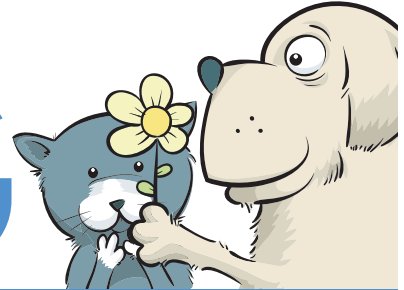


CARING



HELPING HOMELESS & UNWANTED ANIMALS THROUGH RESCUE, ADOPTION AND SPAY/NEUTER EDUCATION SINCE 1997

The Quarterly Newsletter of Animal Compassion Network | SUMMER 2007 | Volume 4 | Issue 2

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Animal Adoptions

Adoption Events are held the first and third Saturday (11-3) of every month at PETsMART. Cat adoptions also are every Wed. (6-8) and Sat. (1-3), with cats in the store's adoption area daily.

Current Calendar Info

For the most up-to-date calendar information available, please go to www.animalcompassionnetwork.org, or call (828) 258-4820 and select the events line (#1).

Spring Subaru Pet Adoptathon 2007 Makes Anything Possible!

by Wendy Forbes

Great Dane Gets Driver's License?

The spring Subaru Pet Adoptathon weekend was full of surprises. On Saturday the skies opened up and the rain fell! Despite the weather, we had a great turnout.



Volunteers trudged through mud to escort our dogs on walks, strike up conversations with potential adopters and diligently stand at their posts to talk about our cats and dogs. Representatives of Prestige Subaru were on hand with 2007 models available to test drive with our four-legged friends. Green Light Café provided scrumptious vegetarian fare. Paul Howey and Freckles treated us to a book signing of *Freckles: The Mystery of the Little White Dog in the Desert*. Ken and Tammy from WOXL, 96.5, were on hand for a live radio remote. Wow! There was so much to see and do: explore the new Subaru models available at Prestige, chat with Paul Howey, ham it up with Ken and Tammy... everyone had a blast.

Prestige Subaru provided a couple of 2007 models including the new Forester (which, as we know, is a favorite within our animal-loving community because of its spacious interior, creature-comforts like an automatic climate control system and high-level performance we've come

to appreciate from Subaru). We all had a good laugh when volunteer Elizabeth Sescilla and her Great Dane, Major, hopped into the Forester and enjoyed their

ride around the block. Major really wanted to drive! Scott Wilbanks, Sales Manager of Prestige Subaru, said, "When Prestige Subaru became aware of ACN, we were excited to become a part of the program. Everything from the qualification process to the high level of care the rescued animals receive is second to none. With that being said, Subaru of America quickly saw the quality traits that are inherent to their mission as well as ours. What better way to help our furry friends than to team up with the great group of people who make ACN a great organization!"

Other rescue groups and shelters, including North Carolina Schnauzer Rescue, the Asheville Humane Society and the Avery County Humane Society, were also on hand with their homeless pets available for adoption. Fourteen dogs from the Buncombe County shelter alone found it to be their lucky weekend. And the fun didn't stop on Saturday! Sunday boasted happy clouds and bright sunlight. The camaraderie of

Get ready to be creative! Check out the contest on page 4.



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our volunteers and organizers made the time fly. By Sunday afternoon when the tents came down and the cats and dogs had trotted off, we realized that the spring 2007 Subaru Pet Adoptathon had come to an end and we celebrated the fact that 56 homeless cats and dogs found new families. ACN and the partnering rescue groups and shelters extend tremendous thanks to Prestige Subaru for sponsoring our event. Their support made a terrific event spectacular and made the saving of our furry friends' lives possible!

We'll see you at the fall Subaru pet Adoptathon 2007 on September 15 and 16 – save the date to save more lives!

