



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #25

Summer 2007

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

Leaving Your Pet In a Parked Car Can Be a Deadly Mistake

As we approach summer and those hot California days, its a good time to remind pet owners that we must keep our pets safe from the heat. All too often, dogs die a horrible, painful death due to the carelessness of their supposed caretakers. In confronting those who risk their pets lives by leaving them in a hot vehicle, the number one excuse given is "I was only in the store a few minutes". Well, a few minutes is all it takes!

On a warm day, the temperature in your car can reach 160° in a matter of minutes, even with the windows partially open.

With only hot air to breathe, your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heat stroke.

The Humane Society of the United States warns: When its hot-leave your pet at home!

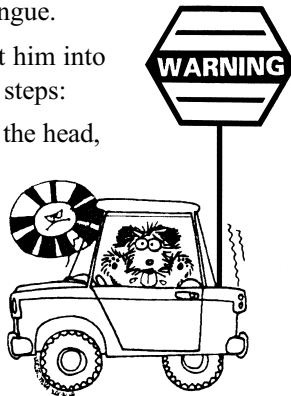
Open windows, shaded parking areas or air conditioned cars with the motor off won't save your pet's life.

Also remember that the metal beds of pick-up trucks get very hot and can burn your dog's feet. Make sure you have a cover over the hot metal.

In addition, be sure you know the signs of heat stress:heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse rate, dizziness, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.

If your dog becomes overheated, get him into the shade and take these emergency steps:

- Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest.
- Don't give an unlimited amount of cold water. Let him lick ice cubes or even ice cream.
- Get the dog to a veterinarian immediately. It could save your pet's life.



Letter From A Friend

*Dear Randy and Save Our Strays,
 Thank you so much for your help
 and information for getting my
 Kitty Lola the care she needed.
 She is now fixed and getting better.
 Beach City Animal was great.
 Thanks again, Randy!*

*Sincerely,
 Kristine and Lola*

Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar! Events are held in Huntington Beach unless otherwise noted. For more information about events, call SOSHB at 714-442-1446.

July 14 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am
*Del Mar Mobile Estates Clubhouse
 19251 Brookhurst Street
 (between Garfield and Yorktown)*

Aug 19 Surf City Animal Rescue Team Fundraiser
 HB Central Park/Park Bench Café

Sept 8 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Sept 15 Pancake Breakfast in the Park – 10:00am
 – 8:00am –12:00pm
 Lake Park, Huntington Beach

Nov 17 Volunteer Meeting – 10:00am

Dec Pet Photos with Santa Claws

For more information or volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.SaveOurStraysHB.org or call 714-442-1446.

Don't Forget our... ..

Pancake Breakfast in the Park
8th Annual Fundraiser – September 15, 2007

Keeping Your Membership Current

When we mail you your newsletter, we have a date just above 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.

THANKS to our Sponsors & Patrons!

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Mary & Michael Robinson

Laura Willis

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

SOSHB Membership/Order Form

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

Membership:

- Individual \$15 Sponsor \$100
 Family \$25 Silver Sponsor \$250
 Patron \$50 Gold Sponsor \$500
 Platinum Sponsor \$1000

T-Shirts: \$10 member \$15 non-member

Select T-shirt color: White Grey

of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

Crewneck Sweatshirts: \$20 member \$25 non-member

of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

Available in several shades of pure white.

Hooded Sweatshirt: \$25 member \$30 non-member

of shirts requested in each size: ___L ___XL ___XXL

Available in Westie White, Bichon White or Samoyed White.

License Plate Frames: 1 for \$5 2 for \$8

SOSHB will not mail frames. Call 714-442-1446 to arrange pick-up.

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

Stray News - Publishing Info

Stray News is published quarterly as a newsletter for members of SOSHB.

You may reach *Stray News* at:

