

the Animal Insider

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM ANIMAL OUTREACH, INC. • SPRING 2006



Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 21-27

By Greg Schneider

Practical Tips to Protect Your Family

Nationwide statistics underscore the need to raise awareness around the dangerous problem of dog bites, and to educate the public about what can be done in the way of prevention. According to the American Veterinary Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 4.7 million Americans suffer from dog bites each year. The severity of the bites obviously varies, but 800,000 people are injured seriously enough each year to require medical attention. Twelve people die due to mortal wounds.

While these numbers are both staggering and alarming, some of the most surprising facts may be that 61 percent of dog bites occur within pet owners' homes, and 43 percent of all dog bites involve children being bitten by the family dog. As such, parents can take a large "bite" out of these high incidence rates simply by learning some basic guidelines that will help their children avoid getting bit by their own dogs.

Many of the tips on how to prevent altercations are pretty straightforward and appeal to one's commonsense, but they have proven very successful:

Avoiding Dog Bites (parents of children):

- Do not allow your young child to discipline a dog.
- Never leave a young child or baby alone with a dog.
- Do not allow your child to feed a dog unsupervised.
- Do not allow your child to pull on the dog's collar.
- Do not allow your child to walk the dog unsupervised.
- Do not allow your child to play aggressive games with any dog.
- Teach your dog to respond to verbal commands.

Avoiding Dog Bites (children):

- Never pet a strange dog, even if the owner is present.
- Stay away from a dog while it is eating and sleeping.
- Never retrieve a ball from someone else's yard.
- Stay away from a dog that has puppies.
- Stay away from a dog that is tied up.
- Never pull a dog's ears or tail and never tease a dog or make it angry.
- Stand totally still if a dog runs at you barking. Cover your face with your hands.
- Do not yank your hands away if a dog "mouths" your hands.
- If knocked to the ground by a dog, roll into a ball, cover your face with your arms, and stay as still as possible until the dog leaves.

Avoiding Dog Bites (adults) - When meeting a strange dog:

- Stand still, stand tall—don't move a muscle.
- Face the dog at all times, but don't stare and don't look in the dog's eyes.
- Allow the dog to smell you, they must come close.
- Don't run and don't put your hand out.

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- Wait for the dog to lose interest.
- Back away slowly, watching the dog from the corner of your eye.

Dogs can be wonderful, loving companions. To keep yourself and your dog happy and safe, act responsibly. By following the above tips, you can help reduce the risk of your dog biting others, or getting bit by a strange dog yourself.



Greg Schneider is a dog behavioral therapist and a Columbus-area representative for BarkBusters Home Dog Training. For more information on dog bite prevention or dog training programs, visit www.barkbusters.com or call (877) 500-BARK.

Who is that cool cat on the cover? Why it's Captain Jack!

Jenny from Centerburg, Ohio, thought Captian Jack would be a great cover model for our Spring issue, and why not? At the tender young age of 1-1/2, he spends his days as a washbuckling pirate, pillaging, plundering, collecting booty and making treasure maps. So, why couldn't he experience a more glamorous lifestyle (if there is such a thing)?



Captain Jack was adopted from the Knox County Humane Society in October 2004. He had a little eye problem as a youngster, so now he has only one functional eye. This doesn't bother him in the least, as he is the reigning fly-catching champion of the world. This little problem didn't stop him from winning the hearts and votes of our readers either. Captain Jack won the Animal Insider's Spring Cover Model contest, collecting 32 more votes than the nearest competitor. In addition to having his photo on the cover of this issue, Captain Jack and Jenny will receive a special gift from Animal Outreach! Congratulations!

Want to get in on the action for the Summer issue? Just go to our website (www.animal-outreach.org) and click on the "Model Contest" button for information on how to send us your pictures and a list of candidates to vote on. Tell your friends, family and co-workers to vote for your pet too! The winner not only gets to be on our next cover, but also gets a special prize from us!

Thank you for picking up *The Animal Insider*! We hope you find it interesting and informative. We would like to recognize the following individuals who have helped make this issue of the Animal Insider possible!

Chris Griffin
Jill Herbst

Ed & Carol Herbst
Terri Hazzard

Scott Dodson
Bryan Shelton

If you would like to invest in *The Animal Insider*, complete the contribution form on the back cover and designate your gift to *The Animal Insider*. All supporters will have their names listed in the issue(s) they sponsor! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and organizations.

Call (614) 523-9244 or email chris@animal-outreach.org for more information.

