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# THE JOURNEY

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Adopt

*The Humane Society of the Southeast*

April 2018

*“A Voice for the Voiceless.”*

Number 5

## RESCUES UNITED - HELPING HANDS AND PAWS IN OUR COMMUNITY By Christine Kilgore

It all began when HSS saw the outcry for help via Facebook...A tragic house fire in our community had left the Matthews family, along with their three dogs, homeless.

Linda Palermo of Tenderheart Great Pyrenees Rescue (THR) set the plan in motion. After seeing her plea to help this family through their unfortunate circumstances, HSS was on board with our resources.

There was an outpour of support for the human family, but what about Gracie, Rebel and Sephora - the beloved four-legged family members? Fortunately, there were local family members willing to house the dogs on their property, but where, as the home could not accommodate this many animals, children and adults, along with their own? THR and HSS knew what had to be done.

We (Linda Palermo of THR, Christine Kilgore of HSS and two wonderful volunteers- Sarah and Matthew Bloomfield) all met at Tuckers Hardware (Franklin Rd, Newnan, GA). Tuckers Hardware also wanted to show their community support by supplying us with a generously discounted kennel for the dogs.

So with the kennel, a roof, some doghouses, straw bedding/chips, food/water buckets, food-including treats/chews, Frontline Plus, collars/leashes and toys...these adorable, sweet doggies: Gracie, Rebel and Sephora were not forgotten.



Gracie



Rebel



Sephora

In light of such a tragedy, the Matthews family were so graciously thankful for the support of THR and HSS in helping them to keep their precious furry family members a continued part of their family. This is rescue! Sephora

was having to stay confined inside due to timing and being unspayed. However, this baby girl will no longer have to worry about her time outdoors because HSS took care of having her spayed!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### 'Community Outreach'

In conjunction with our cover story, HSS would like to add a list of needs for the Matthews family.

Father: (Nicholas)

- Pants- 42x30 & 42x34
- Shirts- 3x
- Shoes- 14

Mother/Grandmother: (Hannah & Sonja)

- Pants- 14-16
- Shirts- XL-2X
- Shoes- 10

Children:

2 Boys: (Bryson and Braxton)

- 6-7 & 4-5
- Undies & Pull ups
- Shoes- 10-12 (1yr)

Girl: (Braylynn)

- 3T
- Size 4 diapers
- Shoes- 6

Infant: (boy-Brenton)

- Size 9-12 months
- Size 3 diapers

If you would like to donate any of the above items or any other items or have items such as furniture, house wares, toys, etc. you may do so by contacting the family: Sonja or Hannah at: (770) 256-5700 or PM via Facebook.



*This picture has such truth and is so profound...believing/knowing that everyone survived is nothing short of a miracle.*

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## HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF PET OVERPOPULATION

By Jane Reed

### *The Compassion of Children*

I was invited to talk to a Fayette county middle school group of children (ages 11 - 14). The children were members of the school's K-9 club. I presented information about the pet overpopulation problem, euthanasia, and the solution of spaying/neutering, as a means of humanely reducing the pet overpopulation.

The children were attentive, engaged in discussions and very concerned about the welfare of all animals. They understood that that there are more dogs and cats than homes and that shelters become over crowded which doesn't leave room for other lost animals. To make room for the other lost animals, some animals are euthanized. They understood the benefits of spaying/neutering - a highly effective means to reduce the pet overpopulation and reduce euthanasia.

A boy asked me this question, "Why do we have to kill the animals?" His face, as well as other children's, displayed a disbelief, profound sadness, and outrage, at the idea of killing animals as a solution and a normal practice. He asked, "Why can't we build more shelters, why can't we find other ways to save the homeless animals and not kill the animals?"

At this moment, I felt inadequate and ashamed to give the "canned standard" answer of too many pets, not enough homes, so we have to euthanize. The children refused to accept euthanasia as a solution to the pet overpopulation. They were fighting for the animals **right to live** with compassion and

fierce determination to find answers and ways to not kill the animals.

So many of us, as adults, have routinely accepted the practice of euthanizing animals as a normal part of life and means to control the pet overpopulation.

Perhaps if we carried our childhood hearts into our adulthood, maybe there would be less homeless animals and less euthanasia. The eyes of children have a clearer and simpler view that we miss as adults.

### *Door to Door - the Underserved*

For four years, I walked door-to-door in poverty stricken neighbor-hoods, offering free spay-neuter services and vaccinations. We spayed or neutered 2,000 cats/dogs. These animals were pre-viously identified, or targeted, as being at risk of producing unwanted litters, entering animal control and being killed. The majority of animals admitted into animal control shelters come out of underserved or poverty stricken neighborhoods. It is these animals that need our help the most.

