



Plano Animal Shelter Paw Prints

Providing Answers with Smiles. Providing Animals with Shelter.

WINTER-SPRING

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 16

Volunteer News

- ❖ Our volunteers continue to make a huge difference in the lives of the animals in our care. A huge paw shake to the Foster families who have taken the time to provide the much needed TLC and space to the many dogs, cats, kittens and puppies who have needed help this year! (Will kitten season ever end????)
- ❖ Volunteers contributed 2,426 hours from January-May. We hope our volunteers realize how much we appreciate them and hope they know they do make a difference. The Star Fish story (below) shows just what a difference one person can make.



Once a man was walking along a beach. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. Off in the distance he could see a person going back and forth between the surf's edge and the beach. Back and forth this person went. As the man approached he could see that there were hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand as the result of the natural action of the tide.

The man was stuck by the apparent futility of the task. There were far too many starfish. Many of them were sure to perish. As he approached the person continued the task of picking up starfish one by one and throwing them into the surf.

As he came up to the person he said, "You must be crazy. There are thousands of miles of beach covered with starfish. You can't possibly make a difference." The person looked at the man. He then stooped down and picked up one more starfish and threw it back into the ocean. He turned back to the man and said, "It sure made a difference to that one!"

Shelter News

- ❖ Our Petfinder.com website had 173,447 hits from January through May.
- ❖ 19,990 persons visited the shelter from January-May.
- ❖ The revised Chapter 4 Animal Regulations went into effect in February.
- ❖ The shelter expansion has been delayed.
- ❖ The department was called out to impound 21 cats that were living at a Motel 6 with a known hoarder. Some were sick and were treated. Many have now found new homes.

- ❖ Spay Day USA was a success! 88 male cats were neutered on this day! 830 animals were sterilized from January-May.



- ❖ Several businesses selected the shelter as the recipient of their company outreach program. Scouts, Church groups and individuals continue to provide much needed items on the shelter Wish List.



Staff News

Congratulations to Mark Casasola and Debbie New who tied as Chili Cook Off King/Queen!



We also thank our judges, Peggy Beck of Ft. Doge Animal Health and Jamie Elder of Webster Veterinary Supply.

Wildlife News

- ❖ A citizen came into the shelter and stated she had found a baby kitten where

she worked. She unwrapped the towel that the kitten was in and lo and behold, the "kitten" was a baby bobcat! The baby was transferred to the Living Materials Center.



- ❖ Bobcat activity seemed to be at an all time high during this period.



Did you know?

Shelter Advisor

Q: We've heard that new advances in declawing, such as laser surgery and so-called "tenectomies," make the procedure more humane. Is this true?—B.R., Texas

A: Although new surgical techniques may lessen the pain that immediately follows declawing, the operations are still considered unnecessary for the majority of cats.

During laser surgery, a small, intense beam of light is used to cut through tissue by heating and vaporizing it, meaning there's less bleeding, less pain, and a shorter recovery time. But the surgical technique itself is similar to the traditional method (or "onychectomy"), with the laser simply replacing a steel scalpel blade. So the use of a laser is no substitute for a well-trained

veterinarian with plenty of surgical experience. Moreover, the price of laser machinery ranges from \$25,000 to \$30,000, a prohibitive cost for most veterinary hospitals.

The second alternative technique, known as a "tenectomy" (or tendonectomy), is becoming increasingly common. Rather than amputate the cat's claw, the surgeon removes a piece of the tendon that controls the cat's ability to flex and extend his claws. After surgery, the cat's claws are intact, but remain permanently extended. More than half of the cats who undergo this procedure can still use their claws to some extent but cannot scratch normally. Since the cat can't sharpen his claws, the claws quickly become rough, grow excessively, and must then be trimmed on a regular basis. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association ("Comparison of effects of elective tenectomy or onychectomy in cats," Vol. 213, No. 3, August 1, 1998) found that 24 hours after the procedure, cats who had undergone a tenectomy felt significantly less pain than did those who had undergone onychectomy. But no long-term study of the tenectomy procedure has yet been published, and many veterinarians are concerned that cats subject to the operation may be prone to scarring, gnarling, and atrophy of the toes.

