

Calendar

ADOPTION DAYS

June 15th — 11am to 2pm

Especially for Pets in Wayland, MA

July 20th — 11am to 2pm

Especially for Pets in Wayland, MA

July 27th

Especially for Pets in Sudbury, MA

FUND RAISING EVENTS

June 9th — 2pm to 4pm

Framingham Flag Day Parade

Come to the Framingham Flag Day Parade and see the Save a Dog float!

June 22nd — 10am to 3pm

Paws in the Park Dog Walk

VA Hospital Grounds in Bedford, MA. See the insert for more details.

July 13th — 9am (no early birds!)

Feral Fix Yard Sale

Please come to our giant yard sale at 189 Brook Street in Framingham on July 13th. We are still looking for yard sale items. Please call us for information on donating items.

September 8th — Pet Rock 2002

The 4th annual Pet Rock will take place at the Hebert Candy Mansion in Shrewsbury, MA from Noon to 5pm. Rain Date: September 15th.

A Look Inside...

Walk with Paws 2

A recap of last year's Paws in the Park fund-raiser. Be there this year!

Danger-Poison 3

A quick guide to common summer substances that are bad for your dog.

Collars 4

A guide to several of the common training collars found in stores today.

FAQ About Feral Cats. 5

What are feral cats and how can I help Feral Fix to help them?

All about Boo!



Remember Boo, the amazing chocolate lab who was found abandoned and tied to a park bench? After fostering Boo through his hip replacement surgery, we decided not to break up a great team, so Boo's foster mom, Holly, adopted Boo. Here is what Boo's loving new mother has to say about him.

"When I first brought Boo home as a foster dog, I never considered adopting him. I already had 2 dogs, 2 cats, and a very small house. Boo was large, overweight, in pain, and had immediate and possible future medical/surgical needs for severe hip dysplasia. NO WAY COULD I ADOPT HIM!! However, within a week I was head over heels in love with him and could not imagine giving him up. He got along great with my other 2 dogs and even the cats loved him.

I continued to argue with myself for the next couple of months, trying to convince myself that I couldn't keep him. Needless to say, I lost the argument and Boo is here to stay. He has slimmed down and through the efforts of Save A Dog, had his hip replacement surgery. He recently had his 6-week follow-up visit with the surgeon and he is healing great. He no longer appears to be in pain and is ready to run, jump and play non-stop. Unfortunately he is still on severe exercise

restrictions as he continues to heal.

He has been wonderful through the whole post op period and taken it all in stride, and the restrictions have not appeared to dampen his natural enthusiasm or his goofy personality. I am so thankful that I began fostering for Save A Dog, because otherwise I would never have met Boo, the perfect dog for me.

Holly" 🐾

Hot Dogs

Sun

+ Humidity

= Heatstroke
(and possibly death)

It's a simple, but dangerous, equation. Days above 90 degrees are inherently dangerous for your pet, especially when it is humid.



Leaving your dog in the backyard without both shade and water puts your dog at risk for heatstroke. Water must be in a container that won't tip over - if you have a fence you can attach a bucket to it, enabling your dog to drink without tipping the water over. Shade must be available all day long; sometimes a tree's shadow is in the neighbors yard for much of the afternoon.

We all know that leaving a dog in the car can be deadly (a car reaches 120 degrees in less than 5 minutes on a 70 degree day, even with the windows cracked). The garage, a breezeless tomb of hot air, is no safer for a dog. On a hot day, driven to find something to drink, there are many poisons in a typical garage that could be within his

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Walk With PAWS

By Jill Morneau



It's time to grab a leash, find your furry-four legged friend, and head for the park. Save A Dog will conduct its second annual Paws In The Park Dog Walk fund-raiser, June 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Administration Medical Center Picnic Area in Bedford, Mass.

"PAWS is a fun-filled day for the whole family," said Sally Kindleberger, a Save A Dog volunteer who not only participated in PAWS last year, but also won the dog-owner look-alike contest. "It is a wonderful and fun way to spend the day with your doggie pal!" Kindleberger attended the event along with Toby, a two and a half year old Wheaton Terrier mix she adopted from Save A Dog two years ago.

