



PAWPRINTS



CLAUDIA'S PLACE ANIMAL CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Winter Wonderland has come to Claudia's Place!! In spite of all that white stuff the shelter is still in full operation thanks to our wonderful "shovelers" and "plowers" who keep the road and sidewalk cleared. Work on the remaining kennels is progressing and numerous smaller jobs around the shelter are also being completed.

Of course, the daily part of shelter life continues. There are dogs to feed, walk and socialize. There are numerous cats needing feeding, cleaning and petting. We also have a couple of budgie birds and a rabbit who need care every day.

Unfortunately we are short handed so have some of our volunteers handling two or more jobs or shifts. If you would be able to give a few hours a week to help please contact the office for information on what work is needed and how you could help the homeless animals in our area.

DOGS and CATS and BIRDS Oh My!!

DOGS:

TJ is in the process of being adopted and will soon be going to his new home.

Elsa is still a lady-in-waiting for her furever home. She is a young dark chocolate colored Dobbie/Mastiff cross. She is spayed, shots-up-to-date, good on leash and ready for her own family.

Elliot is also waiting for his new home and may have one as ready for him as he is for it.

Lorenzo is a chestnut colored Dachshund. Even though he is a little overweight, he is active and loves to go for walks. This little guy would love a home where he could demonstrate his family-ness.

Grace is a young Jack Russell who is spayed and has her shots. She is very active so requires a very securely fenced yard.

Penny is a 2 month old Jack Russell mix pup. Grace is her mom. Penny has a bit of nerve problem which she does not let slow her down. She is in the process of getting her very own home now.

Figaro is a 2 month old Jack Russell mix pup. Grace is also his mom. This little rotund fellow is very active, loves the snow and is ready for his new furever home.

CATS:

We have a wonderful selection of cats – young, middle age and older. They are all ready to begin their life as a personal companion to their lucky new families. Our selection includes blacks, black and whites, white and gray, tabbies, a lovely gray and even some orange purry furry pets. Some are short coats and some are fluffy with long coats. If you have room in your home and heart we probably have just the right addition to complete your family.

OTHERS:

Chip and Dale are two adorable budgies. The male is blue and the female is white. They come complete with their own cage, toys and chatter.

Jack Black is a cute dwarf rabbit. Surprise - he is black!!! This little guy needs a new home and would be very hoppy to make it yours.

PET POINTS

There are several winter pet dangers that we are aware of such as frostbite but many pet owners don't know about the dangers of ice melts. Vet clinics and animal emergency clinics receive thousands of calls every year about these products. Ice melts, also known as rock salt, are substances used to melt ice. Even if you don't use them on your property, your dog will likely be exposed to them on your daily walks outside of your yard.

There are several types of ice melts. Many contain sodium chloride which is "salt". Or be composed of potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium carbonate and calcium magnesium acetate or calcium chloride, or a mix of these along with other chemicals.

Some ice melt products claim to be "pet safe" – but you can't always believe what you read on a label. This is an unregulated industry.

Some products claim to be "pet safe" but no products have been proven to be pet safe as they all contain similar ingredients. Some "pet safe" melts use an ingredient called "urea", which is most commonly found in fertilizers. Urea won't dry out your dog's paws, but it won't do much to melt ice either.

Most products are safe if they are used as instructed. Many ice melts will burn your lawn and can irritate the pads of pets' feet. If your dog eats a small amount of the product, it can irritate the stomach. Ingestion of large amounts of ice melts can alter the electrolyte balance in a pet's system, causing lethargy, weakness, and even seizures. In severe cases, it can be fatal. Some dogs will lick their feet after a walk causing small amounts of ingestion. This can cause oral irritation, drooling, nausea and vomiting in some pets. Larger ingestion can occur after dogs drink from melted snow puddles.

Ice melts can also irritate your dog's paws. The pads will get quite dry in the winter and even crack. The ice melt can be very irritating – basically, it is the equivalent of rubbing salt in a wound.

To prevent ice melt problems with your pet, the best thing you can do is the following:

1. Keep all bags of rock salt out of the reach of your pet. Keep ice melts in sealed pet proof containers.
2. Try not to walk your pet in areas where rock salt or ice melts have been used.
3. Clean your pet's paws after coming in from outside when exposure to ice melts was possible. You can use a damp cloth or a special product to clean your dog's feet.
4. Don't let your dog drink from puddles of melted snow. These may contain ice melts.
5. Fit your dog with dog boots to protect your dog's feet and keep them clean.
6. If you use ice melts, hose down and wash off all traces of the ice melts when the weather improves to minimize further exposure to your pet.
7. Beware "Pet Safe" ice melts. Some products are labeled pet safe but there are no regulations to prove that they are. You should consider all ice melts as potentially dangerous.