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You Are What You Eat

By Christine Richardson

You are what you eat. The same is true for our pets. The difference is, we get to choose what we eat. Our animals rely on us to make the right choices. With the recent pet food recall, it seems appropriate to look at other pet food alternatives. When selecting a commercial pet food it is very important to read the label, just as you would for human products. Many brands contain poor quality ingredients as well as harmful, artificial ingredients. Compare the first five ingredients of several different brands. Hallmarks of a high quality food would include superior sources of protein such as whole fresh meat, poultry or fish as the first ingredients listed. Also look for whole, unprocessed grains and vegetables. If purchasing a dry kibble, look for products preserved with natural ingredients like Vitamin C or E (Tocopherol). Never purchase foods containing cancer causing preservatives such as BHA, BHT or ethoxyquin. Avoid anything with "by-products", artificial colors or propylene glycol (a chemical added for moistness). "By-products" (meat, beef, chicken etc.) can include such things as beaks, hooves, road kill or even, incredibly, euthanized animals. Foods that contain only top quality whole food ingredients are both more expensive and difficult to find than those foods whose names you may be more familiar with. Just as with human foods, the pet foods that are produced and sold in the largest quantities in this country are not the healthiest. Since most of the valuable nutrients and vitamins are destroyed during the cooking (heating) process, a diet of organic, fresh raw meats and vegetables is best, if possible. Help your pet live a happier, healthier, longer life. After all, isn't it the least we can do for our furry, four legged friends? If you are interested in learning more about home prepared/raw diets we suggest the following books: "Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog" – Wendy Volhard, "The Barf Diet" – Ian Billinghurst and "Natural Health for Dogs & Cats" – Dr. Richard Pitcairn, DVM. There are many, many recipes available but below are a couple that were recently published in the Orange County Register and on a website www.Cycles-of-Life.com.

Elinor's Dog/Cat Food Recipe

- 1/2 of meal is protein-whole chicken or salmon
- 1/4 pureed vegetables, except broccoli or cauliflower
- 1/4 organic cooked brown rice
- Add ginger powder, thyme and small portion of an apple

Directions: Mix all ingredients in food processor. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve. Before serving, pour small amount of boiling water over food to cook it.

Penny's Veggie Dog Food Recipe

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 3 stalks of Celery | 2 cups Raw Almonds |
| 4 Carrots | 1 can PURE Pumpkin |
| 1 bunch of Spinach | 1 Pound Brown Rice |
| 1 bunch of Broccoli | 1 Pound Pearled Barley |
| 2 Sweet Potatoes | 1 Pound Split Peas |
| 8 cloves Garlic | 15 Vitamin C Tablets (1,000mg) |
| 6 Eggs (wash the shells) | 15 Vitamin E Tablets (400 IU) |
| Save egg shells - they will be dried/ground & added to mixture | 15 tbsp. Flaxseed Oil |
| | 15 Tbsp. Nutritional Yeast Flakes |

Directions: Clean vegetables & boil in a large saucepan for 20 minutes. Water should cover the vegetables. Remove vegetables & place into another large bowl. Keep vegetable water in large saucepan and add approximately 4 more cups of water and the following ingredients in the saucepan: brown rice, barley and split peas. Cook for 20 minute. Add eggs, stir and let cool. To cooled mixture, add pumpkin, flaxseed oil, vitamin C tablets, vitamin E tablets, yeast flakes, garlic and ground up egg shells. Mix all together in a food processor. This recipe fills approximately (30) plastic deli containers. Freeze. Optional: add (1) boiled and boned chicken.

How To Find Lost Pets

(taken from Animal Sheltering magazine Jan/Feb 2007 edition)

1. Understand the dynamics of lost pets

As every devoted pet owner knows, animals are individuals. The behavior of a lost animal depends on more than just species and breed. Her circumstances and personality – and the way our own species responds to her – can affect both where she goes and how you search for her. Here are some general tips about the behaviors of particular kinds of cats and dogs. you may recognize your own pet in these descriptions.

Dogs

It is difficult to predict how far lost dogs will go if they get loose; there are too many variables. The distance a lost dog travels depends on his individual temperament, the environment (terrain and weather), and the circumstances surrounding his disappearance. Another complicating factor is that people who pick up stray dogs often transport them out the immediate search area. But generally speaking, your target search area will be within a mile radius of your home.

Friendly dogs and purebreds

In general, wiggly-friendly dogs who seek attention from strangers, along with dogs recognizable as purebreds or rare breeds, will be picked up more quickly than mixed breed dogs, who often go unnoticed. The average, non-rescue-oriented person who sees a mixed-breed dog trotting down the sidewalk may not think much about it, but when the same person sees a dog of "value," they're more likely to realize something is not right and pull over. (They may want to keep the dog, but hopefully they'll try to help find the owner, especially if you have placed ads and posted signs around the neighborhood.)

Panicked dogs and skittish/shy dogs

Panicked dogs – for example, those who've been scared by fireworks or involved in a car accident – and dogs with skittish, shy temperament will be more difficult to capture and are at risk of traveling further. These dogs often run blindly and can travel for miles before intervention. When they eventually slow down, they often seek secluded places (such as wooded areas, cemeteries, and creeks) where they can avoid all human contact. People who find these frightened dogs often mistakenly believe they have been abused. If all other methods fail to help you get close to your panicked dog, you may need to resort to setting a large humane dog trap. But this can be tricky; you need to know where your dog is hanging out and set the trap in the vicinity. (To learn how, see www.AnimalSheltering.org/humanetrap.)