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From The Director's Desk by Eileen Bouressa

As I look down into the adorable face of yet another little designer puppy, my stomach churns. I hear myself cooing and saying all of the things expected of a dog lover as I gaze upon their newly purchased puppy-mill prize, but it's really all an act in the name of good public relations. "A Labradoodle, you say? His name is Parker? How precious!" For some unknown reason, people love to show up at ACN adoption events with these little furry accessories. The irony always seems to be lost on them that we are standing in a sea of homeless dogs.

When I look at Parker, a bundle of black curls and spunk, all I really see is another potential home lost for a rescued dog. And then something shocking happens... an ACN volunteer scoops him up and puts him in an adoption crate! Turns out Parker, a pet store puppy, had been rescued from a backyard



chain after his people split up and didn't want a reminder of their relationship anymore.

I have always wondered why it is people purchase cats and dogs from pet stores. Do they really not know that their new puppy or kitten more than likely came from a puppy mill? Do they not watch the television undercover exposés on the horrors the breeding parents face in one of these god-forsaken flesh factories? Lucky for them, today is not my day to take on puppy mills. Well, not directly anyway. In fact, I am actually going to write something nice about pet stores: Pet stores seem to do an excellent job of bringing in

customers.

I was at a conference last month when I heard an astounding statistic. *Only 20% of animals in homes today came from a shelter or rescue group.* What?!? Everyone I know has a rescued pet. Well, that's not necessarily true – there is my son's teacher and my sister's best friend's brother and the teller at my bank; they all bought their dogs from a pet store. So, what the heck do pet stores offer that rescue groups don't? Well, first there's the ambiance; pet stores are bright and cheery and the

air is almost perfumed. Second, they're open regular business hours, conveniently located and offer a good selection. And, aside from the likely origin of their "inventory," there is really nothing overtly depressing about the place. Unfortunately, many people tend to associate rescues and shelters with rejected animals and unshakable despair. Even people who believe in rescue sometimes can't adopt out of

Only 20% of animals in homes today came from a shelter or rescue group.

fear of what else they'll see, as unfounded as that is. There is only one logical solution.

The time has come for someone to open a pet store for rescued pets – and Animal Compassion Network has decided to do just that. We will garner all of the good from the pet store concept and incorporate it into a pet store that saves lives, not destroys them. Our pet store will be clean, bright and odor-free. It will be a joyful place to spend time with cats and dogs, happily romping in play areas, not cages. We'll be open daily and offer a great selection of animals. In fact, we are currently working on a plan with Asheville Humane

Society to include animals from the Buncombe County shelter. No pets will stay overnight – they'll all go back to their foster family at closing.

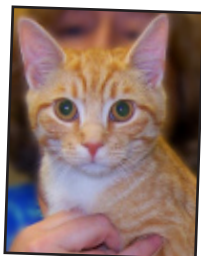
This bright, joyful environment, along with the knowledge that none of the animals are in danger of euthanasia, is sure to draw crowds. What an opportunity we have here to change attitudes about rescued pets. Once people see the adorable, healthy, well-behaved animals in rescue, they will learn what we already know. These pets are not in rescue because there is something wrong with them; most are merely victims of unfortunate circumstances and poor guardianship. Like Parker.

Yes, we'll have pure breeds available – we always do. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 25% of animals in shelters are purebred. In fact, the same adoption event where I first saw Parker, we also had Phaedra, a beautiful, purebred Border collie, Fiona, a full-blooded Dachshund, Smokey, a purebred Rottweiler, and Lulu and Traci, full-blooded mother-and-daughter Chihuahuas. And it's not just a dog phenomenon – we also had a litter of 8-week-old Siamese kittens! But even if someone does come into our store bent on adopting

a pure breed, I wouldn't be at all surprised if they changed their mind after meeting Sarge,



Sarge the goofy Collie mix who steals everyone's heart or Grace, the sweet orange tabby who taps you on the shoulder when you walk by. And I believe people will appreciate the responsibility we assume for all of



Grace

our network animals; each one is completely vetted and healthy, well-socialized from living in foster homes and always returnable (in fact, returns are required if an adoption fails) with no risk of euthanasia.