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Animal Insider

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM ANIMAL OUTREACH, INC. • SPRING 2006

Editor Jill Herbst

Production Manager, Design & Layout
Chris Griffin

The next issue of *The Animal Insider* will be published July 2006.

Submissions for publication consideration are due by June 1, 2006. Submissions may be mailed to the address below or emailed to jill@animal-outreach.org

Event listings may be submitted through our website: www.animal-outreach.org

Animal Outreach, Inc. was founded in 2001 to help end pet overpopulation by encouraging responsible pet ownership; promoting spay/neuter programs; and uniting the efforts of rescue groups, animal control agencies, traditional shelters, veterinarians and other concerned individuals.

Our programs focus on raising public awareness of pet overpopulation and encouraging the spaying and neutering of pets.

Animal Outreach also operates a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) which helps cover the cost of spay and neuter surgeries for those who are unable to afford it.

Animal Outreach is an all volunteer 501(c)3 organization. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**ANIMAL
OUTREACH**
THE PET RESOURCE PEOPLE

P. O. Box 892
Westerville, Ohio 43086
614.523.WAGG (9244)
www.animal-outreach.org



Introducing Your Pet and New Baby

Congratulations, you're expecting a baby! If your family already includes a pet, you'll need to help that first "baby" adjust to the new one you'll soon bring home. By following the tips below, you can ease your pet's stress, help her welcome your new baby, and ensure that your pet stays where she belongs—with you and your growing family.

Can I Keep My Cat?

If you're pregnant, you've probably heard of toxoplasmosis because it can cause serious birth defects. However, toxoplasmosis is rare in the United States and can easily be avoided. While the disease-causing parasite can be found in the feces of cats who ingest raw meat, birds, mice, or contaminated soil, it is more commonly found in uncooked or undercooked meat.

Toxoplasmosis is easily avoided by practicing good hygiene and responsible pet care. Just follow these simple steps:

- Avoid handling/eating uncooked meat. Wash cutting boards and utensils that may have come in contact with meat.
- Keep your cat safely indoors and away from wildlife.
- Have someone else clean the litter box daily. If you must do it yourself, use rubber gloves and wash your hands after.
- Feed cats only commercially prepared cat food.

How Will My Pet React?

No matter how much you plan ahead, the addition of a new family member may be difficult for your pet. Remember, your dog or cat was your first "baby" and is used to being the center of your attention. So it's understandable that she may experience something akin to sibling rivalry when you introduce a new human baby into your household. You can minimize this feeling by working with her before you bring home your baby.



How Can I Prepare My Pet?

Below are some suggestions to make introducing your pet and baby safer and smoother for all. Be sure to make these changes months before the baby's arrival to best prepare your pet.

- Take your pet to the veterinarian for an exam/vaccinations.
- Spay or neuter your pet. Sterilized pets are typically calmer and less likely to bite.
- Consult with a veterinarian and pediatrician if the thought of your newborn interacting with your pet makes you uneasy.
- Address any pet training and behavior problems. If your pet exhibits fear and anxiety, now is the time to get help.
- If your pet's behavior includes gentle nibbling, pouncing, or swatting, redirect that behavior to appropriate objects.
- Get your pet used to nail trims.
- Train your pet to remain calmly on the floor beside you until you invite him on your lap, which will soon cradle a newborn.
- Encourage friends with infants to visit your home to accu-

- tom your pet to babies while supervising their interactions.
- Accustom your pet to baby-related noises months before the baby is expected. Play recordings of a baby crying, turn on infant swings, and use the rocking chair. Make these positive experiences for your pet by offering a treat.
- Discourage your pet from jumping on the baby's crib and changing table by using double-stick tape.
- If the baby's room will be off-limits to your pet, install a sturdy barrier such as a removable gate or, for jumpers, a screen door. Because these barriers still allow your pet to see and hear what's happening, he'll feel less isolated and more comfortable with the new baby noises.
- Carry around a swaddled baby doll, take the doll in the stroller when you walk your dog, and use the doll to get your pet used to routine baby activities like bathing and diaper changing.
- Talk to your pet about the baby, using the baby's name.
- Sprinkle baby powder or baby oil on your skin so your pet becomes familiar with the new smells.
- Finally, plan ahead to make sure your pet gets proper care while you're at the birthing center.



What Do We Do After Baby Is Born?

Welcoming a new baby is exciting for your family. But before you bring your baby home from the hospital, have your partner or friend take home something with the baby's scent on it (such as a blanket) for your pet to investigate.