Cats

We do not know enough yet about lost cat behavior to predict which cats will remain hidden and which cats will travel. To be on the safe side, follow the tips below, and combine aggressive distribution of fliers with the use of baited humane traps; these traps are your best and primary tool for recovering a displaced, skittish cat. For instructions on how to recover a cat with a humane trap, go to www.catsinthebag.org.

Because cats are often nervous, they may hide for an extended period before emerging into the open. Even if some time has passed since your cat disappeared, you should continue searching local shelters – your cat might not come out for weeks and might not end up in the shelter until months after his initial disappearance.

Indoor cats with outdoor access/indoor-only cats

Injured or frightened cats usually hide within their own territory and remain silent. Indoor-only cats who escape into the outdoors are displaced from their territory. Because these cats are traumatized by displacement, they also tend to remain concealed and silent. Their silence is designed to protect them from predators. Just because you do not see or hear your cat does not mean he is not right there, hiding in the bushes or behind your hose box.

Gregarious indoor cat

Displaced gregarious cats may initially hide in silence, but eventually they will likely meow and break cover. Some of them will even show up at your door and run back inside, but others may travel.

To learn more about the behavior of lost pets and the environmental and temperament issues that may influence how far an escaped pet will travel, visit the Missing Pet Partnership's website at www.lostapet.org.

(continued from page 3)

2. Start your search close to home

Search your own property and surrounding neighbors' properties first, checking areas where your animal could be trapped or injured. Dogs can become trapped inside sheds and trailers, get entangled in wires under homes, even fall into wells or neighboring swimming pools.

Get permission from your neighbors to search their property, especially if you're looking for a cat – that way you can search in and under sheds, basements, garages, houses, decks, and heavy brush. Do not simply ask your neighbor to look for your cat; they probably won't be as motivated to crawl around on their tummies to look in the places your cat is most likely to hide.

Your property and the houses within a three-house radius of your home are the high-probability search areas for an outdoor-access cat who has vanished. Use a flashlight and be both patient and hopeful, calling your kitty in your normal "cat calls."

You can even try appealing to his appetite using recorded sounds of a can opener or clinking a cat food can with a spoon. Just remember that even if the cat doesn't appear, he may still be nearby – and possibly injured, stuck, or too frightened to respond.

3. Distribute posters and fliers in your target search area

When developing lost animal posters, use bright, fluorescent poster board – available at drug stores or office supply stores – as the backing for 8-1/2 x 11" fliers. In giant black letters at the top, write the word "reward," and at the very bottom write the words "lost dog/cat." On your 8-1/2 x 11" white flier, use an uppercase, 90-point font to describe your animal, such as "white" at the top and "poodle" at the bottom; in a smaller font, list important information about your animal, along with your contact information. Put a recent color photo in the center of the flier; then laminate it. If you can't laminate it, make it waterproof by covering it with clear tape when you affix it to the poster. The size and fluorescent color of the poster will immediately attract the eye; everyone driving by will know there's a lost white poodle in the area. Place these posters initially at all major intersections within a mile radius of the place your animal went missing, and expand

outward within a week if he has not been found. If you get calls from people who think they've seen your animal, add posters in the areas they called from as well.

4. Check all known havens

Be sure to visit all of the animal shelters in your area regularly. (There may be more than one.) Talk with the staff and provide pictures of your animal. Check back regularly, and contact all area rescue groups, too. Animal shelters and rescue groups are a high-probability search area for a lost animal. Many strays are ultimately posted on www.petfinder.com and other websites, so keep checking those sites in case your animal has been found and listed.

If you're searching for a cat, you should also notify and local "trap-neuter-return" groups who may eventually trap your cat. When you visit local shelters, be sure to notify shelter employees that your cat is skittish and might behave like a feral cat.

5. Be prepared to respond to several sightings

Be sure someone is available at all times to answer incoming calls from potential sighters. If you have an answering machine, change your message to include a mention of the animal (so people will know they've called the right number) and instructions on how someone can reach you on your cell phone. If you don't have a cell phone, borrow or buy one.

If someone responds to your plea for help, ask the caller if she is calling from a cell phone. If the answer is yes, ask her to remain on the phone with you to keep you updated on the animal's location. This tactic – cell phone to cell phone communication between a witness and the owner – has proven to be the most effective method of recovering lost pets.

6. Do not give up

Sometimes it takes weeks, even months, to find a missing animal. There have even been cases where pets have been located years after they disappeared. Your pet did not vanish from the earth. Although it is possible that someone has transported your animal a long distance from your home, you must act on the assumption that your pet is nearby and that you will recover him. If you lose hope or become discouraged by others who are trying to tell you to "give up" your search efforts, you will reduce your chances of recovering your pet.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED