup>th</sup>

# Forever Friends Newsletter

A Publication of the Marion County Dog Shelter

## Dog Fest '09 - Once Again a Big Success!

By Jolene Bray

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Marion County Dog Fest drew nearly 200 canines and 300 people to Chemeketa Community College on Saturday, September 12 for a day of fun, food, games, contests, and demonstrations. It was a beautiful sunny day. (A little hot for some, but the dog pools kept the dogs cool.)



*One of the shelter's littlest supporters with a dog just her size.*

At the event were approximately 40 vendors and demonstrators showcasing their dog related products, services or activities. In addition to the activities the dogs could participate in, there were raffle tickets the human attendees. We had a large number of local businesses sponsoring this event by donating almost \$2,000 in services, toys, food, and hotel packages for a get-away to dog-friendly hotels at Lincoln City and downtown Portland.

New this year were contests, which proved very popular. We started the day with Best Costume, followed by Look-a-Like, Most Mixed-Up Mutt, Best Tail Wag, and Biggest & Littlest Dog. Everyone was a winner with first, second, and third place receiving gift certificates, and all other dogs receiving a doggie-toy. In between contests, there were great demonstrations by Oregon K-9 Search Teams, Marion County Sheriffs Office and Keizer Police Department K-9, and The Joys of Living Assistance Dogs.



*Winner of the Best Costume Contest.*

Beyond dogs and people playing together, the purpose of the event was to raise funds for the dog shelter, which is the only shelter to house stray dogs in Marion County. To that end, Dog Fest raised almost \$1,800.00 for their care!



*Volunteer Debbie West with her beloved Buddy, MCDS alumni.*

Marion County Dog Shelter would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up a portion of their Saturday and braved the heat to help make this year's Dog Fest event not only successful, but a lot of fun. The funds raised will be used for the medical expenses of the dogs at the shelter. We also want to thank all the attendees, vendors, demonstrators, and sponsors for making this annual event such a success. A special thank you to Chemeketa Community College for the use of their beautiful grounds, and to NW Natural Gas for once again allowing us to borrow their tents. Thank you everyone and we hope to see you again next year!



# Shelter Manager's Update

By Allison Barrows, Shelter Manager

The **Marion County Dog Shelter** has been in operation for three years now. We have made many enhancements in those three years such as improving our medical care and record keeping, starting our foster program, and implementation of a new kennel cleaning procedure that is not only cost effective but eliminates the use of harsh chemicals. We have also faced our share of bumps in the road with budget cuts, the loss of a full time administration position, and trying to increase public awareness of our location and the services we provide.

While we have come a long way we still have a long way to go. We continue to look to the future and find ways to keep our procedures and processes in line with the current shelter trends. This past year we have actually seen a slight decline in the number of dogs entering the shelter. We have seen an increase in the percentage of dogs returned to their owners and an increase in dogs adopted or transferred to rescue organizations, which has lead to a large decrease in the percentage of dogs that are euthanized.

We have some great events planned in the near future. **October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog-Month.** On October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> visit some of our adoptable dogs at [PetSense](#) in the Woodburn Factory Stores for an **Adopt-a-thon**. If you already have a dog, stop by anyway. Dogs are welcome at the store and they have lots of treats and goodies that are reasonably priced! If you're considering a new furry friend there couldn't be a better time so come meet our dogs in need of new homes.



On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 p.m. to midnight, Town and County Lanes presents "**Super Hero and Villain Bowl**". They will be accepting clean blankets and towels for our shelter dogs as well as other donations. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.tandcbowl.net>.

We are very excited to be participating for a second year in the **Woodburn Company Stores (WCS) Shopping Extravaganza**. This event was a huge success last year, not to mention a ton of fun for those who love to shop! For more information on this fun day, visit the [WCS website](#). To purchase tickets call or visit Marion County Dog Shelter at 503-566-6966 or purchase online from Woodburn Company Stores. Be sure to choose Marion County Dog Shelter as your charity and mark your calendar!

We have also been working with **CCTV (Capital Community Television)** to make videos of our adoptable dogs and other upcoming events. Not only has this been a fun and educational endeavor it has been a great place to showcase our shelter and our dogs. For channels and show times, go to [www.cctvsalem.org](http://www.cctvsalem.org)

Thank you to our supporters and our volunteers for promoting the Marion County Dog Shelter and getting the word out about our organization. Thank you to our devoted staff that works tirelessly to care for our dogs. Thank you to the women of our kennel crew from the Marion County Jail, you have proved to be a valuable part of our team and the care of our dogs. Here's to another great year at the Marion County Dog Shelter!

