



Head to Tail

DUPAGE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL • FALL 2012



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Working together to reach “ZERO”

Helping the homeless animals of DuPage County is a big job. It is not something that is accomplished by an individual, or even a small group of people. To truly help the animals, it takes a community.

As an open-admission shelter, DCACC takes in every domestic animal that comes to our door. Our goal is to never have to euthanize due to lack of space. For many years DCACC has been working tirelessly to reach that goal. When it comes to the dog population DCACC has not had to euthanize a dog for space in over 4 years. Cats on the other hand have not fared as well. DCACC takes in over 2,000 cats a year - twice as many as the number of dogs. With the help of the community, our euthanasia for space numbers for felines are getting closer and closer to zero.

Year	Cats euthanized for space
2008	318
2009	201
2010	192
2011	62
2012 (through 10/1/12)	5

The big picture is made up of many smaller pieces and each piece plays a role in reaching our goal of saving every adoptable cat. Some of the important partners making an impact are:

- **Friends of DCACC Foundation** - through subsidized adoption promotions, Friends of DCACC provides various incentives to increase adoptions.
- **Wheaton Petco and Lombard Veterinary Hospital** - off-site adoption locations that house and adopt cats and kittens for DCACC. Each cat or kitten housed at an off-site adoption location opens up a cage for a new cat or kitten coming into the shelter.
- **Rescue Partners** - through October 1st of this year, 299 cats and kittens were transferred to 31 rescue partners and other shelters. We are grateful to every one of our rescue partners, and would like to recognize those that have helped with the greatest number of cats; PURRS Naperville (124), St. Sophia's Forgotten Felines (63), ARF Illinois (21) and STRAYS Halfway House (13).
- **Trap-Neuter-Return** - by providing trap neuter and release assistance to communities with feral cat populations within DuPage County, groups like Feral Fixers have helped to reduce the number of feral cats and litters of kittens coming into DCACC by almost half.
- **Foster Families** - provide an opportunity for underage or sick felines to become healthy/strong enough to go up for adoption.
- **Pet Owners** - by keeping cats indoors, micro-chipping, placing ID tags on pets, spaying/neutering & covering all bases when pets go missing increases return to owner rates and keeps pets out of the shelter system.

We are excited to be moving in the right direction and we are thankful to the community that is helping us get there. The goal of ZERO is within reach!

A Fond Farewell!



After 19 years of service to DCACC, Laurie Donahue has retired. We wish her much happiness in this next chapter of her life. Thank you Laurie for your hard work and dedication! You will be missed.

Best Friends Forever



Every once in a while, animals from the same home, will find themselves within the care of DCACC. Despite the fact that they are no longer in their home, and may feel the stress of being in an unfamiliar environment; the bond between the animals is undeniable. Meet Precious and Nosey! These best buddies have lived together their whole lives. They were given up to the shelter when their family moved and could not take them with. Without a doubt these two love each other. At any given point you will find them hanging out and cuddling. They always choose to be together. DCACC recognizes this bond and hopes to find a forever home for them together. Thanks to the Friends of DuPage County Animal Care and Control Foundation and the Bonded Pair Subsidized Adoption Fund, assistance is provided with adoption fees so that bonded animals can stay together. Twice the fun, twice the love and twice the cuddles.....if a bonded pair might be right for you, come and meet this wonderful pair!

Meet the Staff

Meet Ann Plotke! Ann works in the office of DCACC. Her title is Senior Staff Assistant, which means she spends her days helping people at the front desk. She is there to take in the animals arriving at DCACC as strays or when they are given up by their families. Ann diligently checks the lost reports on strays hoping to reunite that lost animal with it's family. She manages rabies tags and works with the various vet hospitals in DuPage County. And best of all she does the adoptions when people and animals find their perfect match!

Ann first came to DCACC five years ago as a volunteer. Driven by a desire to help and to give back in some way, Ann started walking the dogs of DCACC. Ann loves dogs (especially big ones) and was excited to do the important job of socializing them, getting them out for exercise and working on manners. On her very first day, while out with a dog, the dog pulled on the leash, which caught her fingerand just like that, her finger was broken! Obviously a broken finger did not keep Ann away. She was committed to volunteering and came and spent her time helping with tasks in the office, and walking the SMALL dogs. During that time, staff got to know Ann well, and she got to understand the many facets of DCACC. Ann's

finger eventually healed and she was right back to working with all the dogs; rain or shine, big dog, small dog, Ann was there and working with them. The volunteer program was much smaller at that time, and Ann knew that the dogs were waiting for her. She did not let them down.