The day in the park will include a scheduled 11 a.m. group

walk, demonstrations on agility, carting, obedience, Canine Good Citizen Test, child/dog safety, crafts, booths run by other dog rescue groups and exhibitors, and a parade of adoptable dogs brought by other rescue groups.

Pam Aparo, a Save A Dog volunteer and owner of two playful pooches (including Save A Dog alumni Riley), worked the event last year. As a volunteer she's been involved in two long-distance transports, including one from Atlanta to Framingham, Mass. and one from Pennsylvania to Framingham. "Save A Dog does more work with less money than you can believe. We aren't trying to place the most dogs in the shortest time, but by working with them for weeks (sometimes months) we become advocates for them to be in a home that is right for the dog and the family involved."

Last year the event raised \$3,500, which went to fees for transporting, veterinary services, spaying, neutering, and boarding of rescued dogs. This year Save A Dog hopes to raise even more.

Save A Dog alumni dog owners, prospective Save A Dog adopters, and dog lovers of all ages are welcome to attend. Dog not required. The event will be held rain or shine, and cost \$10.00 per dog or a minimum pledge sheet of \$10.00 per dog. Last year's photos, and other information is available at the Save A Dog website, www.saveadog.org. The pledge sheet, directions and a tentative schedule of the events are included on the Paws insert in this newsletter. 🐾

Hot Dogs

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reach. The most common of these is antifreeze.

Know the Signs

Panting; staring; refusal to obey commands; warm, dry skin; rapid heart-beat; skin inside of ears is red and hot; vomiting; collapse.

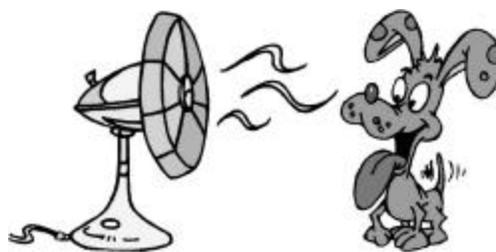
Many dogs will play until they drop. They rely on you to supervise the games and determine when its time to stop on hot days. Be responsible and keep the play times reasonable

If Your Dog Has Heatstroke

You can help. First, have someone call a veterinarian to alert them you are on your way. Even if you reduce his body temp he will need to be seen by a veterinarian immediately. In the meantime, lower his body temperature with cool water applied to his feet pads and

other areas that have less hair. A towel soaked in cool water will help you do this on the way to your veterinarian. If your pet has collapsed, the inside of his rear legs is an area that frequently has less hair and enough surface area to make a difference.

Once at the veterinarian's office, further treatment can include more cooling, IV fluids to counteract shock and dehydration, and medication to prevent or reverse brain damage. Even with immediate care, heatstroke can be fatal. Prevention is, by far, the best cure. 🐾



Summer Pet Tip

LEPTOSPIROSIS — In recent years veterinarians have seen an increase in the number of dogs that test positive for Leptospirosis. Any dog that is outside a lot and near wildlife or goes on walks in the woods is susceptible to this potentially fatal bacteria. Transmission occurs through the urine of infected animals. Leptospirosis organisms can also survive in moist soil, surface water, drains, and mud. Dogs pick up the bacteria through the mouth (sniffing) or through abraded skin. Signs can include fever, lethargy, vomiting, or watery diarrhea. Fortunately, there is a vaccine that protects your dog from two of the more common types of Lepto. Dogs who frequent dog parks, water sources or the woods on a regular basis should consider this vaccine. Please discuss this with your veterinarian. 🐾



DANGER-POISON

by Cathleen Crowley

It's that time of year again, birds are singing, flowers are in bloom, and we all want the perfect lawn! Keep in mind, as you set out to rid your lawn of dandelions and your garden of grubs that most pesticides are designed to kill something and must be used with care

The three most common causes of serious poisonings in dogs are **snail baits, rat poisons, and antifreeze**. Eating small amounts can cause life-threatening illness.

Antifreeze: Antifreeze contains a sweet-tasting ingredient. Small amounts can be fatal; if an animal walks through a puddle on the driveway and then licks his paws, he can swallow enough to cause death.

