

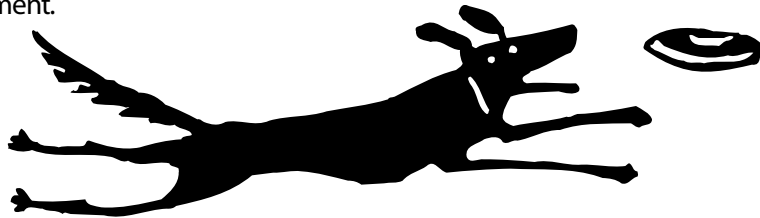
C.A.R.E.'s Critter Chronicles

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the **Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.**
1528 27th Street S.E. • Ruskin, Florida 33570 • 813.645.2273 • www.careshelter.org

C.A.R.E.'s Spay/Neuter Clinic

By Dr. Ott

A major part of the solution to Hillsborough County's burgeoning dog/cat overpopulation problem is spaying and neutering. Do you know that every business day in our County over 100 dogs and cats are killed at Animal Services? The vast majority of these animals are innocent healthy victims. This is not the fault of Animal Services. The responsibility lies with each and every member of the community to see that their pets don't reproduce. Excuses for inaction run rampant as the carnage continues. To help address this deplorable situation, in April 2003, C.A.R.E. renovated a portion of the dog kennel to provide a low cost spay/neuter clinic. The surgery fee ranges from \$10.00 to \$85.00. The fee is much less than charged at full service veterinary hospitals for many reasons. The biggest reason for the low fee is that the trained staff at C.A.R.E. is nearly all volunteers. This includes the person that answers the phone and makes the appointments to the admittance personnel, the surgical assistant, the veterinarian and the post surgery monitoring and discharge person. Another reason for the low cost is that no pre-anesthetic laboratory tests or physical examinations are performed to reduce surgical risk. No electronic monitoring of heart rate or respirations is performed. Patients are never hospitalized overnight. They are admitted at 8:30 a.m. and discharged 6 hours later. There are no provisions for evening emergency care on the premises. Additionally some medical/surgical supplies are donated by caring people in the community and by pharmaceutical companies. All things considered, C.A.R.E.'s low cost spay/neuter clinic has a good track record and fills a big void. Approximately 12 dogs/cats are spayed/neutered per day. The clinic is open by appointment only on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Feral cats are operated on as well as domestic cats. Please help us reduce our pet population. Talk to family and friends. Call C.A.R.E. today at 645-2273 (CARE) to schedule and appointment.



C.A.R.E. Membership Elects New Board Members.

At the September 8 general membership meeting, Lori Bruno, Kara Rutherford and Don Hinderliter were elected to the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President respectively and Tim Otte was re-elected to the Board. They join Dr. Hal Ott, April May and Priscilla Mixon on the Board for the term September 2004-September 2005. Congratulations and best wishes to you all!

Board of Directors

President
Dr. Hal Ott

Vice President
Don Hinderliter

Secretary
Kara Rutherford

Treasurer
Lori Bruno

Members
April May
Priscilla Mixon
Tim Otte

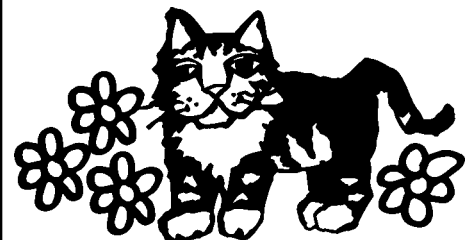
C.A.R.E. Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday
10am - 3pm

Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Byars

C.A.R.E. is a
No-Kill
Animal Shelter



The Age to Spay/Neuter

By Dr. Hal Ott

At what age to spay/neuter is a question asked by lay people and debated for decades by veterinarians. The answer is finally quite clear and generally agreed upon by all. The upper limit age is puberty or slightly younger. For male dogs and cats that means before 9 months of age and for females of both species before 6 months of age. To allow females to produce a litter before having her spayed is an age old myth. In fact, delaying surgery until after her heat not only increases the pet overpopulation problem but significantly increases her chances of acquiring breast cancer.

