



SAVE OUR STRAYS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Stray News

Issue #47

Winter 2013

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

What is a Volunteer?

All non-profit organizations depend on the help of volunteers to keep things running and to assist with day-to-day tasks. Save Our Strays is no exception. Over the years, we have had hundreds of volunteers who helped with everything from pet adoptions, fundraising, answering phones and correspondence to managing a large spay/neuter program. Non-profits could not survive without the dedication of these huge-hearted folks.

It is unusual to have young children show a strong interest in volunteering but Save Our Strays has been fortunate enough to have two amazing young ladies who have gone above and beyond.



Madison Correia is the daughter of Lesli Correia and the granddaughter of Loretta Fleming, both long time volunteers with the organization. The entire family has a love of animals and an interest in making their lives better. Madison has been volunteering and attending SOSHB events since she was four years old. When she was about eight years old, she and her friends made posters and gathered donations at a booth that Save Our Strays had at an event in Central Park. She has attended almost every fundraiser as a volunteer, including our annual Pancake Breakfast in the Park...

Madison is now thirteen years old and attends Dwyer Middle School in Huntington Beach. As seventh graders at Dwyer, she and her friend Megan Krizan decided they wanted to do more to help animals and Save Our Strays. They approached their school principal, Dr. Morgan Smith, and explained they wanted to start a school club to support animals. Dr. Smith was open to the idea but the girls needed to find a teacher who would act as the club advisor. They approached their favorite teacher, Mrs. Litwin, who was very enthusiastic and the new "Love for Pets" club was born.

On Friday March 8, 2013, the first "Love for Pets" bake sale was held on the campus of Dwyer School. Both Madison and Megan planned, baked and sold goodies at the sale, which raised almost \$300 to benefit Save Our Strays.

They have also created a Facebook page (LoveforpetsDwyer) with other sites to come. These two remarkable young ladies are shining examples of not only compassionate animal lovers but also committed, dedicated and thoughtful volunteerism. I expect that these two will have a bright future in whatever field they seek to pursue. Wags and purrs to both of them and their school supporters.

Letter from a Friend



Why Cats Purr

By Dr. Marty Becker

We know cats purr when they're happy. But they also purr if they're injured, while giving birth, and even when dying. In his masterwork, "Catworld: A Feline Encyclopedia", British zoologist Desmond Morris observed that purring is "a sign of friendship-either when the cat is contented or when it is in need of friendship-as with a cat in trouble." If you think about it, a purr is kind of like a smile, sometimes you smile from happiness, sometimes from nerves.



PURRfect

While the mechanics of purring remain a mystery, the most common explanation is that a purr originates in the voice box with what are called "vestibular folds," or false vocal cords. The passing of air across these structures is thought to get the engine running, and cats do it as effortlessly as breathing. In fact, your feline can do something even the biggest Kings of the Jungle can't: Cats purr, lions don't! Sure, tigers can rumble a large purr-like sound, but only on exhale-and really, who wants a tiger sleeping on their bed, anyway?

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.

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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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.

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.

SPONSOR

Sponsors receive all the benefits of a Family Membership and are listed in *Stray News* and on the SOSHB website. Five 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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- Family \$25
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of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

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Select color: White Grey

of shirts requested in each size: ___M ___L ___XL ___XXL

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Name: _____

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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

Top Pet Toxins of 2012

In 2012, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) in Urbana, Illinois, handled more than 180,000 cases about pets exposed to possibly poisonous substances. Topping the toxins list for the fifth year in a row are prescription human medications.



1. Prescription Human Medications – The top three types of medications that animals were exposed to include: heart medications (blood pressure pills), antidepressants and pain medications (opioids and prescription non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Many of these exposures were due to people dropping their medication when preparing to take it, and before they knew it, Fido had gobbled the pill off the floor.

2. Insecticides – Insecticides are used in the yard, home and on our animals. Always read the label before using any insecticide on your pet, in your home or in your yard.

3. Over-the-Counter Human Medications – This group contains acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen as well as herbal and nutraceutical products (fish oil, joint supplements). Many of these products are tasty to pets, and some can be life threatening if ingested.

4. Veterinary Products and Medications – Both OTC and prescription veterinary products are included in this group. Flavored tablets make it easy to give your pet pain or joint medication, but it also makes it more likely for them to ingest the entire bottle if given the chance.