But finding homes for good animals is only half the battle. The other important issue is keeping pets in the home. Therein lies the other fundamental difference between a traditional pet store and ours – customers cannot just pay their money and walk away with one of our animals. We will maintain our high standards for adoptions, thoroughly screening all potential adopters and conducting home visits. And it's not just *our* animals we want to keep in a home, our space will also serve as a place where the public can come for advice, referrals, spay/neuter vouchers and other services that will help them keep their own animals safe and happy.

The timing of this project is not accidental. The Buncombe County Commissioners recently passed a referendum to make Buncombe County a zero-euthanasia community within five years! To that end, ACN, Asheville Humane Society, the Humane Alliance Spay/Neuter Clinic, the Mimi Page Foundation and animal services from both Asheville and Buncombe County have joined together to form Countdown to Zero, a partnership to end the euthanasia of healthy pets by 2012. ACN's pet shop for rescued pets will play a key roll in helping this community reach that goal. (And then we'll teach other communities how they can achieve it, too!)

We are currently looking for a centrally located storefront in an accessible area with good foot traffic. If you have or know of any space

that fits the bill, especially if you're interested in donating or offering it at a reduced rent, please call us at (828) 258-4820 ext 7. We are currently developing alternate means of funding for this project to ensure there is no money diverted from our regular programs. Part of this new funding will come from sponsorship opportunities for every facet of the project. Who wouldn't want to see their company name on the window of the cat play area or a memorial to a beloved dog over the light switch? (Yes, we are even offering sponsorships to pay the light bill!) Please contact Laura Uzzell at (828)582-1168 or luzzell@hotmail.com for more information about the plentiful opportunities for individuals

The time has come for someone to open a pet store for rescued pets

and businesses to support this extraordinary and ground-breaking concept. I would venture to say that our pet shop for rescued pets is going to be big news and the focus of a lot of public attention.

Opportunities to be involved on the ground floor are limited, and they are being offered first-come, first-serve.

Rescue groups and our animals will never get a fair shake as long as we continue conducting our rescue business in the traditional way. It is high time we show the public what they are missing by shopping, not adopting. It takes courage and conviction to undertake a project of this size, but that is the history

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of Animal Compassion Network. We were founded by people who wouldn't accept business as usual because "that's just the way it is." A pet store for rescued pets is the next move in our fight to give every homeless animal the life they deserve. A fight that we'll continue until there are no more Parkers to be bought like an expensive toy and tossed out with the trash when the battery dies. A fight until rescued pets are seen for their true value, beyond price tags and papers. A fight until adopting becomes the norm and no more animals are needlessly dying. A fight we will win. Please join our fight today. More information will be coming soon on donation, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities for this project.

Tax-deductible donations may be designated exclusively for this project. Donations should be sent to "Pet Store for Rescued Pets", ACN, P.O. Box 1704, Skyland, NC 28776. Donations may also be made online at www.animalcompassionnetwork.org. Please indicate "Pet Store for Rescued Pets" on the memo line. Thank you for your support!

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Stop starving our food safety system!

Tainted pet food from China may have caused the deaths of thousands of dogs and cats. Last fall, California spinach contaminated with a deadly strain of e.coli bacteria caused at least three deaths and landed hundreds of people in the hospital. You may have lately thrown out peanut butter after reports of salmonella contamination.

Congress has been cutting back the FDA, the agency responsible for the safety of vegetables and processed food, for over a decade. Now the agency inspects only about 1 percent of food shipments entering the country and visits US food processing facilities only about once every 5 to 10 years.

Our food safety system is fragmented, underfunded and antiquated. We need more inspection, better labeling, and stronger standards. While lawmakers begin to consider reforms--they need to hear that you care about ensuring the safety of your food. Go to www.care2.com and search for 'pet food safety' to sign a petition today - over 12,000 people have already!