## Volunteer News

By Sonya Heard



Happy, Happy Fall! Well it looks as if the shelter and the volunteers have made it past the hot weather! Dog Fest 2009 was a great success and would not have happened without the many volunteer's who showed up to help us out.

Things have been busy in our "volunteer world" at the Dog Shelter. We've had 16 new volunteers join us since July! I'd like to welcome Jamie Coleman, Tony Dinatale, Aleda Fairley, Jonathan Francis, Diane Johnson, Linda Johnson, Hannah Kersey, Nicholas Morales, Jeannie Painter, Shannan Phelps, Wanda Reeves, Alexandra Riecke-Gonzales, Amy Segel, Brian Schachtsick, and Lizzy Whittemore.

I am still diligently looking for someone to take over the Outreach Training and the Dog Walking Training at volunteer orientations. I think we have someone for the outreach training, but I still need that dedicated person to teach our volunteers everything there is to know about walking the dogs! If that's you, don't hesitate to call me!

With the winter months coming on we hope to see more volunteers here at the shelter walking our four-legged friends. This socialization is what helps them get adopted, not to mention its pretty fun for the volunteers too! We hope that everyone enjoys the holiday season and we look forward to seeing both our new recruits and seasoned volunteers at the shelter! Now that vacations are over and the weather is cooler, we can really have some fun! So, please stop by and say "Hi!" anytime you see me at the shelter!

# Another Happily-Ever-After Tale

By Karen Muthart

I work for AAA here in Salem and we host a "Membership Appreciation Day" every year in our parking area. For the past couple of years, Debbie West who is a volunteer with Marion County Dog Shelter, has had an outreach booth at our event. This year our event was held on June 11th and that was the first time I met my Molly.



*Molly at the shelter.*

When I visited the dog shelter's booth, there was Molly in her pen. She had the sweetest looking face and a way about her that made me want to get to know her. I visited Molly a few times that day while Debbie was there and then went out to the shelter to see her twice more. Then my husband Rob went out to meet her and *he* fell in love with her *too!* We decided to adopt her and bring her home with us, but as it turned out it was more like Molly brought us home.

The first time she came into the house she immediately went to her food dish and then found her bed at my foot stool.

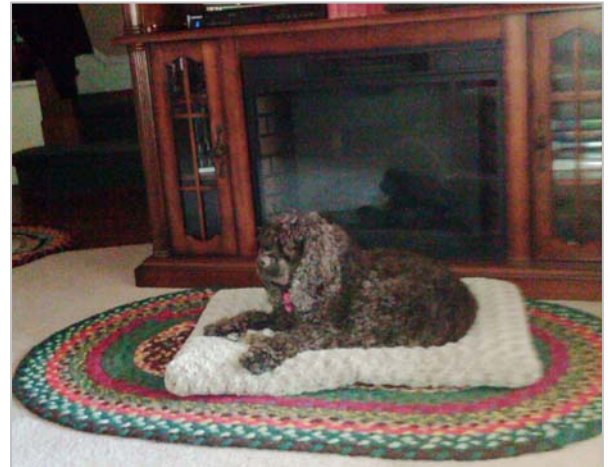
It used to be mine but I would say that it belongs to her now. As you can see from the picture, she has found where she wants to be and is very comfortable.

We were a little concerned because Molly was already blind in one eye and partially blind in the other eye when she came to us. We live in a 2-story house and thought that might be a problem for her with the stairs. We shouldn't have been worried at all. She has a bed upstairs that she uses at night when we are sleeping and another one downstairs in front of the fireplace where she spends a lot of her time during the day.

People that don't know she's blind have a hard time believing it because she runs around like a sighted dog. But if you look into her beautiful soft brown eyes you know she can not see you at all.

It doesn't hinder her ability to get around at all. We even play fetch with her inside the house with her favorite little toy, a fuzzy stuffed bone with leopard print. She leaves it all over the house and can find it wherever she has left it.

Molly loves to go and get her nails done and her bath at Bowzers Grooming, and she really seems to smile when she smells nice. She is such a beautiful little girl and a most welcome addition to our little family. She is very loved and we are too. Thank you for letting us adopt her.



*Molly on her comfy bed in her new forever home.*

## Upcoming Events

**Foster Program Orientation**, October 17th, 9am to 11am at the Marion County Dog Shelter. For more info, call Felicia Pederson at 503-566-6966.