When you return from the hospital, your pet may be eager to greet you and receive attention. Have someone take the baby into another room while you give your pet a warm, but calm, welcome. Keep treats handy so you can distract your pet.

After the initial greeting, you can bring your pet with you to sit next to the baby; reward your pet with treats for appropriate behavior. Remember, you want your pet to view associating with the baby as a positive experience. To prevent anxiety or injury, never force your pet to get near the baby.

Life will no doubt be hectic caring for your new baby, but try to maintain regular routines as much as possible to help your pet adjust. And be sure to spend one-on-one quality time with your pet each day—it may help you relax too. With proper training, supervision, and adjustments, you, your new baby, and your pet should be able to live together safely and happily as one (now larger) family.

Adapted from material originally developed by applied animal behaviorists at the Dumb Friends League, Denver, Co. Copyright 2000 Dumb Friends League and Copyright 2003 The HSUS. All rights reserved

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Spotlight on: Columbus Dog Connection

By Jill Herbst



In 1998, a group of volunteers who were assisting with a puppy mill situation in Madison County decided to form a rescue to help even more animals and Columbus Dog Connection (CDC) was born. Since that time, CDC has become a formidable force in Central Ohio, offering a comprehensive foster and adoption program for homeless dogs, promoting spay/neuter, and actively campaigning against puppy mills and other situations that contribute to the pet overpopulation problem in our community. *The Animal Insider* had the opportunity to ask CDC Co-Director Kellie DiFrishia a few questions about this active organization.

AI: What is the mission of the CDC and how do you accomplish that mission?

KD: Columbus Dog Connection re-homes abandoned dogs, promotes all rescues and shelters in Ohio and will be in dogged pursuit of saving every adoptable dog until we don't euthanize for lack of space.

We are working on several pieces of legislation that will have a great impact for dogs in Ohio. As each piece of legislation progresses, we will keep up to date information on what you can do to become involved and help the homeless dogs. We need lots of support and hope anyone who loves dogs will take the time to contact your state representatives and senators to show your concern. It really does make a difference when you call them to share what is important to you. Every call speaks volumes.

AI: What are the greatest challenges you face as an organization?

KD: We are frustrated with rescues and shelters that do not have a 100% spay neuter (s/n) policy before adoption. Pediatric s/n has been practiced for 50 years now. There has been extensive research done and there is not one sentence of negative literature on pediatric s/n. It is difficult to ask people to s/n their dogs/cats, when we have shelters and rescues that don't practice it themselves. We need every single dog, puppy, cat and kitten to be s/n before adoption.

We have a challenge in to all Petlands to s/n before they sell a pup. And of course there are numerous breeders who are doing s/n before they sell a pup, but many breeders are still not doing it. We need everyone, rescues, shelters, pet stores and all breeders to take responsibility and sterilize before adoption.

AI: What are some of your greatest accomplishments?

KD: I am so proud of our volunteers. The people who make up CDC are some of the best people I have known. They give endless time and energy to saving dogs. We have so many stories of triumph in saving sick/injured dog or recovering a lost dog... but it all comes back to how dedicated our volunteers are. Without them, we would not exist.

AI: Can you share a success story?

KD: There have been several instances of dogs getting loose from new foster or permanent homes during transports. It always amazes me at the response we have of people who post flyers, walk the streets and woods looking for a shy dog on the loose. Because we have learned how elusive shy dogs can be, we now only use martingale style collars when our dogs are going to the vet or to adoption events. A startled dog can back out of any collar or harness, but the martingale collars prevent that from happening.

AI: How can people get involved with the work CDC does?

KD: Since we don't have a physical location, our greatest need is for foster homes. We pay for all the vet care, food and crates. You provide the TLC and training to get that pooch adopted. We also have a volunteer/transport list that we email to people who don't foster. Check out www.ColumbusDogConnection.com for more information on both.

Dolly is an 11-year-old Pekingese mix. As you might expect, she's a pretty laid back couch dweller that would love to follow you everywhere. Dolly is one of many dogs available for adoption from Columbus Dog Connection.



Columbus Top Dogs (Shure Pets) proudly supports this page of

the Animal Insider

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Lisa Uhrick (Ohio Pug Rescue) #0501, Rhonda Burnaugh #0695,
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April

April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month.

