



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #44

Spring 2012

SOSHB is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of lost and stray pets of Huntington Beach.

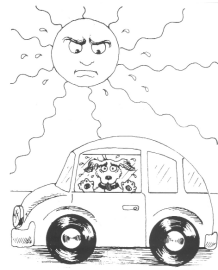
Save the Date



Save our Strays "12th Annual Pancake Breakfast in the Park" is Saturday, September 29, 2012. More information to come.....

Six Tips for a Pet-Safe Summer

Summer is in full swing for everyone, young and old, furry or not, across the country. But with these carefree months of no homework and late days of sunshine comes an increased risk for illness and injury for our furry pals.



From unpredictable weather to unusual routines, our animals are exposed to all sorts of hazards during the summer months and your pet is counting on you to keep him safe. Check out these top six tips for keeping your animal secure all summer long:

- 1** Give your pet access to plenty of fresh water at all times. Even the healthiest pets can suffer from dehydration, heat stroke and sunburn if overexposed to the heat.
- 2** Avoid lathering your pet with any insect repellent or sunscreen not intended for the four-legged kind.
- 3** Keep your pet away from matches, citronella candles and lighter fluid, which if eaten, can irritate the stomach, lungs and central nervous system
- 4** Be cool near the pool. Don't leave pets unsupervised around a pool, lake or high waters-not all dogs are expert swimmers or know how to exit a pool.
- 5** Never, Never leave your dog, cat or any other animal friend alone in a car!!! The inside of a car can heat up very quickly-even with a window open. I see it ALL the time in Huntington Beach.
- 6** Be prepared! From earthquakes to fires, we've seen the devastation that severe weather has brought to pets and their families. Develop an evacuation plan well ahead of time in case you are forced from your home in an emergency.

Have a pet-safe summer!

Dogs in Pickup Trucks - Is it Safe?

(reprinted from ASPCA website)

A few years ago, Julien Roohani of Portland, Oregon, was at work when her roommates spontaneously decided to go on a hike. Not wanting to exclude Julien's six-month-old Shepherd/Border Collie mix, Niña, they threw her into the back of their pickup truck and set off for an adventure.

Niña had never been in a truck bed before. Whether she was scared or just spotted something of interest, she managed to jump out during the drive. Panicking, the roommates called Julien, who rushed Niña to an emergency veterinary clinic where she was diagnosed with a broken spine and other severe injuries. Julien had no choice but to allow her young pup to be humanely euthanized.

Unfortunately, stories like Niña's are all too common. It is never safe to drive with an unrestrained pet-especially with that pet in an open truck bed.

"When you drive with a loose dog in the back of your truck, you're taking a huge risk and placing your dog and other motorists in danger," says Chuck Mai, a vice president with AAA Oklahoma. "Even if a dog is trained, we're talking about an animal who responds to stimuli on impulse. This irresponsible decision can start a deadly chain reaction on the road."

Is It Legal?

Transporting unrestrained dogs in low-sided truck beds has been banned in a handful of states, including California and New Hampshire, and municipalities including Indianapolis, Cheyenne and Miami-Dade. However, in the vast majority of jurisdictions, it's not even illegal to transport children in this manner, so we must rely on common sense and education to protect children and pets alike.



How You Can Help

One can feel terribly helpless witnessing a loose dog in a pickup truck. The best course of action is to try to get the vehicle's license number (if you can do so while remaining safe) and call the local police. Rather than dialing 911, Jill Buckley, ASPCA Senior Director of Government Relations, suggests storing your police precinct's phone number in your cell phone.

Keeping Your Membership Current

When we mail you your newsletter, we have a date just below your name. If your date is highlighted, it means it's time to renew your S.O.S. membership. Your membership fees helps to cover printing and mailing costs of the newsletter and misc. other fliers throughout the year.

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SOSHB Membership Information

Save Our Strays offers numerous membership levels. **To join or renew**, please use the form below. Your membership expiration date appears on the address label of the SOSHB newsletter.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$15

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts at SOSHB events throughout the year.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25

Includes a year's subscription to *Stray News* and discounts for the whole family at SOSHB events throughout the year.

PATRON \$50

Patrons receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website.

SPONSOR

Sponsors receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website. Four levels of sponsorship exist:

Sponsor	\$100	Gold Sponsor	\$500
Silver Sponsor	\$250	Platinum Sponsor	\$1000
Diamond Sponsor	\$5000		

SOSHB Membership/Order Form

Use this form to pay SOS dues and/or to order shirts & frames.

Membership:

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Select T-shirt color: White Grey

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of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

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Available in Westie White, Bichon White or Samoyed White.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____

Phone (optional): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (Add \$5 per shirt for shipping/handling, or call 714-442-1446 for pick-up.)