**New Volunteer Orientation**, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 11am at the Marion County Dog Shelter. For more info, call Sonya Heard at 503-566-6966.

**Woodburn Company Stores Shopping Extravaganza** on Saturday, November 7th. For more info or to purchase tickets, call the shelter at 503-566-6966 or Jolene Bray at 503-365-3177.

**Black Friday Sale**, November 27<sup>th</sup> at Marion County Dog Shelter. All dogs on sale for \$75.00. For more info, call Allison Barrows or Sonya Heard at 503-566-6966.

## A Training Tip From LaurieLea

### Easy way to introduce dogs for the first time

- Bring dogs together in a neutral place such a sidewalk or parking lot.
- Make sure they both have on secure collar and leashes, no backing out of collars wanted.
- Start walking, letting dogs sniff each other as they are walking, alternate who is walking in front.
- If either dog is having any problems, try walking a little faster.
- As the walk continues they will become less excited and more relaxed, might even want to play, this could be a great start to a lasting friendship.

# Holiday Pet Care Tips

Here are 10 ways to keep your pets safe during holiday festivities:

## The New Pet

Holidays are not the best time to introduce a new pet to the household. All the excitement, noise and deviation from the normal routine could make it difficult for a new pet—and any existing pets—to make the adjustment.

## Pets as Gifts

Consider seriously the choice to give a pet as a gift. One of the main reasons animals are abandoned or taken to shelters is because they are unwanted. Don't contribute to this situation by giving a pet to someone who may not want it or be able to care for it. If you do choose to give a pet as a gift, allow the recipient(s) to select the pet so that they can find one that is right for them.

## Food, Chocolate & Treats

- Keep holiday treats and candies out of your pet's reach as they can make your pet quite sick. Candy wrappers can cause digestive upset if eaten.
- Potentially harmful foods include: coffee grounds, chocolate, tea, alcohol, hops, salt, onions and onion powder, grapes and raisins, avocado, garlic, and macadamia nuts.
- Chocolate, particularly unsweetened, dark, bittersweet and baking chocolate, can be toxic to pets, especially dogs, who are more prone to eat it. If your dog eats chocolate, call your veterinarian or an animal poison control center immediately, as treatment may need to be rendered immediately. Symptoms of toxicity include excitement, nervousness, trembling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst or urination, muscle spasms and seizures.
- Keep gum, candy or breath fresheners containing the sweetener xylitol away from your dog. When a dog eats even a small amount of xylitol, it causes a surge of insulin, and the animal's blood sugar may drop quickly and dangerously. Cases of liver damage have also been associated with ingestion of xylitol. If your dog ingest xylitol, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center immediately.

## Leftovers

Don't feed your pet holiday turkey or chicken, as the small bones or fragments can lodge in the throat, stomach, or intestinal tract. Fatty leftovers such as turkey skin can trigger inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis), a life threatening disease. At the very least, too much human food may give your pet an upset stomach.

## Guests

Pets can become overexcited, confused or frightened by holiday guests. Keep pets in a quiet part of the house. When guests are over, watch for open doors and make sure your pets have ID tags and/or microchips in case they do get out. Remind your guests that your normally friendly pet may want to be left alone. Pets may be scared of trick-or-treaters in costume. Young trick-or-treaters may be scared of dogs who run excitedly toward them when the owner answers the door. Outdoor pets, especially black cats, should be kept indoors on Halloween.

## Christmas Tree

Make sure your tree is well secured. Avoid adding preservatives, aspirin or sugar to your tree's water, or keep the water covered. Tidy up around your tree and wreaths as sharp pine needles can puncture your pet if ingested.

## Holiday Decorations

Holiday decorations such as breakable ornaments and dreidels should be kept out of reach of pets, as should fake cobwebs, tinsel, string, and ribbon. If your pet ingests any of these items, it could experience serious internal injuries, or worse. Light strands, loose wires and electric cords can be a serious hazard to your pet, especially puppies, who may chew them.

## Plants

Mistletoe and holly are poisonous and should be kept out of reach of pets. If eaten, poinsettia plants can cause severe gastrointestinal upset. You may want to avoid these other poisonous plants.

## Candles

Never leave candles unattended, especially around puppies and kittens. Be careful of candles used in jack-o-lanterns.

## Stress

The holidays can be a stressful time for everyone, even your pets. Even though your routine might change, try to keep your pets on their normal routine of feeding and exercise. Some pets might not mind "dressing up" for Halloween, but, for others, it could be a stressful experience best avoided.

*Courtesy of Oregon Veterinary Medical Association*