At the other end of the spectrum, 2 months of age is generally considered as young as most veterinarians feel comfortable with using general anesthesia for an elective procedure. Numerous studies have found no correlation between neutering young cats and subsequent development of urinary tract disease. On the other hand, early spaying of dogs can occasionally lead to urinary incontinence later in life. For that reason I recommend female cats be spayed between 8 and 16 weeks of age and dogs spayed between 4 and 6 months of age. Male dogs and cats can be neutered between 8 weeks and 6 months. The important decision is to act NOW!! Whether your pet is 4 months old or 8 years old make an appointment today to have this surgery.

November is Adopt A Senior Month

November is Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month. Although shaping the life of a young animal sounds appealing, giving a second chance to an older companion can be equally rewarding. The upcoming holiday season may be an excellent time to put some balance in your life and adopt a senior pet. These pets can and do bond very strongly with adopters. Many seem to understand they have been given another chance at a happy life and are grateful for the opportunity to love someone and be loved in return. They like to share quiet moments, are already trained, and don't chew or scratch everything in sight! If you would like more information about adopting and caring for a senior pet, log on to www.asPCA.org.

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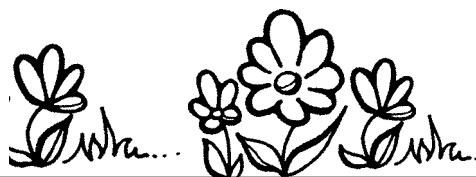
PET TIPS FROM DOC



Mosquito Season. With all of the rain that we have had recently mosquitoes are extremely prevalent! Mosquitoes transmit heartworms. Protect your dog and cat with heartworm preventative medication. Did you know that more cats in Florida have heartworm antibodies than feline leukemia and feline AID's combined?



Ticks Too! Many people have experienced a dog tick problem in recent months. Since one tick can lay 8000 eggs it does not take long to have a huge infestation. The use of both a tick collar and an approved topical tick prevention product will go a long way to protecting your best friend.



C.A.R.E. Community Outreach

By Kara Rutherford

Fall Yard Sale, Saturday, Nov. 20th. Mark this date on your calendar! This year's sale will be at the shelter from 9 AM - 3 PM. There are sure to be some great items. You may bring household goods, furniture, art and decorative home items, etc. to the shelter 10 AM to 3 PM Tuesday through Saturday. This year we cannot accept clothes, purses or shoes. All monies raised will benefit C.A.R.E. For more information call: 813-645-2273.

Ruskin Seafood & Arts Festival, Nov 6th and 7th. C.A.R.E. volunteers will be at Annual Ruskin Seafood & Arts Festival being held on Saturday, November 6, from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, November 7, 10 AM to 4 PM at E.G. Simmons Park in Ruskin. While you're at the Festival be sure and visit our booth and meet our volunteers and several of our dogs too!

Pet Pictures with Santa. Just in time for the holidays. CARE will have Santa at the Petsmart on Brandon Blvd. on Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12. We are inviting anyone who would like a picture of their pet with Santa to come early and beat the crowds! Be on the look out for times at a later date. For more information call the shelter at 813-645-2273.

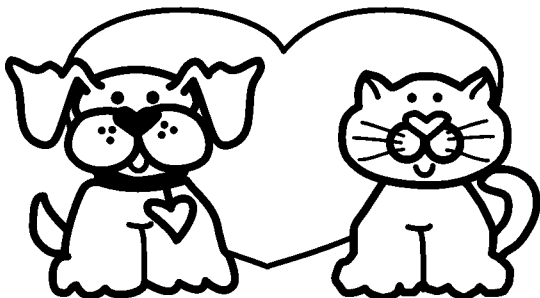
The 2004 Holiday "Tree of Lights for the Animals". Again this year our Holiday tree will be lit on Thanksgiving and remain throughout the holidays. You may make a donation to C.A.R.E. in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Last year over 100 animals were honored and memorialized with ornaments on the tree. Call 813-645-2273 for additional information.

Spay/Neuter Gift Certificates. Gift Certificates are now available! They are great for holiday gifts for friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family. Available on our website, www.careshelter.org or call us at 813-645-2273.

Florida Home Show. The No More Homeless Pets of Hillsborough County coalition and Pinellas Animal Partners are invited to Participate in the Florida Home Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds. CARE will have volunteers with pets to show on Saturday, Nov. 6, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up the booth and stay for at least half days, handle the pets and hand out information and answer questions the public may have about the pets and CARE. There is a limit to how many volunteers we are allowed so if you are interested please contact Kara Rutherford at the shelter (645-2273) for more information.