Mail this form with your money order or check (payable to SOSHB) to:

Save Our Strays of Huntington Beach
P.O. Box 4083
Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4083

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Rescue for Chester

Chester was a neighborhood stray who had been abandoned. He could be seen sleeping in the neighbor's yard, day after day. Chester had a bad reputation in the neighborhood for chasing all the female cats around. He could be observed "in action"; hence the name "Chester the M.....", well, you get the picture.



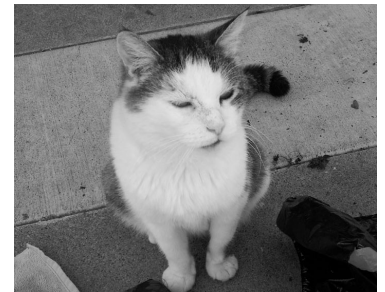
Then, about three years ago, he showed up on a good Samaritan's doorstep. He was very thin and she took him in and fattened him up. Then, one unsuspecting day, he was then whisked off to the vet to get neutered. Save Our Strays covered the cost of the neutering and vaccinations. The vet said Chester was at least ten years old, even though he looked much older but acted like the "King of Kitty-cat Harem".

A couple of months ago Save Our Strays received a call from Chester's foster Mom. He was showing symptoms of drastic, recent weight loss, constant thirst, incredible appetite and

general overall fatigue. He needed to see the vet but funds were limited.

Save Our Strays contacted Beach Blvd Pet Hospital and gave approval for Chester to be examined and blood work to be done. When the blood work results came back, Chester was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. His body wasn't producing the necessary Insulin that it required. He needed to have Insulin shots twice a day and be placed on a modified food diet. His Mom was willing to give the daily injections but again, funds were limited, so SOS came to the rescue again and covered the cost of his Insulin and the special food he needed.

We are happy to report that Chester is now feeling like his old self. As his photos show, there is a huge difference between his "before" treatment self and the after. This is one lucky kitty to have so many people who care about his welfare.



Will a Microchip Help Your Lost Pet Find Its Way Home?

Pet microchips are a permanent and potentially effective way for your lost pet to be returned to you in the event your pet is lost, IF a number of factors happen. While microchips have incredible possibilities, the chip itself is only one component in a complex system involving microchips, scanners and registries.

However, there are a lot of ifs! If the person who finds your pet makes an effort to take the animal to a veterinarian to be scanned, if the veterinarian uses a universal scanner and if the owner contact information is current in the registry database, your animal may be returned to you.

A microchip is a small device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted beneath your pet's skin. It contains a unique number used to identify the animal. This number links to your contact information which is contained in the registry database.

A microchip frequency refers to the type of signal emitted by

a scanner in order to activate and read the microchip. There are three microchip frequencies in the United States: 125 kHz, 128 kHz and 134.2 kHz. 134.2 kHz is the ISO (International Standards Organization) standard and is the primary frequency used worldwide

It is essential that animal control officers, veterinarians and rescue organizations use a universal scanner in order to read all three microchip frequencies distributed in the United States. Otherwise, microchips will be missed, making it harder for pets to reunite with their families.

In addition to microchips, you should always keep collars and ID tags on your pet, even indoor only cats. Some people have a false sense of security and think that as long as their pet is microchipped, they are assured of getting Fido or Fluffy home safe. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Below is a list of the most common microchip brands and their contact information:

Manufacturer	Telephone Number	Website
AVID	800-336-2843	www.avidid.com
HomeAgain	800-466-3242	www.homeagain.com
24PetWatch	800-597-2424	www.24petwatch.com
AKC	800-252-7894	www.akccar.com
Banfield	877-567-8738	www.banfield.net
Bayer resQ	877-738-5465	www.petlink.com

Protecting Your Pets on the

With the July 4th celebration approaching, it is a time to consider the impact to our furry friends. It is a fun time for people but it is the time of the year that animal shelters experience the largest intake of animals. The noise and confusion is extremely frightening to animals and they will do anything to escape. Unfortunately, this year the City of Huntington is allowing the sale of legal fireworks which will just add to the noise and confusion.

Save Our Strays recommends:

- * Keep your pet in a safe; quiet place...their hearing is much more sensitive than ours. For pets who become nervous or upset, consult a veterinarian about tranquilizers. The vet will prescribe according to weight, age and condition of the pet. It is important to consult a veterinarian because tranquilizers can overdose or become toxic when combined with other medications, flea collars or sprays.



- * ID Tags and current license tags with home phone number and an alternate phone number (including area codes) are important at all times, but especially during the 4th of July holidays. Consider a microchip. It cannot fall off and most shelters and animal control officers have scanners. More pets are lost at this time of the year than any other. They are often hit by cars, never make it back home or are destroyed at shelters because their owners don't show up in time or at the right shelter to claim them.

If you have lost or found a pet:

- * Put up signs, pass out flyers and place ads. All found ads are free and some lost ads are too. Place ads in the OC Register, LA Times, Pennysaver and any other community papers.
- * Go to shelters, EVERY DAY, if possible.
- * Have pictures and description details available.

Don't Give Up!



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