After over a year of volunteering, the position opened up in the office and the rest is history! Ann is a great asset to the DCACC team. Since working here, not only does she do her very busy job, but she continues to help the animals by constantly going above and beyond. Ann has a huge heart and never tires of helping the animals. You will always find her giving extra TLC to a sick cat or kitten. Ann takes the time to steam a congested cat, bottle feed a baby kitten, and often spends her free time taking dogs for walks. Ann even opens her home to animals in need of foster. Ann gives whole heartedly!

When Ann is not at work, she is busy caring for her own furry family (which may have grown in size since starting at DCACC)! Ann's adoring husband Mike has been heard saying "one more animal and I'm leaving!" But we all



Ann with Oliver and Sheldon



Morey



Penny

know that not only does he know what a treasure he has in Ann, he also loves all their pets just as much as she does!

We thank you Ann for all that you do!

Volunteer Program Update

Some of you may have noticed that the volunteer program was put on hiatus for the summer season. It does seem strange that we weren't accepting volunteers during our busiest season, but there is some rhyme to our reason. While cats were having kittens and filling up our foster homes, I was off having my own.....not kittens, but my daughter. I have returned from maternity leave and the volunteer program is ready to get back rolling. We will be

organizing weeknight and Saturday orientations for new volunteers and improving our system for our seasoned volunteers. Some events to look forward to are meet and greets so volunteers can personally meet me and each other, training sessions in dog and cat behavior, and new Saturday hours for the Volunteer Coordinator (that's me!) for better availability to answer questions and handle issues. All volunteer information will continue to

be posted on the volunteer board located in our lobby. I look forward to meeting new volunteers and making improvements to ensure that the volunteer experience is a great one. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Volunteer and Rescue Coordinator
Brandi McNeely
 630-407-2803
 Brandi.McNeely@dupageco.org

S.T.A.R.

(Structured Training And Reinforcement) Program

A few years ago we reported on a new program concept called S.T.A.R. (Structured Training and Reinforcement). Well S.T.A.R. has finally become a reality and so far is proving to be a HUGE success!

The S.T.A.R. concept was created to address several issues facing our bully breeds and high energy shelter dogs in order to:

1. Enhance the quality of life for these dogs during their stay at the shelter by providing training and enrichment opportunities that improve the dogs' mental health and well-being.
2. Decrease length-of-stay periods for adoption dogs (bully breeds experience longer stays at the shelter while awaiting adoption) by providing training that will make the dogs more appealing to potential adopters.

How it works: S.T.A.R. provides weekly obedience training classes for shelter dogs with approved volunteers under the guidance of a certified professional dog trainer.

3. Encourage and reinforce positive behavior while the dog is at the shelter by providing volunteers with the tools and training needed for consistent care and handling.

How it works: S.T.A.R. volunteers provide regular "homework" practice with shelter dogs throughout the week to ensure skills are learned, become habit, and are "buildable" from week to week.

4. Provide exuberant adoptable dogs with an opportunity to learn manners and socialization skills in a fast-paced "immersion" setting while awaiting adoption.

How it works: S.T.A.R. offers off-site boarding of DCACC adoption dogs requiring extra attention in the form of obedience training, socialization, exercise and enrichment at the Bellyrub Klub where they learn important skills and get a head-start on becoming

wonderful, well-mannered pets. This also opens up space for another dog arriving at the shelter. The Bellyrub Klub assists in counseling potential adopters and facilitates the adoption process on behalf of DCACC.

5. Provide dog and new owner with access to basic obedience training

that can be continued after the animal is adopted, setting the tone for a positive dog/owner relationship and decreasing the likelihood of a returned adoption.

How it works: S.T.A.R. offers weekly post-adoption obedience training classes for dogs adopted from DCACC that help solidify the lessons learned while here at the shelter, allow for honing and refining skills, and nurturing the bond between human and dog.

Wanna Get Involved?

- Support the S.T.A.R. program with your donation to the Friends of DCACC Foundation.
- Apply to be a S.T.A.R. volunteer dog handler (must be available to meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30am).



"Sit" ... "Stay" ... Connected.

Receive the latest news, updates & information.

We do not sell or share contact information with any third party.

www.DuPageAnimalFriends.org
www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol

Twitter.com/FriendsofDCACC
Facebook.com/FriendsofDCACC



Proceeds Benefit DCACC's Homeless & Unwanted Pets

Save The Date!

Raffles, Food, Open Bar, Entertainment & More!

Friends Fur Ever Feast 2013
Saturday, April 27, 2013
Medinah Banquets
Addison, Illinois

www.FriendsFurEverFeast.org



- Sign up to receive information on upcoming S.T.A.R. DCACC Alumni Training Classes by subscribing to receive email alerts (go to www.DuPageAnimalFriends.org).

Many thanks to Sue Aikman, Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Owner of The Bellyrub Klub for donating her time, knowledge, staff and facility to make this life-saving program a reality!



