

Forever Friends Newsletter

A Publication of the Marion County Dog Shelter

Spring 2011

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Welcome Spring!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

National Animal Control Appreciation Week

April 11 - 17

Be Kind to Animals Week

First Week of May

National Dog Bite Prevention Week

May 13 - 19

Take Your Dog To Work Day

June 22nd

International Homeless Pets Day

September 15th

National Dog Week

Last week of September

World Rabies Day

September 28th

April is Pet First Aid Awareness Month

April is **National Pet First Aid Awareness Month**. As a pet owner, the better prepared that you are for identifying and responding to an emergency situation, the better chance your pet will have for recovery. What if your pet was facing a health emergency and his or her life depended on your quick decisions? Would you know what to do? Pet first-aid may be required for many unexpected injuries and conditions, including puncture wounds, poisoning, choking, heat stroke, breathing difficulties, electrical shock, and car accidents. Advance planning can make the difference between life and death for your pet.



We all recognize that immediate veterinary care is required for life threatening emergencies such as being hit by a car or suffering an injury that causes bleeding, but less obvious health emergencies exist in the animal world and delay in seeking veterinary care can have serious consequences. For example, unusual crying or whining; coughing; bleeding; dizziness; confusion; vomiting; diarrhea; excessive drooling; uncontrollable panting; irregular or difficult breathing; and, increased or difficulty with urination.

As a pet owner, you should learn how to recognize emergencies in your pet and how quickly you need to seek veterinary care. The best way to learn this is through a hands-on demonstration. With most pets, it is relatively easy to learn how to take a pulse or a body temperature, along with some other simple assessment techniques such as examination of the mucous membranes of the mouth. You should also learn how to safely control bleeding, how to apply a bandage or a tourniquet, how to treat a wasp or bee sting, and what to do if you suspect your animal is poisoned.

When dealing with emergencies, especially injuries, it is important to remember that an injured animal, no matter how well trained, may "bite the hand that treats it". Therefore, it is vital to safeguard yourself and anyone helping you by using muzzles or other restraining devices at all times.

Finally, it is a good idea to prepare a first aid kit. It will save valuable time in the case of an emergency and will be easy to take with you during your dog's outings. It's fairly common for dogs to hurt their feet on broken glass or garbage and your kit will enable you to deal with the injury at the time it happens.

Many injuries can be treated with common sense and basic first-aid. To get further information, talk to your veterinarian about how to properly administer first-aid, purchase and read a pet first-aid book (available via pet stores, book stores, online retailers and the Red Cross), and/or contact the Red Cross to register for a pet first-aid course at www.oregonredcross.org.

Note: Marion County Dog Shelter is working with the Oregon Red Cross host a Dog First Aid / CPR class this summer. Once this class is scheduled, information will be posted on our website.

A Pet First-Aid Kit should include:

- Gauze
- Adhesive tape
- Nonstick bandages
- Antibiotic ointment
- Clean towel
- Cotton balls
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Latex gloves
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sterile eye wash
- Instant cold pack
- Card with phone numbers for: your veterinarian; Animal poison control center; and, the nearest 24-hr emergency vet clinic



Shelter Manager's Update

By Allison Barrows

I don't know about everyone else but I'm really looking forward to warm, sunny days. Throughout the winter our dedicated volunteers were able to take the dogs out for regular exercise in our outdoor yards on mild days, but stuck to the covered yards when it was stormy. We continue to attend weekend outreach events at various vendor locations such as **Petco, Petsmart, Pet Etc.** and we're happy to have recently added **South Salem Pet Supply** to our list. The shelter staff and volunteers are all looking forward to the start of the **Salem Saturday Market** as that has been a very successful venue for us.



A recent change to the Marion County Code now requires dogs impounded at the shelter to be micro-chipped prior to being returned to their owner. There is a \$15.00 fee for implanting the microchip and registering it to the owner with their contact information. We see many dogs with no form of identification coming into the shelter and without identification it is nearly impossible for shelter staff to know who the dog belongs to. Our goal with this new procedure is to help

our shelter and any animal organizations or vet clinics with a microchip scanner return dogs to their families. If only they could talk and tell us where they live!

We plan on holding several **Licensing Amnesty Events** this spring and summer. Our low cost Rabies vaccines have proved to be a great way to help the citizens of Marion County stay current with their vaccines and license their dogs. We hope that with the cooperation of the vet clinics assisting us with the amnesty events they will be able to provide other vaccines and services at a reduced rate as well.