As I journeyed through the neighborhoods, I saw, and strongly felt, that life was difficult and a struggle for the residents, pet owners and pets. Houses, trailers were not well maintained and there were several old broken down cars and trucks. Pets were tied up outside, cats scattering everywhere, dogs living outdoors and roaming. The animals looked unhealthy, longed for attention or were so scared. I walked from home to home, signing up pet owners for spay/neuter appointments. I listened, observed, and engaged in conversa-



(Continued on Page 4)

*Humane Management of Pet Overpopulation (Continued from Page 3)*

tions with pet owners. I learned about the difficulties, struggles and sadness facing the pet owners. Many residents were challenged with disabilities, physical, mental or both; elderly, alone and disabled; recovering substance abuse users; and users and people with criminal records who cannot get a living wage job. Many had pets that began as kittens or puppies from the neighborhood unaltered animals. Residents did not have adequate resources to take care of themselves, much less their animals. Many went without the basics of daily living. Part time, low paying jobs and disability monies are woefully inadequate in day-to-day living. The animals had not been vaccinated, dewormed, fixed and covered with fleas. Several presented skin issues. There were multiple litters of kittens and puppies - some animals having litter after litter.

Through all this, what I discovered was that the pet owners loved their pets. They did not have the funds to provide basic vet care to include food. Both the pet owners and pets needed help.

Over and over I hear people say, "If they can't afford to take care of animals, they should not own pets". That is not a working solution. The fact is they do have them, they are in front of us and they need help. Saying they should not have the animals does not help the animal in need.

I was saddened to see so many Americans and their pets living in these difficult conditions. But, it is these animals that need the most assistance. Very few rescue people enter these neighborhoods. They are uncomfortable,

scared and even felt aggrieved. If rescue volunteers would spend the time in providing spay/neuter services in low-income areas as they spend on adoptions, the problem of high shelter intake and euthanasia would be greatly decreased.

Helping the neediest animals - and people - requires engaging with pet owners that make us feel uncomfortable, looking past our judgments, and focusing on assisting these animals, so that fewer would suffer and ultimately be killed.

In conclusion, this author advocates prevention programs - educating children for future improved humane pet population control and targeted spay/neuter programs. Prevention programs are humane and significantly reduce shelter intake, killing of animals and financial costs. There are more animals than homes and adopters. We cannot adopt our way out of the pet overpopulation, shelter intake and euthanasia. I implore rescue organizations to place at the top of the animal welfare agenda, educating children and spay/neuter programs. Educating children can be executed independently of a spay/ neuter program and vice versa. Or, both programs can be prioritized and implemented simultaneously.



*Tom Tom and Bud*

#### **About the Author:**

Jane Reed has worked to develop and execute an effective spay/neuter program in local counties. Her work is known nationally by such organizations as the ASPCA and PetSmart Charities. HSS has been honored to sponsor three of Jane's Spay/Neuter presentations to middle school.

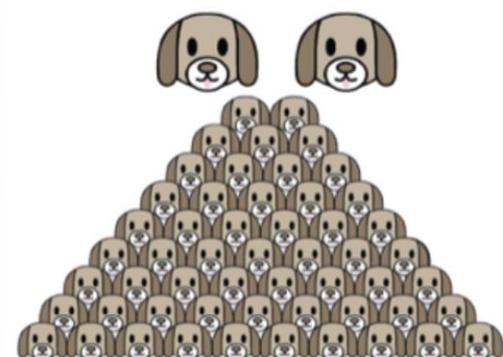
## WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

<p><b>REDUCE SPRAYING &amp; MARKING</b></p> 	<p><b>REDUCE ROAMING</b></p> 	<p><b>REDUCE AGGRESSION</b></p> 
<p><b>LOWER RISK OF CANCERS</b></p> 	<p><b>DECREASE OVERPOPULATION</b></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">© Planet Pet 2014</p>	<p><b>INCREASE LIFE SPAN UP TO 3-5 YEARS</b></p> 

## DID YOU KNOW?

An unaltered female dog or cat, her mate, and all of their babies, and their babies' babies, if none are ever spayed or neutered add up to:





1 year: 16  
 2 years: 128  
 3 years: 512  
 4 years: 2,048  
 5 years: 12,288  
 6 years: 67,000



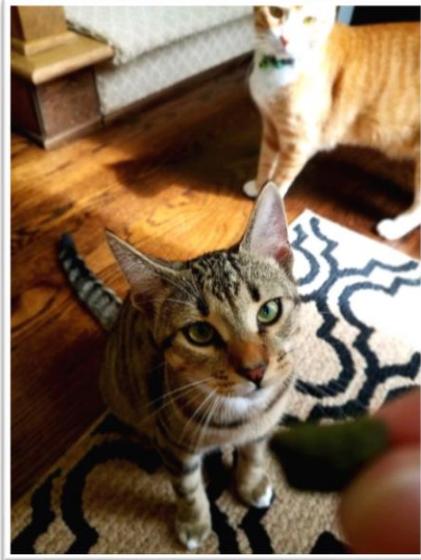
1 year: 12  
 3 years: 376  
 5 years: 11,801  
 7 years: 370,092  
 9 years: 11,606,077



## HOW TO TRAIN A CAT

### By Brittany Cote

To start out with, I'd like to say that the title of this article is pretty misleading. For cats, you can't simply train them to do as you please; it's more of persuading them to cooperate with your silly requests. Not every cat can be persuaded. As a matter of fact, most cats will look at you like you have three heads



Briggs in training while Nixon looks on.

when you tell them to do something for a treat. I'm pretty convinced that they believe just gracing you with their presence is enough to receive a treat. None-the-less, some cats will indeed do a task for you if you ask, it just takes a bit of convincing first.