If you suspect your pet has ingested ice melts, please contact your vet immediately.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Our first Bake Sale of this year was a huge success with a total of \$1145.73.

Our first Concert Concession of this year was also very successful bringing in \$179.87.

The HOPE (Helping Owners Pay for Emergencies) Fund is doing well and we have helped a few pet owners.

PAWS always welcomes donations of any amount. We would love to get more regular monthly donors which would help ensure we can meet our daily expenses for lights, heat, phone, pet food, litter, vet bills, etc. If you would be willing to join those who have set up an automatic bank transfer to the PAWS bank account please contact us and we will help you set this up.

Donations of any amount to our account at either Creston Vet Clinic or Sunset Seed would be very welcome as our expenses for vetting and pet food are necessary and continual.

MEOW-SSAGES

Does your cat love to play but is rather aggressive? Does she bite and scratch while playing with you? Is it difficult to pick her up without being scratched or bit? Try these ideas:

Make sure that family members do not play too roughly or use their hands when playing with her. Cats commonly bite and scratch when played with your hands because they don't know play boundaries. The cat doesn't understand why biting and scratching is encouraged sometimes, but discouraged other times. Instead of using your hands to play with the cat, use toys. Fishing pole toys are good choices as are other cat-safe balls and stuffed toys that your cat can chase. Paper wadded-up into a ball and thrown are also favorite play items. Some cats prefer playing with catnip bananas and dental health chew toys. Avoid laser pointers; they leave cats frustrated because the laser dot never can be caught.

Avoid playing roughly with your cat. When it looks like your cat is over stimulated or becoming aggressive, give her a brief time-out by stopping all interaction with her and leaving the room. These time-outs should last only a minute or two.

In addition to playing correctly with your cat, don't force her to socialize with you or try to pick her up against her wishes. Allow her the choice of interaction. Instead of reaching out to pet her, formally greet her by extending your index finger toward her. When she feels like socializing, she will come up to your finger, and greet you by touching your finger with her nose, then will turn her head until your finger is on her cheek. This is an invitation for you to gently pet her cheek, head and neck.

Your cat's aggression should eventually stop through proper, gentle play and by not forcing her to socialize. In order to be successful, everyone in your family should treat her in this manner.

WHY DOGS DON'T LIVE AS LONG AS PEOPLE by Robin Downing, DVM

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a 10 yearold Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The owner, his wife, and their little boy were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, the owners told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old boy to observe the procedure. They felt he could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. The little boy seemed calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on.

Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

The little boy, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Why is it that my heart is so touched whenever I meet a dog lost in our noisy streets? Why do I feel such anguished pity when I see one of these creatures coming and going, sniffing everyone, frightened, despairing of even finding its master - Emil Zola

PET PANTRY

CAT GOBBLE-UPS

Yield: 30 treats

1 cup cooked turkey or chicken ½ cup beef or chicken broth

1 tbs margarine 1 cup whole wheat flour

Mix turkey, broth and margarine. Add enough flour to make a soft dough. Add additional flour 1 tablespoon at a time if dough is too sticky.

Roll out dough and cut or shape as desired.

Bake at 350' for 20 to 25 minutes on ungreased cookie sheets.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

This month we began honoring our volunteers. Our first *Volunteer of the Month* for February was **Dianne Traplin**. Dianne has been a very reliable volunteer at the shelter for some time. She has operated the office, taken care of the dogs, the cats and even the birds! No job is too much for her including yard work and tree care. The dogs have really benefitted with the extra time, attention and walks they received from this lady. She is a true Valentine giving from her heart to the animals.

Unfortunately Dianne will soon be leaving us. She will certainly be missed but we wish her all the best for her future. Visit often, Dianne!!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

A Craft Day is being held at the Canyon School on March 5th. Come and enjoy the talents on display.

Our next Concession is on March 6th with a second one on March 17th both at the High School.

The next Bake Sale for St. Patrick's Day is on March 15th and 16th at Overwaitea.

If you can bake for these events or tend the tables for them please let us know. All help would be appreciated.

Please Note: March meeting is our AGM and time to renew membership.

TAIL END

Important Links:

Creston Vet Hospital – 428-9494

Cranbrook SPCA – 250-426-6751

Nelson 2nd Chance – 250-352-2228

PAWS office – 428-7297

Trail SPCA – 250-368-5910

Animal Control (Town of Creston only) – 428-2214

If you are interested in adopting a new companion, need to re-home one or have found a pet or lost one – please check out our ***Weekly Wag and Meow Mart*** which is posted at the Vet Clinic, Sunset Seed and Lil' Mutt Grooming. Or check with PAWS at 2805 Lower Wynndel Road - or check our website.

Everyone is invited to participate in PAWS events, projects, meetings and fund raisers.

If you are interested in volunteering, fostering or becoming a member please contact us.

CRESTON PET ADOPTION & WELFARE SOCIETY

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