

the Animal Insider

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM ANIMAL OUTREACH, INC. • SUMMER 2007



Central Ohio's Cat Crisis:

What you can do to help

There's a cat crisis in Columbus. Cat overpopulation has remained consistently high over the last decade, and today some local animal organizations estimate there are more than one million stray and feral (or free-roaming) cats in central Ohio.

Unfortunately, even when these cats are found, they have nowhere to go. Unlike dogs, local laws provide no protection or services for cats that stray, and cats are not accepted at the county's animal control facility, the Franklin County Dog Shelter. As a result, the privately funded Capital Area Humane Society serves as the default animal control facility for cats.

During 2006, the Capital Area Humane Society took in more than 13,000 homeless animals, which include dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and other companion animals. More than 10,000 of the animals brought to the shelter were cats. Nearly 8,000 of the cats were reported to be strays, meaning that more than half of all animals received by the Humane Society were stray cats. The sheer number of cats that the Humane Society and other cat organizations take in every year is straining already limited resources.

"No publicly funded agency accepts cats and although there are a number of other privately funded organizations devoted to cats, their resources are limited so the vast majority of stray or feral cats are brought to the Humane Society," said Jodi Lytle Buckman, Executive Director of the Capital Area Humane Society. "No other shelter accepts additional cats once they reach their capacity and while we are an open-admission shelter, we simply do not have the resources to care for all of them. Our organization responds daily to cats in crisis as the default animal control service for cats in the community and the numbers are too large for us to be able to find homes for all the homeless cats in our community."

In 2006, the Capital Area Humane Society was able to find homes for almost 3,000 of the animals they took in. The placement rate for dogs at the organization is 81 percent, with the remaining dogs being ineligible for adoption due to severe medical conditions or temperament that makes them a threat to the community. Comparatively, the Humane Society is only able to find homes for 15 percent of the cats brought to the organization. Tragically, nearly 9,000 cats were unable to be placed in permanent homes due to acute medical conditions, poor temperament, owner-requested euthanasia or because they were feral. "The placement rates for cats are dramatic and heartbreaking, and is directly linked to the volume of cats we take in as an organization," said Buckman.

Be an AdvoCAT

The Humane Society is launching the "Be an AdvoCAT" campaign to educate the community about the cat crisis and implement programs to help improve the plight of cats. Through the "Be an AdvoCAT" campaign, the Humane Society hopes to inform the community of the seriousness of the problem and what they can do to help. Each month, the campaign will feature a new message related to cats in our community—including microchipping, keeping cats indoors and spay/neuter programs.

In This Issue

Red, White and YELP!

Spotlight On:
Black & Orange Cat
Foundation

Calendar of Events

Affordable Vet Care

Homeward Bound:
Animals for Adoption

Area Parks Offer Outdoor
Fun... Naturally!

continued on page 3

From the Editor:

Welcome to the first issue of the *Animal Insider* on our new production schedule! We are still quarterly, but our new release months will be March, June, September, December. Thanks to all of our sponsors, supporters and readers for being patient during our short production break. We're hopeful that our new schedule will help us present content that's more relevant and timely.

Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors weather! This issue is packed with information to help you and your pets have fun and stay safe, including a feature on our area parks and tips to calm your pets during Fourth of July festivities.

We at Animal Outreach receive many calls from individuals seeking financial assistance to cover veterinary medical expenses. While we don't provide this service, there are many options available in our area to help with these rising costs. Some of these resources are highlighted on page 6.

Finally, as friends of animals, there are many things we can do to show we care about our companion pets as well as other animals. One of the easiest things is to show our support for laws that will improve their quality of life. Ohio currently is considering legislation to regulate puppy mills in our state. I encourage you to read the information below and take action on behalf of the animals in our community. If you have never contacted your state representative before, now is the time to make your voice heard.

Speaking of making your voice heard, we would love to hear your thoughts on the *Animal Insider*. Feel free to give us a call or email and let us know what you think!