Fertilizers: Let liquid pesticides dry completely before allowing your pet into the area. Coming into contact with the pesticide can cause injury or even death, as pets lick their fur to groom themselves and will lick the poison off their fur. Read the label, it will say when it is safe for your pets to walk in those areas. Store pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides safely and be sure your pet cannot get to them.

Poison: When using rat or mouse baits, ant or roach traps, or snail and slug baits, put the products in areas your pets cannot reach. Most bait contains sweet smelling ingredients, such as jelly, peanut butter, and sugars, which can be very attractive to your pet.



Caution: Symptoms of Poisoning:

Some signs your pet may have been poisoned are drooling, stumbling, muscle tremors or convulsions, or if your pet seems very tired. If your pet shows these signs, contact a veterinarian or the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center immediately.



Where to get help:

The National Animal Poison Control Center may be contacted 24 hours a day, at 1-800-548-2423. The fee is \$45 per case can be charged to a credit card. You can help by having the product label, including the active ingredient(s) and bring that information to the attention of the veterinary staff. Your pet will thank you!

Be Safe - and Win the War on Bugs!

There are many ways to remove insects from your yard and garden without using chemicals. Some insects can be removed with a strong jet of water. Insecticidal soaps kill

soft-bodied insects, like aphids and grubs. Natural insecticides, like *Bacillus thuringiensis*, are effective against caterpillars and beetles. You can prevent pests from returning by removing sources of food, water, and cover. Beneficial bugs can also help by eating the insects that are attacking your plants. Boric acid is not safe around children or pets, even though it is advertised as an all-natural product.

Have a happy and healthy summer! 🐾

Tucker



We love hearing from our adopters, especially when we get such cute pictures with the letters. Here's one from Michele and Mike, who adopted Max from us earlier this year.

"Tucker... is doing just great and is such a wonderful dog!!!! He is the smartest dog in his puppy kindergarten class, and the teachers keep telling us that we have a wonderful and smart dog on our hands, which is nice to hear. He is about 38 lbs. at 4.5 months. He's going to be a beast I think. He is growing fast, and I'm starting to miss that puppy face he use to have. He has made wonderful friends with our friends chocolate lab who is the same age. We bring them to the park every weekend, and we have come to find out that Tucker loves the water. Him and the lab run around in the stream at the park and fetch balls and sticks. They are really cute together. We are bringing the two dogs to the Vineyard with us in May for a week, and I'm sure they will have a blast there.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to adopt Tucker. He has brought so much joy to our lives!!!!

Michele and Mike" 🐾

Collars

(Reprinted with permission from www.GreatPets.com, written by: Sarah Wilson)

Please note: All collars need to be removed before crating your dog. Remove all slip collars and head halters before two dogs play together to prevent jaws from getting caught in the equipment. Never leave a dog unsupervised while wearing a slip or prong collar or a head halter.

Flat Collar

Your puppy's first collar should be a flat, nylon or leather collar that buckles like a belt. Some dogs can go through their whole training career working on a flat collar.

For growing pups: Use an adjustable flat collar. For small dogs: Get the widest collar possible. Wider is gentler on the neck.

Martingale Collar

This collar can be all fabric, all chain, or a combination of chain and fabric. These are lovely training tools as they have a limited closing action, meaning even if your dog pulls hard it will only tighten so far. They are adjustable and great for dogs whose necks are as wide as their skulls (like some sight hounds). For these dogs slipping off a traditional flat collar is a real risk.

Chain Collars

There are a wide variety of chain collars. Here are some comments on a few of them:

The finer the link, the more intense the collar. Make sure any chain collar slips smoothly.

Chain collars need to be used properly to be effective and humane. Simply buying one does not help; you must know how to use it for it to work. Too many dogs get put on these and drag their owners around gasping for air. If your dog pulls hard either go to training class, use a head halter or a no-pull harness but don't let him strangle himself on a collar.

The Woodhouse Collar is a wonderful tool when used properly because its wide links make it gentle while its noisiness makes it effective. It can also be buckled back onto itself to create a noise-based collar that does not tighten at all. Only use a buckle backed Woodhouse indoors or in a fenced in area until you get good at buckling it back. Done improperly or too loosely, it can fall off.