Last summer we had our first **rummage sale** and we were so thrilled with the success of this event. We had tremendous support from the community, our volunteers, and Public Works, and we're so grateful for all the donations and efforts from our supporters to help make this a great event. We can't wait to do it all over again this summer!

I have to close by saying a big **"Thank you!"** to **everyone** out there who supports Marion County Dog Shelter!

Hooray for Volunteers!

By Jolene Bray, Administrative Support

The volunteers at MCDS were busy this past winter and have a lot of events lined up for the spring and summer.

We have added **62 new volunteers** to our ranks since September and would like to extend a big welcome to Alex, Alicia, Alysson, Amanda, Amy, Anna, Anita, Anthony, Antonio, Ashley, Barbara, Barry, Brett, Brittany, Carolyn, Cassidy, Cassie, Chase, Chris, Cindi, Connie, Courtney, Corryn, Diana, Elizabeth, Eric, Erika, Jai, Janice, Jasmine, Jeff, Jennifer, Jose N., Jose O., Julia, Karla, Kate, Kathy, Katy, Kevin, Khyler, Kylie, Lara, Latoya, Lauren, Marika, Matthew A., Matthew S., Melody, Michelle, Mikki, Natasha, Patsy, Paul, Rafael, Rebecca, Rebekah, Rosario, Samuel, Teresa, Tim, Zack H., and Zack S. Welcome and thank you - we appreciate your help already!



This spring and summer we will hold adoption outreach events each Saturday (and some Sundays) at **South Salem Pet Supply, PetSmart, Salem Saturday Market, PETCO, and Pet Etc.** As promised, now that Spring is here our popular license amnesty events are back! On **April 2nd** we'll be at **Centennial Park-Dog Park in Woodburn** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering amnesty on late fees and license violations as well as low cost vaccinations. Volunteers are needed for all these events! If you're interested, please contact Sonya Pulvers at 503-566-6966 or at volunteers@co.marion.or.us.

Reverse Sneezing

By Roxann O'Bryant, Veterinary Technician

During routine phone follow-ups of our shelter's adopted dogs, new owners will often describe incidences of their dog having an intense snorting like episode. The dog also seems to be having difficulty with breathing. This behavior most likely describes a common condition called "reverse sneezing" and should be checked by a veterinarian.



A reverse sneeze is a spasm that occurs when the soft palate and throat become irritated from allergies, dust, pollen, perfumes or household chemicals and cleaners. Spasms can also be triggered by excitement, pulling on the leash, rapid eating or drinking, exercise intolerance and possibly sinusitis or other respiratory disorders. This condition is more common in small dogs, especially short faced breeds. Reverse sneezing sounds like the dog is inhaling sneezes. During the spasm, the dog will extend its neck and expand its chest, making loud, forceful sounding gasps for breath. These episodes usually last two minutes or less and may be mistaken for choking, suffocating or seizing. Dogs will appear normal before and after an episode.

Reverse sneezing is usually harmless and, in most cases, does not require medical treatment; however, the nasal passages and throat should be examined by a veterinarian, especially if episodes become more severe or more frequent.

Foster Program Gives a New Leash on Life

By Felicia Pederson, Shelter Technician

The foster care program is doing well and has been really successful. A number of dogs have arrived at the shelter that required some extra special care before they could be put up for adoption.

One such dog was **Little Guy**, who was fostered by Sheila. Little Guy was an 11-week old Chihuahua mix that weighed 3 lbs. when he arrived at the shelter. He spent some time with a foster mom because of his young age and need for some socialization. He has since been adopted into his forever home.



Pinky

Roxann fostered **Pinky**, a little Chihuahua who arrived at the shelter as a stray. She was 4 lbs of energy and sweet disposition, and she quickly stole our hearts. Pinky was essentially hairless due to a condition called demodicosis (commonly referred to as Demodex), and a secondary skin infection. She had one small patch of hair on her neck which we warmly referred to as her "petting patch". Pinky has improved tremendously and will have some long term needs. She was recently adopted by her foster family.



Zane

Victor fostered **Zane**, a little Chihuahua pup who was an 8-week old pup that was too young to be adopted out and need socialization. Once Zane was 12 weeks old he returned to the shelter and was adopted by his new family.