Ohio Puppy Mill Bill ~ House Bill 223, Senate Bill 173 (Same Bill)

There are 156 USDA licensed dog breeders currently in Ohio. However, there are 11,000 kennel registrations in the state. Because the USDA only inspects businesses that sell animals wholesale, many kennels are not inspected. As a result, Ohio has become a popular location for puppy mills.

Current Ohio laws offer no public accountability in cases where deplorable living conditions exist. The new puppy mill legislation sets minimum standards for dog care, such as unfrozen water bowls, daily feeding, living quarters free from a build up of urine/feces and human contact. Many reputable breeders, veterinarians and dog enthusiasts are in support of the new puppy mill legislation.

What you can do:

Educate yourself! Visit www.ColumbusDogConnection.com for easy to understand information about the bill and puppy mills in general.

Contact your state legislator and urge them to sponsor the bill. If you don't know who your representatives are, visit: www.house.state.oh.us (Ohio House) and www.senate.state.oh.us (Ohio Senate). If they already support it, thank them!

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 possible!

Kate Cushen
Scott Dodson
Heather doForno
Chris Griffin

Terri Hazzard
Jill Herbst
Ed & Carol Herbst
Dave Metcalfe

Charlotte Patin
Bryan Shelton
John & Pat Stevenson
Kelly Tamerlano

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.Griffin@Animal-Outreach.org for more information.

the
Animal Insider

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

Editor: Jill Herbst

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Katie Franklin

Production & Layout: Chris Griffin

The next issue of the Animal Insider will be published September 2007.

Submissions for publication consideration are due by August 1, 2007. Please email to: Jill.Herbst@Animal-Outreach.org

Event listings may be submitted by email to Calendar@Animal-Outreach.org or online at www.Animal-Outreach.org

The mission of Animal Outreach is 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
www.Animal-Insider.org

continued from page 1

"With the introduction of the Be an AdvoCAT campaign, the Humane Society is asking members of the community to join us in addressing this problem for the good of the animals as well as the good of the community," Buckman said.

The first focus of the campaign is programming for lost and found pets. Local laws require licenses for dogs, but not for cats, which help in reuniting families with lost dogs. Also, there is no law-enforced method for handling cats that stray, meaning that many communities are not required to pick up stray cats and there is no standard location, such as the Franklin County Dog Shelter, where they are brought.

"These hurdles combined with the lack of a coordinated community approach to finding lost pets, can hinder a family's likelihood of being reunited with their lost and much-loved cat," said Buckman. "A missing pet is a missing family member. In addition, if lost pets are not spayed or neutered, they can add to the problem by producing unwanted litters."

The Humane Society is improving its lost and found process by partnering with Pet FBI (Pets Found by the Internet), a non-profit organization which runs a web site (www.petfbi.org) that provides information on missing and found pets in Ohio. The Humane Society has installed a computer workstation in its

building at 3015 Scioto-Darby Executive Court in Hilliard, where community members can search databases for lost dogs or cats, or post information about a found pet. Templates for posters and door hangers will be available, as well as the opportunity to print copies of a lost or found poster.



In the coming months, the Humane Society will also work with other area animal organizations to coordinate a standardized, real-time approach to lost and found reporting, and develop a regional approach to increase the use of implanted microchips for both cats and dogs.

"This is just the beginning of a year-long campaign to engage the community in addressing cat overpopulation in central Ohio," Buckman said. "We have many more ideas and will be implementing them

with the help of our animal welfare partners and the community. We believe that the best way to make progress is to educate and work collaboratively with our community. We're asking for the community to join forces with us to become an AdvoCAT for the cats in crisis in central Ohio."

To become an AdvoCAT with the Humane Society, interested individuals can sign-up in person at the Humane Society, located at 3015 Scioto-Darby Executive Court in Hilliard, or by sending an e-mail, including name, mailing address and e-mail address, to AdvoCAT@cahs-pets.org.

Red, White & YELP!

By Greg Schneider

Fireworks make men and women smile, children gawk and many dogs run and cower. Loud noises such as fireworks terrify most animals. A dog's sense of hearing is acute. Fireworks, explosions or even bright lights can create fear and confusion with dogs, causing them to run away from home. But it doesn't have to be this way!