C.A.R.E.



Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.

C.A.R.E. Needs Your Help!

We are trying to update our membership records. We are asking all members to send us the following information:
Name, mailing address, phone number and email address.

You may send this information via email to
info@careshelter.org

or via US mail to : C.A.R.E. / Attn: Membership Update
1528 27th Street S.E.
Ruskin, Florida 33570

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Hey! Pick me! Pick me!

These wonderful pets are looking for a good home! Stop by and meet them today!



Freckles

Freckles is a 7 month old pup who was hit by a car and abandoned by her owners. She is expected to make a complete recovery but needs a new family who understands her needs at this time. She will make a wonderful pet!



Pointer Pups

This 14 month old male pointer pup is sure to win your heart. He has had his first vaccines and has been de-wormed..and is looking for a loving home.



Ragweed

Ragweed is a male brown darker striped Tabby. He is 3 months old and is a little shy. He is looking for a good home!

We Love our Volunteers!!!



Hurricane Warning(s)(s)(s)(s). Four times within a very short period of time didn't keep 5-10 of our dedicated volunteers from coming out each time to board up our facilities, move our kitty population to the more solid kennel on higher ground, secure many of the items in our yard, and move our legal and correspondence files to their individual homes during the storms. Fortunately, we experienced no damage from any of the hurricanes (so far) but we took all precautions needed to ensure safety for our animals. Thanks so much to those volunteers who came out time after time to protect the helpless critters in our care.

Office Volunteers. One of the realities of operating a no-kill shelter is that we are very often full to capacity. On any given day our Office Volunteers handle many phone calls and visits from people who feel they must relinquish their pets for one reason or another or who have rescued stray animals and want to bring them to the shelter. These volunteers actively assist people in a number of ways -- they provide contacts at other shelters or rescue groups; encourage people to foster found animals whenever possible; to seek advice or solutions to pet problems by visiting local veterinarians or animal trainers; and to those who have found pets or lost pets they offer suggestions which may ultimately lead to reuniting pets with people.

Last month a woman called our office on two different days hoping to bring to the shelter a stray she had found. Filled to capacity both days each volunteer suggested she consider keeping the stray herself. Recently we received a letter from her saying "she had decided to hold off on bringing the stray to C.A.R.E. for adoption after talking with Phyllis and Steve because my other cat is now starting to tolerate the stray. I have been praying that they would start to get along and this week was better. Hopefully now, each week will get better and better. Thank you for your time...."

We value our volunteers for the efforts they take to help the animals (and the people who care about them).

Sun City Fire Department Helps Pets

Many in our community lost power during the recent storm-- the C.A.R.E. animal shelter in Ruskin was included. With a population of 50 cats and dogs, however, the fact that there was no electricity to power the water pump was proving to be an insurmountable cleanup problem for our great volunteers who clean the temporary homes of our animals on a daily basis. To our rescue came (no, not the cavalry) but Capt Chuck Marsicano and the folks at the Sun City Center fire station! These wonderful people brought out a pumper truck, washed out our kennels, and filled many garbage cans, buckets and other containers gathered by our volunteers to store water for use until our power is restored. We can't thank these folks enough for their community spirit and compassion in providing us temporary relief, though each firefighter did receive a number of appreciative licks from our grateful canine guests.



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1 BARK AVENUE

By Gloria Blue

October is Adopt-a-Shelter Dog month. The theme this year is "Sit. Stay. Love... Adopt a Shelter Dog! This theme highlights the importance of training a newly adopted shelter dog. Training ensures a lasting bond between owner and pet. Recently I read this paragraph in a national shelter outreach magazine and thought I would share it with our newsletter readers.

Across the nation, dogs impatiently wait for a second chance to learn the ropes in order to please new head masters. While some have graduated from puppy kindergarten or basic manners classes, studies show that most dogs relinquished to shelters did not have the opportunity to strengthen the bond with their former owners by attending obedience classes. Some dogs have been "home schooled" and accomplished learning the basics; sit, stay, down, come, heel. Some have been taught those skills by volunteers while at the shelter. Others are blank slates, waiting for their opportunity to learn. The Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers recommends seeking out positive-reinforcement based obedience classes taught by Certified Pet Dog Trainers to put the finishing touches on a new shelter adoptee's education. To find a certified trainer in your area, visit www.ccpdt.org and click on CPDT Roster.