Cupid

Jan, a sweet, energetic pup (emphasis on the energetic), was in foster care with Martha for her behavior (read: manners). She did very well as a foster pup and was adopted the first week of March!

Cupid, a Labrador Retriever mix pup, was also in foster care because of your young age. After a short time in foster care with Diane, she was adopted by her foster mom. Awwwww.



Jan

And lastly (for this reporting period, at least) is **Wally**, a Chihuahua mix, who is in foster care with Gail because he has a fractured front leg. Once his leg has mended, he'll also be ready for adoption into his new forever home.

If you are interested in opening your heart and home to help a homeless dog become prepared for adoption by being a foster parent, please call me at 503-588-5036 or email MCDSFosterDogs@co.marion.or.us.

Marion County Dog Shelter's Happily-Ever-After Tales!

Thomas' Story

Dear Roxann,

We renamed him "**Bart**". He passed his Vet exam just fine. He gets along great with every dog he sees, and always wants to play. With an acre and a half to run in, he's been flying around the yard. He's particularly



interested in the quail "condos" (that's what everyone around here calls the piled-up branch piles we create to house them.) It turns out he was housebro-

ken and knew sit, stay and come..... though he seems to consider the commands optional! I got several DVD's and books that are helping. He is a real love sponge and very adorable. He's currently stretched out on the couch, snoring lightly. He's still acting very submissive and almost afraid at times, like he was mistreated in the past. He's getting used to having his teeth brushed and his ears cleaned and hardly complains about baths. We feel as if we won the jackpot with him...Thanks!

Mike and Renee and Bart

Cory's Story

Manny (formerly Cory) is doing great. We adopted him in August and are absolutely in love with him. He is such a great and loving dog.



We just went and had his picture taken with Santa and we wanted to share it with all of you at the dog shelter.

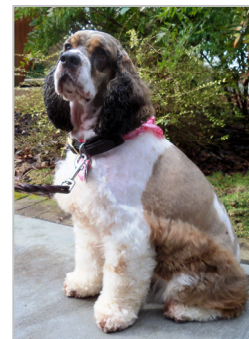
Thank you guys so much for all your help.

Kellyn Mackie

Clyde's Story

Hi Charley!

Bailey (formerly Clyde) is PERFECT for me! We're doing great. He had his vet appointment today and everyone loves him! He got a Lepto shot today and we scheduled an appointment in a month to get wax removed from his ears, Lepto shot update, and also to pull that chipped tooth. He came home with me on Saturday night. After our walk on Sunday morning he had a date with the groomer. We took these pictures after his grooming. Just LOVE this little guy. I couldn't have gotten a better pup. When I have time, I will send a letter to put up on your bulletin board . . . the world should know that GREAT dogs can come from the shelter.



Very happy with "Bailey", *Ann*

Penny's Story

On July 23rd I adopted a 9 year old dachshund named Penny from your facility. I wanted to give you an update on her. She is absolutely the most wonderful dog I've ever owned. She is completely housebroken, loves to walk on her leash and gets along beautifully with my 2 kitties. Everyone loves her and can't believe how lucky I am. I took her in the first week to my Vet who says she certainly wasn't a stray as she is too good. I would love to know her background but know that's not possible. Whoever had her before me must have died or been unable to keep her.

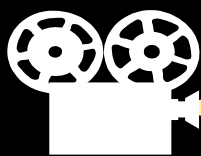
She had a growth on her muzzle which was suspected to be a melanoma. My vet removed it and it is a melanoma and prognosis is poor. So far she hasn't shown any signs of illness and is a very happy girl. If the melanoma does progress, at least she has had a very loving home. She is a little deaf but that comes with old age.

I have enclosed a donation to your shelter. I was very impressed on how clean it was. Thank you for all your good deeds.

Virginia Kostner

Send us your Happy Tails!

If you've adopted a dog from MCDS and would like to share your story, email it to: dog@co.marion.or.us. Be sure to include a digital photo!



Help MCDS Promote the Shelter!