Independence Day is a time for celebration. By taking these precautions, you and your dog can have a safe and enjoyable experience:

- **Bring your dog inside.** If this is not possible, cover the crate or kennel with a blanket to offer some protection from bright flashes and loud bangs.
- **Keep your dog confined and don't let it near the front door.** Your dog may be under significant stress, which may result in unnecessary injury to guests or cause your dog to dart out through the front door and get lost.
- **Create a special "den" where your dog feels safe.** A properly introduced crate or kennel can be a great den for your dog.
- **Keep windows and curtains closed** to reduce noises and bright flashes.
- **Turn on the TV, radio or exhaust fan** to distract your dog from the loud noises outside and to help him relax. Classical music has shown to be calming.

- **Always have identification** securely on your dog in case he or she gets out.
- **Use current phone numbers** so if someone finds your dog, he or she can call you. Talk to your veterinarian about micro-chipping your dog with a universal micro-chip.
- **Make sure that your veterinary hospital and animal shelter have recent information in their databases.**



Consider staying with your pet for the majority of the fireworks duration. A dog can often react differently to a bang or loud noise when you are not there.

Greg Schneider is a dog behavioral therapist and a Columbus area representative for BarkBusters Home Dog Training. For more information on keeping your dog safe this 4th of July, visit www.barkbusters.com or call (877) 500-BARK.

Dogs aren't the only animals affected by the Fourth of July festivities! Be sure to keep your cat indoors as well, and follow the same precautions to ensure a safe and happy holiday for all!



Spotlight on:

Black & Orange Cat Foundation

In 2005 Robin Craft took the lead on a project that helped to spay/neuter nearly 100 mostly feral cats in a trailer park in Plain City. The experience allowed her to see firsthand the incredible need for such work on behalf of the felines in Madison and Union Counties. Craft established the Black & Orange Cat Foundation in 2006 to focus on Trap-Neuter-Return to control and eventually decrease the population of stray and feral cats in central Ohio. The *Animal Insider* recently had the opportunity to ask Ms. Craft a few questions about the work of B & O.

AI) How did you get the name Black and Orange Cat Foundation?

RC) Black and Orange Cat Foundation (or "B & O") is named for two very special and spoiled cats, Butler and Oswald. Butler, the "B" in "B & O" is the black cat in the group, while Oswald, the "O" in "B & O" is our orange feline. Although we are very fond of our black and orange cats, we do not just help cats of those colors. We help all cats, no matter their shading. Both Butler and Oswald were adopted from our local humane society.

AI) The community you serve is mostly rural. What do you consider the biggest challenges of working on behalf of cats in rural communities?

RC) One of the biggest challenges with working in rural communities is that people often do not place a value on the cats. There are so many of them that they are considered disposable. People don't want to "waste" the money on "barn cats" to get them spayed/neutered or to get them any type of vet care. And when you've got 30-40 feral and semi-feral cats running around, most people don't have the money to spend to try to stop more unwanted kittens from being born. I hear about people who shoot the cats or put antifreeze out for them, because they consider them pests. Unfortunately, I have to constantly try to bring about an attitude change and try to make the cats valuable to the people so they will take care of them. Trap-Neuter-Return is also a new idea, because often they think the only way to stop the problem of so many cats is to kill them or just go dump them off somewhere else.

AI) What do you find most rewarding about the work you do?

RC) So many of the people our group helps are so nice and so grateful. They truly love their cats and have been feeding them for years. But they don't want any more kittens and they don't want to watch their cats suffer or be sick. When we start trapping and get the cats fixed, they are so relieved and so happy that they will now have a controlled, manageable colony. It is a wonderful feeling to help the people and the cats.

It is also very rewarding for me when I take an older mother cat in that has probably had litter after litter and get her spayed. The old mama kitties just look worn out—they are so thin and they just appear to be extremely tired. We took one 12-year-old female in who had just weaned kittens and got her spayed. We estimated that she had probably had close to 40 litters of kittens in her lifetime (2.5 litters per year). She was so sad looking. But when I saw her a few months later, she looked like a different cat. When you see these cats after they have been spayed, they've put on weight and they just look so healthy. It makes me so happy to stop their endless cycles of kittens.