1. Remove Distractions. Try to take your cat into a room with little to no distractions. Other pets, bird feeders in windows, toys, etc. will cause your cat to easily lose interest in what's going on in front of them.
2. Get the cat's attention and tell him to sit. Of course he's going to have no idea what you mean, and just stare blankly at you, but you repeat this word, then give them a treat, or praise, whichever your cat likes more. This is going to give a positive connection to the word "sit". You'll want to repeat this a few times to the association is made.

3. Tell him to sit and give him a little guidance. Now, when you tell him to sit, hold the treat above his head out of reach, don't let him get it, and lightly push his bottom down while saying the word "sit". He'll resist and probably be a little uncomfortable with what you're doing, but repeat it, don't be too forceful, and make sure to reward him when he allows you to make him sit.
4. Tell him to sit and expect him to sit without assistance. He might still need some time to associate the action with the word to receive the reward, regardless, tell him to sit again. If he sits, give him a treat, but let's be honest, that isn't likely to happen right away. You want to repeat this step often. You'll need to take breaks, or even take a few days of repeating this process till your cat gets it. Over time, you'll want to taper down the amount of treats you give, eventually go to every other time giving it to him, till you no longer need a treat.

If your cat is easily persuaded, it shouldn't take long for your cat to figure out it needs to satisfy your strange obsession with sitting in order to receive the reward. If your cat is a bit more independent than that and, frankly, feels he deserves a reward without having to do anything, then it will take quite a bit longer. Every cat is different, but in the end, it is possible!

Congratulations! You have hopefully been successful in persuading your cat to sit! You can try this with other actions like "paw" or "high five". In the end it's all up to whether your cat has the patience for it, or the desire to bother with it. Good luck!

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR DOG HAS BEEN POISONED

### **Forget Everything You Think You Know**

We can't stress this enough, if your dog has ingested something poisonous, you should forget everything you think you know about what to do in this scenario. This is not the time for any DIY doggy first aid, unless you've talked to a vet and have been told to take action, because what works for one kind of poison can do more damage to your dog if they've been exposed to a different kind of poison.

For example, some people believe that the best thing to do if your dog has ingested something poisonous is to induce vomiting but, as [PetMD points out](#), if you induce vomiting in a dog who has eaten something petroleum-based, they can easily aspirate into their lungs, causing acute pneumonia. Likewise, if the poison is caustic, giving any home remedy could cause a chemical reaction that could make your dog far worse.

So, in short, don't try to treat your dog for any kind of poisoning unless a veterinary professional has directly instructed you to do so.

### **Get Your Dog Away From The Poison**

It might seem too obvious to mention, but in times of worry and crisis, all common sense can go straight out of the window.

The absolute first thing you should do if you see your dog eating something potentially toxic is to either get the poisonous thing away from your dog or move your dog away from the poison, whichever makes the most sense at the time.

As soon as your dog is securely away from the dangerous substance, move on to the next step right away.

### **Seek Veterinary Advice**

Again this might seem obvious, but if you suspect your dog has been poisoned, call the vet right away.

You should *never take a "wait and see" approach with suspected poisoning*,

because the longer you wait the more damage the toxic substance could be doing. By the time any symptoms show up, it could be too late. Call your vet and,

if you know what your pet ingested, they should be able to tell you whether or not it's

toxic and what your next step should be. If you're not sure whether what your dog has been exposed to is poisonous or not, it's best to err on the side of caution and call up the vet anyway, as they'd much rather answer a silly question than have you come in with a severely sick dog.

Depending on the type of poison ingested, the vet will need to perform one of several procedures. According to [Pet Place](#), these include, pumping the stomach, administering activated charcoal, or giving an appropriate antidote, if one is available.

### **Bring A Sample Of The Poison**

It's likely that your vet will ask you to bring your dog to their surgery right away. If so, you should bring a sample or the packaging of whatever it is that your dog has eaten, where possible.

If you're not sure what your dog has ingested, but they have vomited, bringing a sample of the vomit could be helpful.



# 23 Common Plants That Are Poisonous to Pets

Whether garden plants, houseplants, plants in the wild, or flowers from the florist - plants can provide a tasty and tempting diversion for animals, one that can be at odds with your pet's health. These 23 common plants are some for you to make sure your pets avoid ingesting.



Aloe Vera



Amaryllis



Azalea



Baby's Breath



Begonia



Carnations



Castor Bean



Chrysanthemum



Cyclamen



Daffodil



Gladiola



Hosta



Ivy



Lilies



Milkweed



Morning Glory



Oleander



Poinsetta



Pothos



Sago Palm



Tomato Plant



Tulip



Yew