Head Halter

Gaining greater acceptance every year, these neat tools have a variety of uses. They give good control over pulling to the most novice of handlers. Like all tools, especially powerful tools, they can be misused - the only pressure to use with a head halter is a gentle, guiding pressure with immedi-

ate release for compliance. No jerking and no long lines/retractable leads - you could hurt your dog!

Dogs with extremely short snouts and/or bulgy eyes will have to look elsewhere, but a head halter is a wonderful tool for the toolbox, especially helpful for garbage eaters, mouthing dogs and barkers.

High Collar

A regular chain collar that fits snugly up behind the ears can give you added control over a hard pulling or powerful dog. There are even toggle collars now that can be fitted around the neck instead of being slipped over the head. By fitting it around the neck a much snugger fit is allowed.

Prong Collar

When "power steering" is needed, a prong collar can be just the tool. Their rather barbaric look swears some people off of them before they try them, which is unfortunate. Like all tools, used properly they can work effectively with less force than some other collars people accept more readily. A prong collar should only be used with a larger, slip collar on as well as backup should the prong collar come undone and fall off. This rarely happens, but it is always best to be ready just in case. 🐾

Feral Cat Math

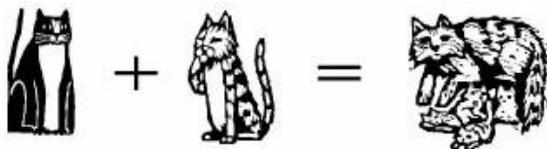
Cats can't add, but they multiply rapidly. Cats are mature and can mate at 6 months old. They breed for about 10 years.

Assuming 2 litters per year with a survival rate of only 3 kittens per litter, 2 cats will produce:

6 more cats the 1st year 8 cats in all.

If they are not spayed and neutered they will produce:

24 more cats the 2nd year 32 cats in all.



If they are not spayed and neutered they will produce:

96 more cats the 3rd year 128 cats in all.

384 more cats the 4th year 512 cats in all.

1,536 more cats the 5th year 2,048 cats in all.

6,144 more cats the 6th year 8,192 cats in all.

24,576 more cats the 7th year 32,772 cats in all

98,166 more cats the 8th year 130,938 cats in all

392,814 more cats the 9th year 523,212 cats in all

1,569,636 more cats the 10th year over 2 million cats in all.

4th of July Stress

The 4th of July can be a very stressful, and even dangerous, day for many dogs. The top three doggie worries for the 4th are fireworks, company, and food. However, with a little planning, you and your dog can have a very enjoyable day.

Fireworks — Many dogs are afraid of loud noises, including fireworks. Because they won't appreciate the colors of the fireworks, and more than likely the loud noise will scare or stress them, it's better for both you and your dogs if you leave them at home when you go see the fireworks.

When you leave your dogs at home, and go to the fireworks display, make sure your dog is in a secure room at home. There have been several instances of dogs breaking through screens, fences and even windows to get away from the sound of fireworks.

Plan ahead, and make sure that your dogs are wearing their tags on the 4th. July 5th is one of the busiest days for animal shelters as they try to deal with dogs who ran away during the fireworks, and having clear, readable tags on your dogs will ensure their safe return. If you have travelled for the weekend, get a pet travel tag. These are clear plastic tags that hold a small piece of paper, making it easy for you to create a tag with a phone number of where you are staying.

Company — If your dog does not do well with large groups of people, you need to find a nice quiet place for him to stay during your 4th of July gathering. An upstairs room, or a room away from the party is ideal. Equip the room with a nice, soft doggy bed, a few of his favorite chew toys, some water, and maybe even a radio or tv for company. He should settle down nicely, and you won't have to worry about him getting stressed by all the noise and goings on.

Remember though... you left him with some water so he wouldn't get thirsty. You'd better check on him to see if he needs a potty break!

Food — Typical 4th of July barbecue fare contains a few items that can be dangerous for you dogs. Cooked bones can splinter and are very dangerous. Also watch out for corn cobs and shish-ka-bob skewers. Alcohol and chocolate round out the list of things to keep away from your dogs.