- 2 & 16 Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Franklin County Dog Shelter 1731 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus. Come meet homeless dogs and cats, puppies and kittens too! www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 8 Sweet Revenge Reunion & Benefit Concert,** 8 p.m. at the Memorial Theater in Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$5 advance/\$8 day of show. All proceeds benefit the Knox County Humane Society. Call (740) 392-2287 for details.
- 9 Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Bark Til Dark Dog Park 1277 Hills-Miller Rd. Delaware www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 13 Howl at the Moon, Prairie Oaks Park** 7 p.m. Bring your canine out for a 1-mile hike along the pet trail. Call (614) 891-0700 for more info.
- 14 Howl at the Moon, Highbanks and Battelle-Darby Creek Parks** 7 p.m. Bring your canine out for a hike along the pet trail. Call (614) 891-0700 for more information.
- 20 Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (Cats)** Cozy Cat Cottage, 62 Village Pointe Dr., Powell. Males \$35, Females \$45. Register and pay in advance: (614) 336-8510
- 29 Foster Provider Training (Cats)** Cat Assistance Team of Central Ohio will be hosting a workshop at Wild Oats in Columbus from 9 a.m. til noon. Learn neonatal kitten care, socializing ferals kittens and foster care. Call (614) 575-CATS for info. Pre-registration is required.
- 5 Sunbear Studio Open House and Spring Art Preview Party,** Join Cat Assistance Team of Central Ohio from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sunbear Studio in Center Village for music, appetizers & art. Tickets are \$10 and benefit central Ohio's homeless cats. Call (614) 575-CATS for info.
- 7/13 Be Kind to Animals Week** is a

great way to get involved and make a difference for the animals!

- 7 & 21 Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Franklin County Dog Shelter 1731 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus. Come meet homeless dogs and cats, puppies and kittens too! www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 13 Furry Skurry** is a fun day out for the whole family in Dayton. 5K walk, pet photos, vendors, raffles rescues, demonstrations, and more! Call (937) 268-PETS for more info. Sponsored by the Humane Society of Greater Dayton

Calendar of Events

April – June
2006

- 14 Howl at the Moon, Highbanks Park** 8 p.m. Bring your canine out for a 3.5 mile hike along the pet trail. Call (614) 891-0700 for info.
- Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Bark Til Dark Dog Park 1277 Hills-Miller Rd. Delaware www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 18 Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (Cats)** Cozy Cat Cottage, 62 Village Pointe Dr., Powell. Males \$35, Females \$45. Register and pay in advance: (614) 336-8510
- 20 Meet your Best Friend at the Zoo,** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Local animal shelters will have pets available for adoption. Viewing the animals for adoption is free. Parking is \$3. If you choose to enter the zoo, regular admission rates still apply.
- 8th Annual Ohio Pug Rescue Reunion & Fundraiser,** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Whitehall Community Park, 402 N. Hamilton

Rd. in Whitehall. Visit www.ohiopugrescue.com for info.

- 21 Cat Welfare Association Open House,** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 741 Wetmore Rd. in Columbus. Meet our feline friends, tour the shelter, see artwork created by the cats and much more! Call (614) 268-6096 for more info.
- 27 6th Annual Pet Promise Rescue Run,** 5K run/walk and festival held annually on Memorial Day weekend promoting awareness of the pet overpopulation problem and supporting efforts to change the future for all homeless pets through education, rescue, sterilization & adoption. Visit www.rescuerun.com for registration and schedule.

June

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

- 4 & 18 Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Franklin County Dog Shelter 1731 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus. Come meet homeless dogs and cats, puppies and kittens too! www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 11 Mingle with our Mutts,** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Bark Til Dark Dog Park 1277 Hills-Miller Rd. Delaware www.minglewithourmutts.org
- 15 Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (Cats)** Cozy Cat Cottage, 62 Village Pointe Dr., Powell. Males \$35, Females \$45. Register and pay in advance: (614) 336-8510
- 24 & 25 Ohio Pug Rescue Garage Sale** Visit www.ohiopugrescue.com for more details

We want to know about your organization's events! You can submit information online at www.animal-outreach.org, email it to chris@animal-outreach.org, or mail it to Animal Outreach, P.O. Box 892, Westerville, Ohio 43086.

Be sure to include the date, time, location and any other relevant details!

Interested in sponsoring the "Calendar of Events" page in the next issue of The Animal Insider? Call (614) 523-9244 or email chris@animal-outreach.org for details.



Pet Loss Support Group:

Working Through Grief Together

Losing a pet or the thought of losing a pet can be a very painful, confusing and frightening experience. An important part of your life is gone and you may be unsure about how to cope with your feelings.

Many different situations can result in the loss of a pet and bring on the associated grief: death of the pet, divorce or separation, disappearance of the pet, or inability to keep the pet for some reason.