By Debbie West, Outreach Coordinator

Do you like talking with people and promoting wonderful dogs needing homes? Come join the MCDS Outreach Team. Every Saturday (and sometimes Sundays) MCDS outreach volunteers take the shelter out to our community. Dedicated MCDS outreach volunteers rotate outreach sites throughout the month at our local pet stores (and Salem Saturday Market from April through October) and take two lucky shelter dogs on an outing. The MCDS outreach sites provide information on the services provided by Marion County Dog Control & Shelter and highlight dogs available for adoption. In the past month, two dogs were adopted as a result of MCDS outreaches.

It's easy to become a MCDS Outreach Volunteer. All you need to do is apply to be a MCDS volunteer, attend the volunteer orientation & dog walking training, submit a Marion County DMV check and then job shadow at an outreach with an experienced MCDS outreach volunteer.

If you are not interested in being an outreach volunteer but would like to visit one of our outreaches, here is where we will be from April through October:

- 1st Saturday -- **South Salem Pet Supply**, Commercial St. -- 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 2nd Saturday (and sometimes Sundays), **PetSmart**, Lancaster Dr.--11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 3rd Saturday – **Salem Saturday Market**, Union & Summer St., -- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 4th Saturday (and sometimes Sundays), **PetCo**, Lancaster Dr., -- 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, contact volunteer, Debbie West, MCDS Outreach Coordinator at (503)409-2543 or email volunteer@co.marion.or.us.

Shelter Happenings

Adoption Outreach Events

- South Salem Pet Supply** in Salem – 1st Saturday
- Petsmart** on Lancaster Drive in Salem – 2nd Saturday (some Sundays)
- Salem Saturday Market** in Salem – 3rd Saturday
- Petco** on Lancaster Drive in Salem – 4th Saturday (some Sundays)
- Pet Etc.** on Edgewater Dr. in Salem – 5th Saturday

All adoption outreach events are held from 11am to 2pm.
except Salem Saturday Market, which is from 9am to 3pm.

Volunteer Orientations

Saturdays: April 2nd, May 5th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th, and September 3rd at 9am.

All orientations are held at the Marion County Dog Shelter.
For more info call 503-566-6966.

A TRAINING TIP FROM LAURIE LEA

Teaching “Hide and Seek” Game

This training (or game) will take two people. Get a friend to hide in a closet with a treat in hand and the door slightly ajar.

Then tell your dog to “go find”. When she is successful, reward with the treat and lots of praise.

When she understands the game, she'll be ready to sniff out more challenging hiding places, even outside.



Our Mission is to serve and protect the people and dogs of Marion County in a professional and courteous manner by:

- Enforcing Marion County dog licensing and control ordinances.
- Promoting the humane treatment of dogs.
- Providing shelter and care for stray dogs until they are reunited with their families or adopted.
- Educating our residents.
- Respecting the needs of our customers.

Our Staff

Bill Worcester, Director
Allison Barrows, Shelter Manager
Sonya Heard, Office & Volunteer Manager
Roxann O'Bryant, Veterinary Technician
Laurie Lea Hungerford, Shelter Technician
Jackie Edwards, Shelter Technician
Felicia Pederson, Shelter Technician
Julie Haskett, Field Officer
Karen Hilfiker, Field Officer
Bruce Daugherty, Field Officer
Charley Bay, Admin Support
Michelle Mosier, Admin Support

Directory

Adoptions, Lost or Found
Dog & Shelter Info..... 503-566-6966
Licensing Info .. 503-588-5233
Complaints 503-588-5366
Volunteering & Donations ... 503-588-6966

Shelter Hours

Strays – Impounds & Returns

Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 5:30pm

Adoptions / Licensing

Tuesday – Saturday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Enforcement

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Marion County Dog Shelter

3550 Aumsville Hwy SE
Salem OR 97317
Phone: (503) 588-5233
Web: www.mcdogs.net
Email: dog@co.marion.or.us



Volunteers Needed!

Want more information?
Call 503-566-6966 or go to www.mcdogs.net.

Don't Shop. Adopt!

Every day there are many wonderful dogs at Marion County Dog Shelter waiting for their forever home.
Take them home with:

- Complimentary veterinarian's health exam
- First vaccinations
- Flea treatment
- De-wormer
- Spay/Neuter (if needed)
- Microchip for Identification
- Dog License
- Welcome Home Kit (includes a bag of high quality dog food!)



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Editor: Jolene Bray

Contributing Writers: Allison Barrows, Jolene Bray, Laurie Lea Hungerford, Roxann O'Bryant, Felicia Pederson, and Debbie West