5. Household Products – Household toxins can range from fire logs to cleaning products. Some items can be corrosive, while other can cause obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract requiring surgical intervention.

6. People Food – One particularly common food accidentally ingested by pets is xylitol (the sugar substitute). Xylitol can cause seizures and liver failure in dogs.

7. Chocolate – Chocolate is still the number one people food that pets ingest. Too much chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate and seizures.

8. Plants – This is one category that cats lead dogs in the number of exposures. Lilies can cause kidney failure and death in cats. Please see our list of toxic/non-toxic plants for more information.

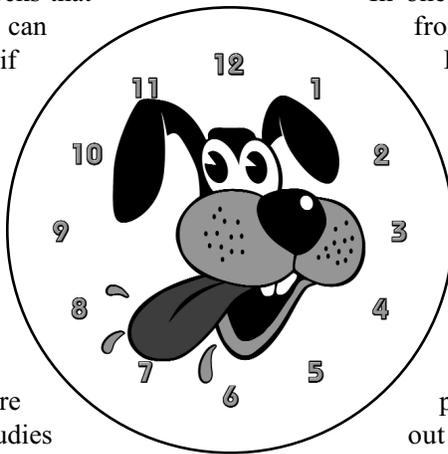
9. Rodenticides – When putting out baits to kill mice and rats, never underestimate the resourcefulness of your pet. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestion can cause internal bleeding, kidney failure or seizures.

10. Lawn and Garden Products – Fertilizers, which can be made of dried blood, poultry manure and bone meal, are very attractive to pets, so it is not surprising that we get many calls (almost 3,600 in 2012) on lawn and garden items.

If you have any reason to suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian.

Do Pets Have a Sense of Time?

Animals, like humans, have internal body clocks that are sensitive to the time of day. They also can accurately measure intervals between events, if a rat receives a reward for sticking its head in a feeder one minute after hearing a tone, it will start poking its head in more frequently as the 60-second mark approaches. “The more controversial question is whether they have a sense of time that extends well into the past and into the future”, says Bill Roberts, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology at Western University in Ontario. For years, experts assumed that animals were stuck in the here and now, but Roberts, who studies animal cognition, says that recent research shows that pets may possess at least a limited mental timeline.



In one of the most famous studies, researchers from the University of Cambridge and UC Davis allowed scrub jays to hide wax worms and peanuts in different locations and then permitted the birds to retrieve the treats either four hours or five days later. The birds prefer worms, so it was no surprise that after the four-hour delay, the jays sought them out before the peanuts. But worms don't last as long as peanuts, and so after five days—at which point the worms were well past their expiration point—the jays sought out the peanuts before the worms. This suggested that the jays had a sense of when the food had been cached.

Meds for Less

By Karen Chepeka

Veterinary medicine has made great strides in the treatment of all animals but especially dogs and cats. Many of the prescription medicines used to treat pet illnesses are the same as those for humans.

Just as the cost of prescriptions for people has risen, so has the cost for your pet. Unfortunately, even if you have medical insurance for yourself and your family that covers prescriptions, it doesn't cover the cost for your four-legged children.

I recently had to fill a prescription for one of my cats, Sophie, for a drug called Famciclovir, which is used to treat infections caused by certain types of viruses, including feline herpes. It is also a human medication. I called around to several of the large, well-known pharmacies to compare prices. I was quoted everything from \$49.95 to \$120.00.

I had heard that Costco carried some pet medications so my fourth call was to the Costco pharmacy at the store in Huntington Beach. Much to my delight, I was quoted a price of



\$8.51. You do have to be a Costco member to receive the discounted prices but it may be worth the cost of membership to get these great prices.

When I arrived to pick-up the medication, I talked to the pharmacist about their availability of pet medications. She actually gave me a three page printout of a lot of the medications they carry.

Many of the common ones, such as Advantage Flea medication, Baytril, Clavamox, Deramaxx, Heartgard, Felimazole, Revolution, Rimadyl, Sentinel and Soloxine were listed.

It certainly pays to price compare. Your veterinarian can write the prescription for you or call it in to the pharmacy, just the same as your own prescriptions. In these difficult economic times, many pet parents are foregoing their pet medications due to the cost. Hopefully, this information will allow your pets to receive the care they need and so deserve.



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