Yay! Pill Time! by Jackie Teeple

My foster cat, Emmy Lou, found her way into ACN by way of a cardboard box. She'd was left on a vet's porch, thin and weak. Bloodwork confirmed our suspicions - hyperthyroidism. Within a few weeks of beginning

her daily medication, though, she had gained weight, started grooming, and occasionally galloped through the house. But pill time was awful. As an obstinate, feisty old lady, Emmy Lou would not be fooled with pills hidden in food or treats, so I resorted to 'dry-pilling' until my vet suggested *compounding*. I was excited to find her meds could be applied transdermally - a thick liquid rubbed in the inside of her ear. She doesn't seem to mind a bit, and I no longer wince in sympathy, imagining the feeling of a 'something stuck' in her throat every morning.

Says Lisa A. Pierson, DVM., "the lining of the esophagus is very delicate and it is not designed to have irritating medications in contact with it for more than the short amount of time it should take for the pill to pass from the mouth to the stomach when swallowed with an adequate amount of liquid or food. When a pill is in contact with this tissue for a prolonged period of time, a painful irritation or ulcer has the potential to develop."

There are other ways to make pill time safer and more pleasant. Medications can be compounded into tasty treats. Try offering the pet some tuna juice, meat baby food (make sure it contains no onion or garlic), yogurt, or meat broth after pilling or use an oral syringe to squirt several cc's of water, tuna juice, or meat broth in the mouth. Another option is Pill Pockets, available at most pet food stores. Read Dr. Pierson's full article for more information at catinfo.org/

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pillingscats.htm for more hints. Ask your vet if your pet's medication can be compounded and to suggest a pharmacy that can help.

* How to give a pill to a dog:
 Step 1: Put pill on coffee table.
 Step 2: Say to dog, "Don't eat."

"Trash for Critters"

With our Trash for Critters program, you can turn in your used ink cartridges to benefit animals in need in WNC. ACN can receive as much as \$12 per cartridge! The program now accepts cell phones too. If you'd like to collect cartridges and cell phones at your business (we will arrange for pick up) please contact Ron Dvoretz at 828-683-0323 or e-mail Ron at coondogs48@bellsouth.net or Rob Levy at wolffegang@aol.com or drop off at these locations:



- Asheville Pet Supply, N. Merrimon Ave
- Black Dome Outfitters (Tunnel Road)
- Greenlife Grocery (Merrimon Avenue)
- Dripolator Coffee (Broadway – just north of Charlotte St. and
- ACN Adoption Days at PETsMART, 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

For large institutions that use a lot of cartridges (newspapers, a hospital, etc), we'll provide a large box to leave in a central location where employees can drop cartridges.



Special thanks goes to the good people at Staples for all their support.

Our heartfelt thanks...

These caring folks who answered the call to replace our stolen computer used for adoptions:

- 🐾 Bonnie Schwartz
- 🐾 Greg Fontaine
- 🐾 Clay, Monte, & Ron Sorrells
- 🐾 Jinga "the dog" and Astro "the cat"

Improve Your Life by Giving Back to the Animal Community

Animal Compassion Network has several fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities available. We are currently looking for a new Pet Food Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and Phone Intake Counselors. If you can spare a few hours a week to better the lives of animals in need or have questions about volunteer opportunities, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Krista Luck, email: LoveScotties3@yahoo.com

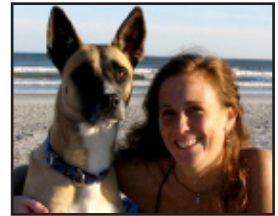
Win some cool stuff!

We need a catchy name for our new pet shop for rescued pets! The chosen author will receive a shirt and hat featuring the gorgeous images of reknowned artist Marie Mason. Submit ideas to acnexecutiveoffice@yahoo.com or mail to: Animal Compassion Network, PO Box 1704, Skyland, NC 28776. Get thinking!



Welcome, Laura: Our New Fundraising Coordinator!