I find it upsetting when I get a phone call from someone who wants to return one of our dogs and when asked why, I get the standard answer "because he jumps or digs out the yard, or knocks my children down, etc. etc." Of course, my response is to ask how much obedience training has the dog received. The usual answer is "none." How can you expect an animal to "just know" what you want them to do if you don't teach them? A child with higher intelligence has to be taught what to eat, touch, open, climb on and play with. And this is a repetitive action that is daunting as anyone with a two year old child would acknowledge.

And yet, the family dog is supposed to understand good behavior from bad behavior the first time it is conveyed. Come on people! What are you thinking? Go ahead and spend some time with your dog and train it. You might find the bond that develops between you and your dog to be stronger than any human to human. I can guarantee that the dog will learn quicker than your two year old.



Help Make a Difference...Join C.A.R.E. Today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

eMail: _____

May we occasionally send you C.A.R.E updates via email ? YES NO
(circle one)

Membership Level: _____ Junior Member \$20 donation
(check one) _____ Regular Member \$30 donation
_____ Premier Member \$50 donation

Please send a check made payable to C.A.R.E to the following address:

C.A.R.E. / Attn: Membership

New Member

1528 27th Street S.E.

Renewal

Ruskin, Florida 33570

Partnership Produces Increased Spay/Neuters.

C.A.R.E. has recently partnered with CatCall, a Brandon, FL based stray and feral cat rescue group, to increase utilization of our low cost spay-neuter clinic. The mission of CatCall is to spay/neuter rescued feral or stray felines and adopt out those that are social. On September 3 the C.A.R.E. clinic operated on 12 cats from CatCall in what we anticipate will be a monthly effort by our two groups to reduce the number of unwanted pets in our area. Thanks go out to personnel from both organizations which made this first effort a success.

ANNIE'S Cat HOUSE



Whether you are bringing home a young kitten or an older cat, each will need time to adjust to a new house, new smells, new people, and possibly new siblings in the form of other pets. An older cat may also bring along some emotional baggage such as fear or nervousness from an earlier relationship. Whatever you do, please don't overwhelm kitty with a welcoming party of noise and visitors.

Instead, plan to spend the entire first day home with your cat acquainting him with his new home. Show the cat where the litter box is located and be sure that the cat can get in and out of it easily. Place the box in a quiet area or the little one may decide to do his business in a more "private" location.

Ground rules for children in the family should be established before bringing your pet home. They should be told not to approach the kitty while running or screaming. Instead, let the cat take the initiative. Allow the kitten to go to your children on his own terms once he has begun to settle in and get comfortable. This can take 10 minutes or a few hours. Don't rush this step.

Don't force other household pets on the newcomer either. Eventually they will introduce themselves to one another through a safely blockaded or gated doorway. Each pet should be under the firm control of a family member on each side. Dogs should be leashed. After a few minutes of introduction, allow your cat to explore his new surroundings but watch him carefully throughout the day. No matter how vigilant you may be, remember that accidents are to be expected. Excitement, a new environment and newfound friends can prove stressful for your cat in his first few days, so be prepared with paper towels, old bathroom towels, and newspapers. Your kitten will quickly learn to do his business in the litter box, but it is up to you to keep the litter fresh. Scoop the box once a day and change litter at least once a week.

Before the day ends you have one more decision to make. If you let your kitten sleep with you, expect a visitor every night. If you prefer to sleep alone, prepare a comfortable bed for your new companion and shut the bedroom door.

Spay / Neuter Clinic Info

2004 Fee Schedule

Dog Spay		Cat Spay	\$35
5-25 lbs	\$55	Cat Neuter	\$30
26-69 lbs	\$60	Feline Distemper	\$10
70+ lbs	\$70	FeLv	\$15
		FeLv/Aids Test	\$20
Dog Neuter			
5-25 lbs	\$45	Rabies Vaccine	\$5
26-69 lbs	\$50	Rabies Tag	\$10
70+ lbs	\$60	Microchip	\$25
Canine Distemper	\$10		

Donations Needed!!!