Mocha



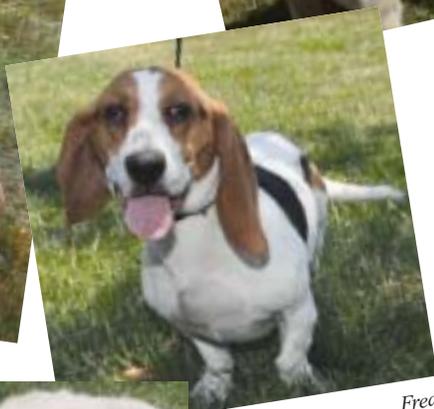
Ariel - relaxing after class...a tired dog is a happy dog!



Tito



Honey - practicing her "sit" and "stay"



Fred



Pelusa

Second Chances

Everyday through the generous support of our donors, members and event supporters, the Friends of DCACC Foundation is helping homeless pets receive their second chance at life through the following lifesaving initiatives...

130 the number of senior animals receiving help finding their forever homes through the **Senior Subsidized Adoption Fund**.

8 the number of bonded animals (4 pair) that have found their forever homes together through the **Bonded Pair Subsidized Adoption Fund**.

1,271 the number of cats and kittens receiving help finding their forever homes — opening up lifesaving space for more cats and kittens awaiting adoption — through the **Feline Subsidized Adoption Fund**.

6 the number of dogs and cats that have been given a second chance at life through the **Critical Care Fund**.

33 the number of dogs and cats waiting on the adoption floor for 30 days or longer that have found their homes sooner thanks to the **Extended Stay Subsidized Adoption Fund**.

26 the number of animals adopted from DCACC during the subsidized **Fall Festival Adopt-a-Thon** (15 felines, 5 canines, 1 rabbit, 1 guinea pig, 3 budgies & 1 cockatiel)

Data represents animals helped from inception of fund through September 30, 2012.



Paulie Purrs-a-Lot Has A Message For You.

Adopt ANY Adult Cat from DuPage County Animal Care & Control for only \$99.

ANY Cat.
ANY Time.
ANY Day.
ALL YEAR Long.

View our adoption cats online at:
www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol

All cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, de-wormed & fully vaccinated.
Tell 'em Paulie sent you.

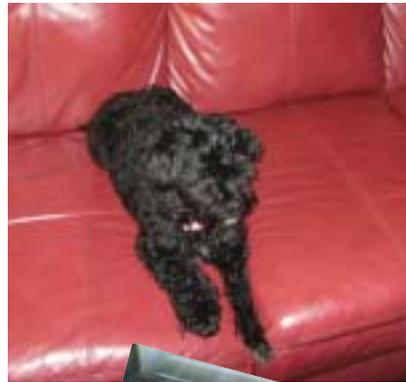
This subsidized adoption program is made possible by the Friends of DCACC Foundation through the generous support of our members and donors.

Great things are happening for the dogs at DuPage County Animal Care and Control!

One of the most common and yet correctable problems seen in shelter dogs is a mild form of possessiveness over food or rawhide. Luckily for the dogs of DCACC, there are two very talented staff members who are passionate about dog behavior and correcting problems. Those staff members are Erica Laudadio (Animal Care Taker) and Mike Dobosiewicz (Animal Control Officer). This summer DCACC launched the "Food Bowl Program" to work with some of these dogs. Candidates for the program are extremely social and friendly dogs that have shown some indication that they might be possessive over food bowl or rawhide. Erica and Mike hold short training sessions with the dogs multiple times a day. During those sessions, dogs learn the "leave it" and "drop it" commands. These are excellent commands that all dogs should know, they teach dogs impulse control and provide owners with a safe method for getting dogs to give up an item. So far the program has had a 100% success rate. Eight dogs have graduated from the program and been adopted. All the dogs have responded very quickly to being worked with. Erica and Mike use positive reinforcement techniques and the dogs are excited, happy, and ready to work for training sessions. Each dog that they have trained has been ready for adoption within a few weeks of starting the program. Once the dogs become available for adoption, Erica or Mike meet with the potential adopters to explain the exercises that they have done with the dogs and show the new adopters how to continue the work. These dogs also have a restriction that they cannot go to a home with young children. Follow-up with all of the families has been fantastic, with none of the dogs showing any signs of possession at home! And as you can see from the pictures, all are happy in their forever homes!



Remy



Bailey



Scruffi



Marty



Gracie

Fosters Needed

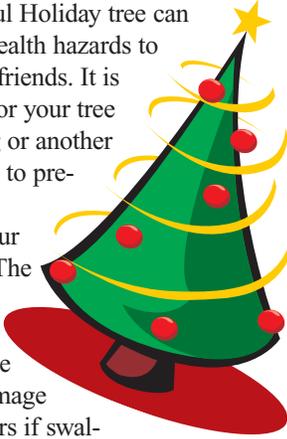
DCACC is currently looking for people and families willing to foster animals for the shelter. We are always open to dog and cat fosters, but are in dire need of kitten fosters, especially bottle fed babies.