By meeting with others in the Pet Loss Support Group you can begin to answer some of your questions and learn ways to cope with the pain. The Pet Loss Support Group is available at no charge to anyone who needs it. You do not need to call before attending and you may come to as few or as many sessions as you wish.



Questions and feelings you may have include:

- Why do I feel so depressed and lost?
- How can I think of ending my pet's life?
- How will I know when the time is right?
- Why do I feel so guilty?
- How am I going to explain this to my children?
- Why didn't I take more time to decide?
- Who can I talk to? My friends/family don't understand.
- I didn't cry this much when my grandmother died. What's wrong with me?
- What can I do to remember my pet?
- Should I get another pet? How soon?
- Will I be betraying my pet's love?
- How long till I'm "over it"?

The Pet Loss Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 PM at Scottie MacBeans, 4675 N. High Street in Clintonville.

For more information call Dorothy Hall: 895-3416 or 882-9338.

Spay/Neuter Assistance Available

Animal Outreach is offering a low cost spay/neuter option for individuals currently receiving public assistance in central Ohio. The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP), is available to anyone who is currently receiving cash assistance through OWF or TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Unemployment or Social Security Disability Income.

SNAP fees:

Cats are \$10 for the first cat and \$5 each additional cat.
Dog are \$20 for the first dog and \$10 each additional dog.

Those interested in taking advantage of SNAP should complete an application, provide proof of public assistance and the appropriate fees. Applications are available for download at www.animal-outreach.org. You can also call (614) 523-9244 and request an application by mail. Please leave a message with your name and mailing address.

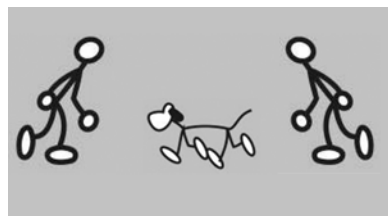
For more information about SNAP and a wide variety of Ohio Spay/Neuter Resources, visit www.animal-outreach.org

Pooch Parade Cancelled

The annual Pooch Parade held in Worthington, Ohio has been cancelled for its scheduled day of April 22. Organizers are looking into a variety of options for rescheduling the event.

Despite months of negotiations with the City of Worthington and the Olde Worthington Business Association, a compromise could not be reached that was agreeable to all parties. City officials and OWBA representatives had expressed concern over lost business on the day of the event, which has traditionally been held the fourth Saturday of April on the Worthington Greens. Negotiations included a potential change in day/time, parking locations, and other concessions.

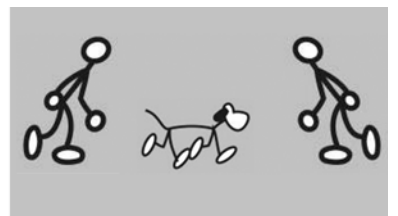
The Pooch Parade is a 501(c)3 organization that organizes the parade event which boasts a wide variety of booths from animal rescue groups, pet-related vendors, and event sponsors. The organization holds the community event to raise awareness of the pet overpopulation problem in Central Ohio, encourage responsible pet ownership and strengthen the bond between humans and their companion animals. It has been billed as the largest free dog parade in the country. For updates and information visit www.poochparade.net.



MINGLE WITH OUR MUTTS.ORG

Dog & Cat Adoption Events in Ohio

Held every month at local shelters or community areas



Homeward Bound: Adoptable Animals

Huck

Huck is a jovial fellow. He's a large, adult Foxhound who loves toys and other animals. He basks in attention and even gives great big bear hugs. He's up to date on routine shots, housebroken and neutered.



Tojo

Tojo is a hound if ever there was one. He wants nothing more than to sleep on your front porch or under a shade tree. He spent much of his life on a 4ft. chain with no shelter. After being rescued, he was cleaned up, given a warm place to sleep and plenty of yummy food. Now he's beginning a second puppy hood and

really seems much younger than 8-years-old. He shows his love and gratitude by bestowing huge, hound dog grins on everyone he sees. He loves people and riding in the car.



Cappy

Cappy is a young, medium-sized Alpine Billy goat. He was rescued from a condemned property in Scioto County, along with 70 other goats, all of which need homes! These goats can't be bred, sold, or slaughtered—pasture pets only. They are all very friendly.



The Ohio Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Ohio SPCA has two main goals. One, to extend to present and future generations humane education, which will lead to an awareness of the need for people to be responsible and kind stewards over animals. Second, to intercede on behalf of animals and bring about change to situations and practices in which cruelty, neglect, or unnecessary suffering exists.