Join Animal Compassion Network in welcoming Laura Uzzell as our new Fundraising



Laura and Bayo

and Outreach Coordinator. Laura comes to us from Fayetteville, NC where she was the Executive Director of Fayetteville Animal Protection Society, a no-kill animal shelter. Laura is very excited to be here in Asheville and working with ACN. She truly believes in our mission and has many new ideas for furthering our exposure to the community.

Laura has two rescued dogs of her own, Bourbon and Bayo, as well as a peach-faced love bird she rescued. She began her passion for rescue at a very early age when her parents took her to the local animal shelter to pick out her first dog. It wasn't long before that grew into a house full of dogs and cats and even a few birds. Luckily her parents were big supporters and guided her in the proper way to be a caretaker for these new loves of her life.

With Laura's background and her enthusiasm for helping animals, she hopes to make this the best year ever for ACN. She is already working on some new event ideas as well as reaching out into the community to

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find new supporters. If you would like to help Laura in this quest, please feel free to get in touch with her by email at luzzell@hotmail.com.

Why Does Kitty DO That?

The social behavior of cats is wonderful in its complexity. By listening and watching your pet, you can learn more about moods and needs, and maybe learn to talk back!

- Why does my cat lick me?

Grooming is a demonstration of love and caring since kittenhood. So, if your cat occasionally washes your hair or licks your face, he is showing you his acceptance and caring of you as a fellow feline.

- Why does my cat inevitably go to the visitor who doesn't like cats?

When one cat is threatening another, it stares boldly, sometimes hisses, and frequently moves in toward the other cat. Usually, the person who doesn't like cats avoids looking at it, doesn't talk to it, and sits quietly, hoping to be ignored. The cat, therefore, sees the person's behavior as "cat-friendly" and practically inviting. (According to Roger Tabor, in his book, *Cat Behavior*, "(Slowly) blinking is a very powerful communication as a reassurance signal and is commonly used between cats...." It's also a great way to say "I love you!" to your cat.

- Why does my cat take a small bite on my arm or cheek and hold on for a few seconds?

Some cats, when they are very happy and feeling extremely affectionate toward the Big Unfurry Cat, will gently take a piece of human skin

between their teeth and hold it for a few seconds. Think of it as the feline equivalent of kissing.

- Why do cats roll over on it's back? Cats roll over for a variety of reasons:

if your cat flops down in front of you and rolls over on his back for a belly scratch, it's a sign of his complete trust in you that you won't ever hurt him. Other times, he wants to play.

- Why do some cats insist on drinking from a dripping faucet?

Cats prefer their food and water

Business Sponsorships:

Do you have a small business you're trying to grow or perhaps you have a very successful business and you are looking to support a cause close to your heart? Either way, becoming a business sponsor of Animal Compassion Network is a very affordable way to attract new customers. When ACN promotes your company to our thousands of supporters, you immediately gain recognition as being a friend to the animals. And if there's one thing that can be said about animal lovers, we are fiercely loyal and will go out of our way to support those who make it their business to be compassionate. When you support ACN, you are making a sound investment in the future of animal welfare in western North Carolina. Please call Laura at 828-582-1168 if you'd like more information about becoming a business sponsor.

fresh. Too, the motion of water coming out of a faucet is probably appealing to their sense of hearing and sight. Some cats will even put their paw into their water dish and "swirl" it around so they can drinking "running" water.

- Why does a cat spend so much time grooming?

Besides the obvious purpose of hygiene and the social aspects, grooming helps cats cope with confrontation or embarrassment (if a cat accidentally falls off a chair, the first thing he does is nonchalantly wash himself, as though he intended to get down in the first place.)

- Why do some cats tip over their water dish, or take food out of the dish and drop it on the floor to eat? Most cats do not like to eat or drink out of bowls if the sides touch their whiskers. A wider, shallower bowl will probably eliminate this behavior.

Information courtesy of xmission.com, catsinternational.org, catsplay.com.