AI) What is the ultimate goal of the Black and Orange Cat Foundation?

RC) The ultimate goal of Black and Orange is to reduce the feline overpopulation problem. We would like to see a day when there are no more unwanted cats and kittens and the phrase "kitten season" does not strike fear in the hearts of all rescuers.



"B & O" cats seeking a forever home together. Lance (right) is super-friendly and shows Dawn (left) she has the confidence to seek friendship too! They're best buds and would like to stay together forever!

For more information on the Black and Orange Cat Foundation, or to find out how you can get involved, visit their website, www.bandocats.org, or contact them at: Black & Orange Cat Foundation, P.O. Box 126, Plain City, OH 43064
Ph: 614-873-0880, ext. 209
Email: bandocats@columbus.rr.com

Columbus Top Dogs (Shure Pets) proudly supports the Animal Insider

shure  www.columbustopdogs.com

Mary O'Connor-Shaver #462, Amy J. Miller #484, Lisa Uhrick #501 (Ohio Pug Rescue), Connie Cordrey #782, Danielle Wilson #565 (Petworth of Ohio), Susan McDowell #824, Kelly Santarelli #687 (Lucky Bones), Corrie Roush #851, Jacqueline Gordon #1037, Heather Blazer #1155, Pam Johnson #1189, Jaime Urban #1190, Nancy Morris #1302, Christina Smith #1485, Kelly Snider #1565 & Virginia Grossen #1666



Animal Outreach Dogwashes!

Noon-4 p.m., June 16, July 14, Aug. 18 & Sept. 15 at Starbucks, 1315 W. Lane Ave. Cols. Suggested donations are \$10/dog washed, \$5 for nails. Visit www.Animal-Outreach.org for details.

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (cats)

June 24, July 8, July 15 & August 9, Cozy Cat Cottage, 62 Village Pointe Dr., Powell. Males \$35, Females \$45. Register/pay in advance 614-336-8510 Low-cost vaccinations, deworming & flea treatment are also available.

Pups on the Patio - Wednesdays

You and your pup can mix & mingle on the patio at Lotus, 482 S. Front St. Cols, between 5-8 p.m. All proceeds benefit Capital Area Humane Society

Knox County Humane Society Bingo! Every Thursday/Sunday

Thursday: Doors at 5 p.m., Bingo at 7
Sunday: Door at 2 p.m., Bingo at 4
AmVets, 206 West Ohio Ave. in Mount Vernon. Call 740-392-2287 for details.

Mingle with our Mutts, 12-2 p.m.

1st/3rd Sunday - Franklin County Dog Shelter, 1731 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus
2nd Sunday - Bark Til Dark Dog Park, 1277 Hills-Miller Rd., Delaware.
www.MingleWithOurMutts.org

June is Adopt A Shelter Cat Month!

3 2nd Annual Sunbury Pet Parade

Come out to the Square in Sunbury for a Pet Parade! Show off your pet, enter contests or browse the exhibit booths! Activities start at 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Community Library of Delaware County & the Humane Society of Delaware County.

9 Slobberfest 2007

Meet adoptable animals from local rescues at the Hilliard Municipal Park from 11-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Humane Society of Madison County. For info, visit www.hsmcohoio.com

16 & 17 West Chester Dog Fest

Come join us for the 8th Annual West Chester Dog Fest! Enjoy music, fun, food, entertainment, parades, vendors & more! Saturday,

11-5 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m. Parking is \$7. For more info, visit www.PawsAdoptionCenter.org

23 2nd Annual Kitten Shower

In honor of Adopt A Shelter Cat Month, The Knox County Humane Society is throwing a kitten shower! Stop by the shelter, 400 Columbus Rd., Mount Vernon from 1-4 p.m. for raffles, refreshments & kitty visits. Kitty gifts are encouraged & greatly appreciated. For event info & gift ideas, email jjifford@hotmail.com

28 CAHS Defend Your Friend 5K

Registration is a 6 p.m. Race begins at 7. Homestead Park in Hilliard. For more info, visit www.caHS-pets.org. Proceeds benefit Capital Area Humane Society's Animal Law Enforcement Program.