If you plan your 4th of July party with your dogs in mind, both you and they will have a good time.

Have Fun! 🐾



Frequently Asked Questions About Feral Cats

Q: What is a feral cat?

*A: Feral cats are cats that have 'gone wild'. They may have been born to stray or abandoned cats that reverted to a wild state in order to survive. Because they are essentially wild animals they avoid humans and live in family groups called colonies. Feral cats can survive almost anywhere, and are found all over the world. Roger Tabor is a biologist who has been studying feral cats since the 1970s. In his book, *Understanding Cats*, he writes, "The cat was one of the last animals domesticated, thousands of years later than the dog and readily reverts to living in the wild." The feral cat population in the U.S. is estimated to be in the millions.*

Q: Can I adopt a feral cat?

A: While it is nearly impossible to adapt these cats to a pampered life indoors, it is still possible to help them. One way to help feral cats live a long, satisfying life is through humanely trapping then spaying or neutering them, vaccinating them, and releasing them back into their colony. This is referred to as TNR (trap, neuter, and release) and there are many benefits to this approach. They live longer, healthier lives because they are not using all their energy to raise new kittens. The feral cats stop spraying and fighting; making them better neighbors in an urban environment. And the feral cats continue to control the population of mice and rats.

Q: But aren't cats were supposed to live inside?

A: The safest place for a tame companion cat is inside, but feral cats are wild animals that have developed survival skills to live outside. In the U.K. where groups have been working with feral cats for many years, they have found that feral cats form colonies with a rich social structure. It was once believed that most feral cats only lived a few short, painful years; but new data shows their lifespan is closer to 10 years. We believe (as does the San Francisco SPCA) that the best way to help these cats is by applying TNR programs that enable them to live satisfying lives in their colonies.

You may have seen feral cats hiding behind dumpsters or disappearing into the brush along the road. You may even be leaving food out for the 'stray' cats occasionally but they may not be stray cats at all. They might be feral cats, and it is likely they need help to live a long, healthy life. If you would like to become a caretaker for a feral cat colony that is in your area please contact us. We can help by providing education and assistance with a TNR program.

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Frequently Asked Questions About Feral Cats, Cont.

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Q: What does Save A Dog hope to accomplish with Feral Fix?

A: Excellent question. Our goal and mission is to impact the feral cat population. We do this by targeting one colony at a time until all the cats in that colony are spayed and neutered. When working on a colony we trap, spay, and release one cat at a time. We are working with several veterinarians in the area and always welcome more. While the cat is under anesthesia, the vet will notch the ear in order to prevent duplicate trapping. By controlling an entire colony we have a greater impact on the cat population than if we were to take in strays or kittens. Our foster homes are limited in number and we use them to house the dogs we rescue. Working with feral cats allows us to help control the cat population without reducing our ability to find homes for abandoned dogs.

Q: Do you ever get adoptable cats and kittens?

A: We frequently have wonderful, tame cats and kittens available for adoption. The adoption donation covers all shots and neutering or spaying. Please fill out an application at http://www.saveadog.org/html/available_cats.html or email Jenny Norton at jennynorton@rcn.com for more information.

Q: Do you need volunteers?

A: We are always in search of foster homes for our cats and kittens. Please email jennynorton@rcn.com for more information. You may also call Save A Dog at (508) 877-1407 and leave a message stating that you are interested in volunteering for Feral Fix. 🐾

Where's Belle?



We recently got an email from the Delaney's giving us a quick update on their dog Belle, and they included this picture. It was such a riot that we just had to share. **Hint:** Belle is the one that looks most like a terrier. :-)

"[We] have been meaning to email you for a long time to tell you how much we adore our Belle. She is just as sweet and adorable as ever. She has fit into our family perfectly and I have used her as an advertisement for Saveadog many times! I'm going to try to attach a picture of her that shows how very patient she is!! Feel free to use it in your success stories section or in the newsletter.

The Delaney's"

If you have any stories or pictures that you would like to share, please send us an email at saveadog@saveadog.org or a letter by post to the address below. 🐾