Wouldn't you know, during the hottest month of the year, and two days before surgery was scheduled in our spay-neuter clinic, our air conditioner failed. The dogs complained and the kitties scheduled for surgery refused to participate unless the system was fixed. When we learned that the unit could not be fixed and must be replaced we did so. Now we need to pay for it! If you can make a donation to replace the unit, we would greatly appreciate it. The surgery room must stay cool during operations and the new unit will also provide heat during the winter. Please help us pay for the air conditioner by making a donation soon - we want to keep the animals happy and healthy!

Local Beauty Salon Workers and Patrons Rescue Puppies

Many weeks ago, as reported in the Observer News, workers and staff of Marie's Beauty Salon in Sun City Center saw a pickup truck discharge a cardboard box full of puppies into the parking lot outside the salon and drive away. Dodging cars, they ran outside, picked up the pups and delivered them to C.A.R.E. Each puppy was vet checked and treated. And we are happy to report, subsequently adopted. We thank these caring individuals for giving this story a happy ending - especially for those wonderful puppies.

Advertise with C.A.R.E. & Support a Great Cause!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 eMail: _____

May we occasionally send you C.A.R.E updates via email ? YES NO
(circle one)

Ad Sizes / Costs: _____ Business Card Size \$20 per Quarter
(check one) _____ 1/4 Page Ad \$50 per Quarter
 _____ 1/2 Page Ad \$100 per Quarter
 _____ Full Page Ad \$200 per Quarter

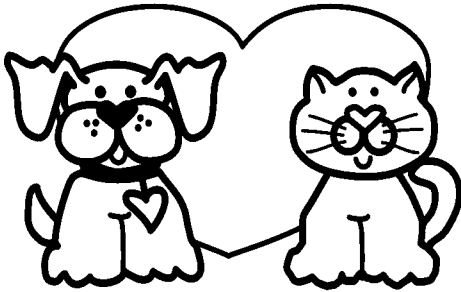
- All Ads must be camera ready. Black and White only! These may be emailed to Careshelter@aol.com or mailed to the C.A.R.E. Office.
- All ads must be to C.A.R.E. by December 1, 2004 for the 1st Quarter Newsletter

Please send ads and check made payable to C.A.R.E to the following address:

C.A.R.E. / Attn: Advertising
1528 27th Street S.E.
Ruskin, Florida 33570

**Spay / Neuter
 Your Pets Today!**

C.A.R.E.



Critter Adoption & Rescue Effort, Inc.

1528 27th Street S.E.
Ruskin, Florida 33570

Phone
813-645-CARE (2273)

Fax
813-645-4022

eMail
careshelter@aol.com

Web
www.careshelter.org

Gift Certificates Now Available!

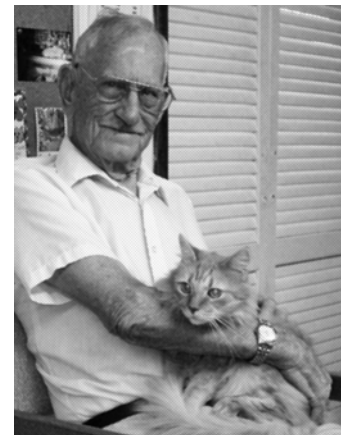
The C.A.R.E Spay / Neuter Clinic is now offering gift certificates. If you know of someone who could use our services and would like to give them a gift certificate, please contact C.A.R.E. today.

C.A.R.E. Certificate # _____

This certificate is presented to _____
For spay/neuter of a cat/dog, in the amount of \$ _____
From _____, date _____
By _____, date _____
(Certificate must be presented when pet is dropped off for appointment)

Tommy's Story

Tommy, an 8-year old orange tabby, came to C.A.R.E. one week before Christmas in 2003, shortly after his owner passed away. In August of that year Tommy weighed 10.6 lbs. By the time he arrived at C.A.R.E. his weight had dropped to only 8.6 lbs. He was lonely, scared, and didn't quite understand what was happening to him. During the next several months he stayed pretty much to himself, although he had a good personality and was friendly to volunteers and visitors alike.



In early March, Harry, a retired gentleman who lives alone, came to C.A.R.E. looking for a companion – someone of retirement age like himself. When Tommy met Harry they both knew they were meant for each other. Today, seven months later, both gentlemen are still enjoying each other's company. Even Florida's worst hurricane season couldn't separate them. They braved and survived each storm together in Harry's mobile home. Every now and then Harry and Tommy stop by the shelter to share pictures and stories. Looks like this match will last for many more happy years!