Visit www.ohiospca.org for more information about the Ohio SPCA and a list of all Ohio SPCA's animals for adoption, or call (614) 875-1810.



Georgina

Georgina is a young, medium-sized tiger cat, who loves people and attention. She's a playful kitty and likes chasing balls or a feather on a string. She does very well with people and is looking for just the right family to love her. She's spayed and up-to-date on her shots and ready to go home with you.



Cat Assistance Team of Central Ohio is committed to reducing cat overpopulation through public awareness and non-lethal humane management efforts. Formed in 2003 to address the critical overpopulation of stray and feral cats in our community. A "board of protectors" was formed to create the organization's mission and priorities, and the group immediately became active in cat rescue, feral cat services and domestic cat fostering and adoption.

Visit www.catteam.org for more info. and a list of all CATco's animals for adoption, or call (614) 575-CATS.

Opossum

Hi, I'm Opossum. That's my name, not what I am. I'm a very young, male, Domestic Short Hair cat! I'm still a little shy at first, but I'm realizing that it's nice to be petted and sit on laps. I might run if I hear a loud noise, but I'll be back shortly to visit some more. If you think I'd make a great addition to your family, let me know.



For a list of shelters, rescue groups and other adoptable pets, visit:

www.animal-outreach.org

Petfinder.com
ADOPT A HOMELESS PET

Petfinder.com has access to hundred's of Ohio rescue groups and their animals for adoption. Adopt your new best friend today!

Interested in sponsoring the "Homeward Bound" page in the next issue of *The Animal Insider*? Call (614) 523-9244 or email chris@animal-outreach.org for details.



On the Wild Side:

A Little Planning Goes a Long Way for Wildlife

Springtime brings thoughts of enjoying the outdoors and witnessing the beauty of budding nature all around. You can enjoy nature even more by planning your yard work to incorporate a wildlife habitat into your landscape.

Wildlife are drawn to places that offer an abundance and variety of food sources, water, shelter, and nesting sites. Overdevelopment has contributed to the loss of much wildlife habitat. In fact, loss of suitable nesting sites due to overdevelopment is a major factor in the decline of some bird species. Planning your landscape with wildlife in mind is one way to help offset this loss.

The first step to making your yard wildlife-friendly is to assess what plants you currently have. Is there a wide variety of trees and shrubs? Flowers? Groundcover? When looking at your yard, consider both horizontal and vertical space. Are there different sizes of plants and shrubs? A natural environment is not limited to a horizontal plane.

Next, determine what you want to keep, eliminate, move or add. Your local nursery can recommend specific native plants if you are unsure of what may be good options. A wide variety of trees and shrubs provide shelter and nesting sites. The dense branches of evergreen trees such as pine, spruce, and fir are a favorite of birds. Fruit and nut-bearing trees and shrubs provide a natural food source. Consider the budding cycle of trees and shrubs and try to balance the food supply throughout the year.

A thriving backyard habitat consists of more than shrubs and

trees. Annual and perennial flowers in an array of colors attract butterflies, hummingbirds and helpful insects such as bees. Hummingbirds prefer red and orange colors while bees are drawn to blue and violet. In addition, a wide variety of both annuals and perennials will ensure that your yard is always full of color.

Water is an absolute necessity when attracting wildlife to your yard. A natural pond or creek is ideal, but a bird bath or even a saucer filled with water will do the trick. Water should be changed every few days to prevent bacteria growth and the spread of disease.

Now that you have designed your yard with nature in mind, you can sit back and enjoy watching your wild new neighbors.

For more information and resources for creating a wildlife habitat in your yard visit the National Wildlife Federation's website: www.nwf.org. The NWF sponsors a certification program designed to help individuals plan and apply a wildlife habitat plan for a home site or small acreage. On request, NWF will send you an application package and instructions for its Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. If your application and plan meet the criteria, you will receive a certificate and, if you wish, a sign to show your commitment to wildlife conservation.

Contact:
Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program
National Wildlife Federation
8925 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22184-0001



Support the work of Animal Outreach!

Prevention is the key in the fight against pet overpopulation! With your support we can reduce the number of homeless pets by encouraging responsible pet ownership.



I want to have an impact on the lives of animals. Please accept my contribution:

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other: _____

I would like to sponsor _____ issues of *The Animal Insider* (\$10 per issue)

Donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Please make checks payable to **Animal Outreach, Inc.**, and mail to:
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