29 Pups FORE Mutts Golf Outing

Support your golf habit and Humane Society of Delaware County at the same time, by participating in the 2007 Putts Fore Mutts Golf Outing! Held at the newly re-opened Safari Golf Course, this great event includes a luncheon & silent auction. Visit www.DelawareCoHumaneSoc.org

July

4-7 Granville 4th of July Festival

Visit Stop the Suffering Animal Rescue's booth and sign up for the 3rd Annual Patriotic Pet Contest —July 7, 12:30 at the Grandstand. Registration at STS booth at noon. For more information visit www.StoptheSuffering.org

14 & 15 Siamese Rescue at Lake Anna Arts & Crafts Festival

The Siamese Cat Rescue (OH Team) will be selling handmade cat beds, toys & other items. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4. Visit www.CityOfBarberton.com

14 & 15 Ohio Pug Rescue Yard Sale

N. Broadway area in Cols. For info, visit www.OhioPugRescue.com

28 Animal Communication Sessions

Is there something your pet wants you to know? Nada can communicate with live/deceased animals, domesticated or wild, through description or photo. Call for details & appointment, 614-895-2603. Sponsored by Cozy Cat Cottage.

August

25 Just 4 Pooches Picnic

Join Capital Area Humane Society from 11-4 p.m. at the Companion Club Dog Park in Delaware for food, fun & fellowship, to raise funds for homeless & abused animals. Tickets are \$15/family. Contact Companion Club Dog Park at 740-881-2000 for info.

11 Candlelight Winery 3rd Anniv. Party, Ohio Pug Rescue Fundraiser

Garrettsville, OH—Bring your dog & enjoy live music & a cookout. Proceeds benefit Ohio Pug Rescue. Call 330-527-4118 or visit www.OhioPugRescue.com

25 17th Annual Dog Jog & Reunion

Citizens for Humane Action's Annual Family Fun Run, 10 a.m. to noon at the Nationwide Arena District in Columbus. Form a team or run/walk on your own to raise money for CHA. 614-390-9234.

25 WAG! A Dog Friendly Festival

Stop out at Prairies Oaks Metro Park, 2755 Amity Rd in Hilliard, between 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. for WAG! Hundreds of exhibits & activities, doggie fashions, agility & more! Visit www.WagFest.com for info.

We want to know about your events! Visit www.Animal-Outreach.org/Ohio.html to submit yours! Be sure to include the date, time, location and other relevant details!



Affordable Vet Care for Your Pet

By Katie Franklin

Part of the promise you make when becoming a pet owner is to provide the best care possible for your new best friend. Maintaining the health of your pet is of utmost importance and can be fairly easy to sustain once you get into the routine. Unfortunately the cost of keeping your pet happy and healthy can be quite prohibitive at times. Read on for basic information on pet health and to find quality veterinarians who provide affordable health care.

Annual veterinary exams, just like your own pediatric, dental, eye, & physical exams, can catch and help prevent health crises early on while saving you time and money in the long run. This veterinary exam for your pet includes heartworm preventative treatment, flea and tick control, and a thorough check-up of your pet's gums, teeth, heart, lungs and internal organs.



Vaccinations can help your pets live a longer, healthier life by protecting them from many viral predators, including parvovirus, coronavirus, adenovirus, parainfluenzavirus, giardia and distemper. These organisms cause a wide range of disease symptoms, from sneezing to bloody diarrhea and death. Just like a child, your young pet must be protected at an early age and given boosters as an adult. Annual vaccines include Rabies, Distemper, Bordetella ("Kennel Cough" in dogs), and Feline Leukemia.