So while there have been advances in the procedures, it's still true that for the majority of cats, the pain and expense of surgery are unnecessary. Educated cat owners can easily train their cats to use their claws in a manner that allows cat and owner to happily coexist. Declawing and tenectomies should be reserved only for those rare cases in which a cat cannot be properly trained, and, as a result, must be surgically altered or removed from the home. In these cases, a veterinarian should inform the cat's caretakers about complications associated with the surgical procedures (including the possibility of infection, pain, and lameness) so people have realistic expectations about the outcome.



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Happy Tails

- ❖ 246 cats and 631 dogs found new homes from January-May.

Bunny is a 6-month old rat terrier, and has experienced a lot of trauma in her short life. Our family adopted her from the Plano Animal Shelter in May, when she was 4 months old. Bunny had come into the shelter the day after Easter (hence her name) with a mangled right leg. It couldn't be saved, and the shelter had her leg amputated. Poor Bunny – so much pain for such a young puppy!

The staff at the Plano Animal Shelter was wonderful – providing excellent, loving care during her recuperation and the waiting time for an adoption. She was fostered with a boisterous family, and adapted extremely well. She received excellent obedience training from Chris, and was already house trained when we adopted her. To watch Bunny play and run, you would never know what she has endured. She chases her three boys – she keeps them on their toes, and often outruns them! I can't imagine how fast she would be if she had her front leg; most people are so surprised when they see her coping as well as she does.

Bunny has a large backyard to investigate, and also has three cats to play with - they love to chase rabbits and frogs!

Bunny is the sweetest puppy – she loves everyone, listens well, chews like all puppies do, and is as active as any other rat terrier. Our family is thankful that she was rescued – she has really helped my son learn responsibility. She is truly a ray of sunshine for us!



Hi Debbie. Heidi here with American Boston Terrier Rescue. :-)

Just over two years ago I picked up a Boston Terrier from the Plano Shelter. He had supposedly bitten a little girl and his "family" OS'd him. This Boston's name was Scout. He was about 4 1/2 years old, had absolutely no manners or socialization, but he was eager to love, and to be loved.

Scout was not an ABTR dog, but rather a personal pet project. He lived with me for about two years, during which time we learned an awful lot about his quirks, his fears, and his past. He told us stories with his actions and his eyes, and it broke my heart to know how mistreated he was by the people he was entrusted to. They failed him miserably.

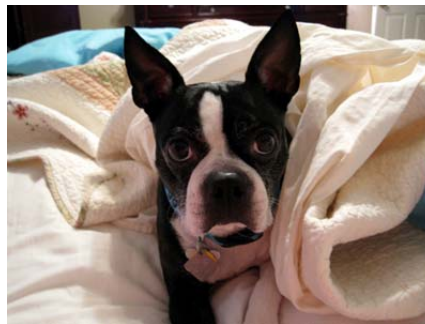
Anyway, I just wanted to drop you an email to say thank you for contacting me about Scout. You and the Plano AS staff told me that you didn't believe he should be put down for the supposed bite (which was likely a nip at best considering that I saw no scar when the little girl showed me where he supposedly bit her just 10 days earlier). You were so right.

After two years in foster care, Scout's adoption to a local couple was recently finalized. They're perfect for him and they don't mind his weirdisms (of which there are many), and best of all, he loves and feels safe with them. He now has a senior GSD mix sister and she's showing him the ropes. Finally, at nearly 7 years of age, Scout is home. Thank you for giving him that chance.

I have attached a couple pictures of him in his new home.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of those with no voice. You are heroes.

With gratitude,
Heidi & Scout



Upcoming Events

- ❖ Staff meetings the second Wednesday of every month.
- ❖ Low cost vaccination Clinic the second Friday of every month.
- ❖ Pet First Aid Class every month.
- ❖ Puppy and Dog Training Classes start in September at the shelter.

❖ K9 Kerplunk is September 12. We will be hosting a microchip clinic.

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We're on the Web!

www.planotx.org/animal