Life's a Beach!

Congratulations to Martha Brazell on winning the raffle at this year's Spring Subaru Pet Adoptathon. Martha will heading to Hilton Head, SC for a weekend stay at Festiva Resort's Main Street Inn while her pet will be relaxing at Happy Tails Country Club in Fletcher. She will also be going on a dolphin cruise with Daufuskie Island Cruises and having dinner at Wild Wing Café. Big thanks to these sponsors for their donations and we hope that Martha has a great trip!



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Hopeful Placements!

Beans

I'm Beans, a Lab mix, and I was born on May 1, 2003. I get along well with other dogs, with cats, and with kids.



Basically I'm just a wonderful, goofy guy.

Beaver

Beaver is a 2.5 year old handsome shorthair. He was living with a woman who couldn't care for him anymore, so he's looking for a new family to love him. He does great with other cats and dogs. He likes to sleep right beside you in the bed and he loves rubbing on women's hair - he has a hair fixation. He's very loving, sweet, and friendly!



Shadow

Shadow is a 6 year old, purebred Siberian Husky. He is truly magnificent to see! Weighing in at 80 plus pounds, this is a big boy! Shadow is extremely



energetic and needs lots of room to run and exercise. He will require a fenced yard. He would really like another

canine buddy for company and play. The person adopting Shadow should understand the nature and personality of Sibes as this guy is all Siberian Husky. He will howl if left alone or neglected by lack of exercise and interaction. Shadow is intelligent, independent, and sure to become your favorite companion.



Mandy

Come see this angelic orange tabby. Mandy had been living as a stray outside of a doctor's office for many years when she was rescued. Now she is enjoying the luxuries of indoor life. She gets along with other cats and even dogs. She is a very shy and quiet girl that needs a home with an environment just like her personality. Adopt her and make her part of your family today!

Coming Soon!

Pet Shop
for Rescued
Pets



ANIMAL
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NETWORK

Caring is the quarterly newsletter of Animal Compassion Network,

the largest no-kill, non-profit animal rescue organization in Western North Carolina. Through the hard work of its volunteers and foster homes, ACN has found loving, permanent homes for more than 5000 cats and dogs since 1997.

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How You Can Help

Become A Member:

Animal Compassion Network is the largest non-profit, no-kill animal rescue organization in Western North Carolina. ACN finds loving, permanent homes for unwanted cats and dogs, helps to reduce unwanted litters through low- and no-cost spay/neuter programs and feeds hungry pets through our Pet Food Assistance Program. When you join ACN, your tax-deductible dues go toward food, shelter, medical attention, and vaccinations for our animals, as well as to fund our life-saving and life-improving programs. As a member, you will receive this quarterly newsletter and a membership package that includes discounts and offers from local businesses.

Already A Member:

Volunteers are needed to provide foster care; to staff adoption fairs and fundraising events; to assist with marketing, public education, and community outreach; and to assist with clerical, office, and phone duties. Tell us how you want to help!



Donations are tax-deductible. Please fill out the form below, make your check or money order payable to ACN, and mail to Animal Compassion Network, PO Box 1704, Skyland, NC 28776. Or, go to www.animalcompassionnetwork.org to complete these forms online.

YES, I would like to join ACN. Please circle the type of membership you're interested in:

Basic: \$25 • Friend: \$50 • Contributor: \$100 • Benefactor: \$250 • Patron: \$1,000 • Founder: \$2,500

YES, I would like to volunteer. Please circle the areas you're interested in:

Foster Care • Adoption Events • Outreach • Cat Care at PETsMART • Fundraising • Marketing/Advertising/
Public Education • Clerical/Office Work • Phone Team • Pickup/Distribution of Pet Food and Equipment

YES, For \$85, I would like to sponsor a homeless pet. DOG CAT or EITHER

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Membership Dues (See Above): \$ _____ Additional Donation (Optional): \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make this: a gift for in memory of: _____

and send an acknowledgement card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____