Spaying or neutering your pet at an early age will also decrease the risks of further expenses down the road including veterinary care of reproductive organ cancer, behavioral problems such as fighting and aggression, roaming and marking, and pet overpopulation. Spays and neuters have traditionally been performed when the pet is four to six months old, however, pediatric spay/neuter is becoming more common and allows pets as young as eight weeks to be altered. Your veterinarian will discuss all surgical options with you and help you pick the right time for your pet.

It is crucial to understand the importance of basic health care so that you can help aid in the decline of unwanted and abandoned animals.

Vaccinations Only:

Franklin County Dog Shelter

1731 Alum Creek Drive
Columbus, OH 43207
(614) 462-5581

www.franklincountydogs.com

Rabies (only) Immunization Clinics, refer to site for clinic schedule

Delaware County Clinic

4920 St. Rt. 37 E.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 369-7387, (866) 319-4732

www.delawarecohumanesoc.org
Mutt March Rabies Clinics

Emergency Medical Care:

MedVet

300 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 846-5800
(800) 891-9010

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

1900 Coffey Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
(614) 292-1171

Capital Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center

5230 Renner Rd
Columbus, OH 43228
(614) 870-0480

Columbus-Area Resource List

Low-cost options with optimal care:

Full Veterinary Care:

Physical examinations, full vaccination schedules and low-cost spay/neuter options. See websites for pricing.

Rascal Unit

6365 Old Avery Road, Suites 9 & 10
Dublin, OH 43016 ~ (614) 791-7729
www.RascalUnit.com
Traveling Ohio, by appointment only

Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio

(740) 817-2725 ~ www.sosohio.org
Traveling by county on a rotating basis, working with humane societies.

The Spay/Neuter Clinic (Columbus)

(614) 367-9933, Hamilton Rd.
(614) 761-7551, Sawbury Blvd.

Banfield, The Pet Hospital

Petsmart locations
www.petsmart.com/banfield
Offers Optimum Wellness Plans & affordable spay/neuter options

Spay/Neuter Assistance & Clinics:

Friends of Animals

(800) 321-PETS
www.FriendsOfAnimals.org
Low-cost spay/neuter certificates for participating veterinary offices (search by zip)

Franklin County Dog Shelter (Dogs Only)

(614) 462-5581
www.FranklinCountyDogs.com
Low-cost spay/neuter by appointment only

Pet Solutions of Columbus

(614) 262-4353

SpayUSA

(800) 248-7729
A low-cost spay/neuter reference site

Animal Outreach, Inc.

www.Animal-Outreach.org
Low-cost spay/neuter for income eligible

Please refer to
www.columbusdogconnection.com/dog_information_links.htm for more pet information and health care links.



Homeward Bound: Adoptable Animals



Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center is a non-profit organization that provides refuge, aid and care for abandoned, injured, abused or lost cats and kittens. We refuse to euthanize cats or kittens simply because they are unwanted. We are committed to the keep and care for these unwanted animals of all ages while attempting to find permanent, responsible, loving homes for each and every one of them. We are dedicated to promoting respect and compassion for all animals through humane education and vigorously promoting spay and neutering to reduce, and eventually to eliminate the animal over population.

Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center

P.O. Box 283, Powell, Ohio 43065 (mailing)
62 Village Pointe Drive, Powell, Ohio 43065 (shelter)
adopt@cozycatcottage.com ~ (614) 336-8510
www.CozyCatCottage.com

Treasure

Treasure is a 5 to 7 year old Tortie. She was dumped in her carrier, right in the middle of the Ohio State Fairgrounds! Although she can be a little shy at first, she is super sweet & loves to be pet.



Titan

Titan used to have a home. That is, till his owners decided to move and just left him behind running loose. He is a very lovable big boy. He has tested positive for FIV, but he is also very healthy. Testing positive for FIV does not necessarily mean he has FIV—his previous owners may have vaccinated him for FIV.

Tinker

Tinker was living in a home with 21 other cats and kittens! Cozy Cat Cottage was contacted and spayed/neutered all 21, 5 of which were returned to the home. Tinker (and his brothers, Tyler and Tucker) is now up for adoption. Although all three have loose hips and swagger when they walk, it should not be a problem in the future. They are all very lovable and want to go home with you!



Columbus Dog Connection's mission is to rescue abandoned dogs, promote all rescues and shelters in Ohio and be in dogged pursuit of saving every adoptable dog until we don't euthanize for lack of space.

Columbus Dog Connection

Email us for our latest newsletter: KDifrischia@yahoo.com
Or visit: www.ColumbusDogConnection.com
Or call: (614) 637-1342

Barky Von Schnauzer

Barky Von Schnauzer is a 5-year-old boy who was hit by a car and had an injured shoulder. He had surgery and is now waiting for his forever home! He is super-sweet, playful and great with other dogs. If you're interested in getting to know Barky, call Mirna at (614) 237-9210.



Howie Crooks

Howie is a fun pup who loves other dogs, great with cats, gentle with kids and loves attention! Howie is a 1-year-old Lab Mix and around 60 lbs. He likes to play and be silly, but he also likes cuddling & getting a good tummy rub. He's great company and likes having people around. He does great in the car and likes going for walks. If you want to learn more about Howie, contact Mirna at (614) 237-9210.

Trevor

Soccer Boy! Trevor is a 1 to 2-year-old 49 lbs Mix. He's smaller than a lab, sweet, really playful and loves chase. He's crazy for playing soccer with his small soccer ball! He needs a proficient soccer person as this canine Freddie Adu knows which way you are kicking and is very good at blocking! If you got game (or need some), contact Kellie at (614) 888-2208.



Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center proudly supports the Animal Insider

COZY CAT COTTAGE
62 Village Pointe Dr, Powell, OH 43065
(614) 336-8510
www.cozycatcottage.com



No-Kill, Volunteer Based, Non-Profit



Area Parks Offer Outdoor Fun... *Naturally!*

By Jill Herbst

It's summer! The time of year to open the windows, enjoy the long days and get outdoors. Fortunately, if you're looking for something to do, you don't have to look very far. Ohio has a wealth of scenic park land complete with fun and exciting activities for the whole family... including pets.

Ohio's State Park System is operated by the Division of Parks and Recreation. Created as a division of the state's Department of Natural Resources in 1949, the park system has grown from 30 original parks to 74 parks in 60 counties, covering nearly 164,000 acres of land and water.

If you are looking for a fun day trip, many state parks offer hiking trails, nature centers, swimming (either pools or beaches), and picnic areas. For overnight stays, many parks also offer camping sites or cabin/cottage rentals. Pets are allowed in designated areas of all 57 campgrounds in the state park system (maximum of two pets). In addition, pets are allowed in select cottages at Burr Oak, Lake Hope and Pymatuning parks. Geneva Resort Lodge offers a number of pet-friendly rooms.

Alum Creek State Park opened the first dog park in the state park system in 2006. The four acre site features separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, as well as a fenced water access area for dogs who love to get wet.

Visit the Division of Parks and Recreation website, www.ohiodnr.com/parks/ for more information and maps, or to search for a park by a desired activity, such as boating, wildlife viewing or backpacking.

In Central Ohio, 14 parks covering more than 23,000 acres of land and water are available for your enjoyment through the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District. These Metro Parks are situated across seven counties and offer free educational and recreational activities for all ages, year round. Eleven of these parks are pet-friendly—offering designated pet trails, in addition to allowing pets in the picnic areas and roadways. Pets must be leashed at all times, with leashes that are no longer than six feet.



Dogs frolic in the water area at Alum Creek State Park's Dog Park

Many Metro Parks offer organized pet activities, such as the "Howl at the Moon" and "Hound Hikes". The Darby Bend Lakes area of Prairie Oaks Metro Park features pet trails and an off leash swim area for your pooch. Glacier Ridge Metro Park occasionally offers an "Equestrian Campfire Night Ride"—a ride through the trails with your horse, ending at a relaxing campfire. Visit www.metroparks.net for a complete list of programs being offered at each park.

Next time you are thinking of spending the day outdoors, consider taking advantage of the area's free and low cost opportunities to involve your whole family, even the four-legged members. You're sure to have a doggone good time.

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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.

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