If interested please come into our facility and fill out an application today.

Holiday Pet Safety Tips

Christmas Tree

Your beautiful Holiday tree can pose many health hazards to your animal friends. It is wise to anchor your tree to the ceiling or another sturdy object to prevent it from falling on your curious pet. The pine needles shed by your tree can cause intestinal damage to your critters if swallowed. Never let your pet drink from the tree water. The water is often filled with bacteria and can cause severe stomach upset.



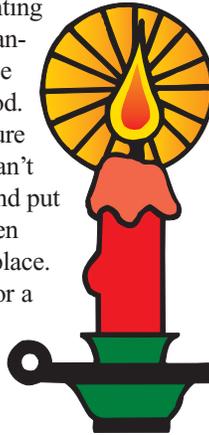
can result in gastrointestinal upset and a variety of lilies cause kidney failure in cats.

Food

All that delicious holiday food can taste great to your pets too, but lead to medical issues. Human food in general can cause stomach upset. Chocolate can be toxic to animals and can lead to death. Left over bones can damage the intestinal tract. It is best never to feed your pets table scraps and to make sure all your garbage can lids are secure. Explain to any house guests why their generous gesture to your pet can be hazardous to their health.

Candles/Fireplaces

Snuggling up in front of fireplace or lighting some scented candles can enhance the holiday mood. Always make sure that your pets can't reach candles and put a fireplace screen around the fireplace. An injured pet or a house fire will definitely dampen that holiday mood.

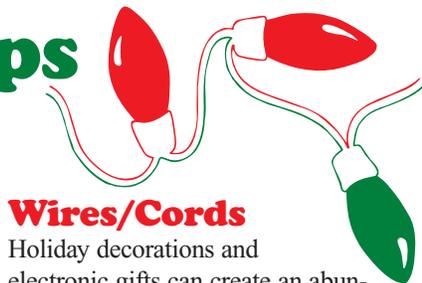


Decorations

Many holiday decorations can be hazardous to your pet. Ornaments can break and may cut an animal's mouth or paws. If tinsel is swallowed, it can cause vomiting or a digestive tract obstruction.

Festive Plants

Plants associated with the holiday season can be dangerous to your critter if ingested. Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias



Wires/Cords

Holiday decorations and electronic gifts can create an abundance of cords and wire. This can cause your pet to accidentally get shocked if they play with or mouth them. It is best to try to limit the amount of cords and wires and to tape down the ones you can't avoid.

Guests

Our friends and family can often unintentionally harm or injure our beloved pets. Ask all guests to secure medications and toiletries out of the animal's reach. Ingesting these types of products can poison your pet. Also, ask guests to be extra careful when entering and leaving your house. Pets can often slip through their feet and make an escape. Make sure all critters have updated tags and a microchip, so you can be reunited if an accident occurs.

Living Heritage Society Spotlight: Cynthia Guild

Cynthia Guild's life was marked by kindness and compassion for all animals in need. Even with her passing, her legacy of helping animals in need continues. Thanks to Cynthia's generosity and foresight, the Friends of DCACC Foundation has received a sizeable donation from her estate. Meaning thousands more homeless pets will receive a second chance at life for years to come.

To learn more about the Living Heritage Society and to include Friends of DCACC in your estate plans, call (630) 407-2819.

Have you registered your pet's microchip in your name?

All dogs and cats adopted from DCACC were originally registered to DCACC and needed to be registered to their new forever families when adopted. Additionally, if you have moved or changed phone numbers since then, be sure to update that information. Microchips only work when the information connected to them is accurate.



DuPage County Animal Care & Control
 120 N. County Farm Rd. • Wheaton, IL 60187

Pre-Sort
 First Class
 U.S. Postage
 Permit No. 6035
 Carol Stream, IL

Hours of Operation

Monday and Thursday 8:00 - 7:30
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 - 5:00
 Saturday 10:00 - 3:00
 Sunday Closed

For more info. www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol
 630-407-2800

Hours of Adoption

Monday and Thursday 12:00 - 7:00
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 - 4:30
 Saturday 10:00 - 3:00

**Pictures With
 Santa Paws!**

Sunday, December 2, 2012
12pm - 4pm (No Appointment!)
DuPage County Animal Care & Control
120 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton

**Hosted by the Friends of DuPage County
 Animal Care & Control Foundation**

Suggested \$5 Minimum Donation Includes
 4"x6" photo print & photo card holder.



www.DuPageAnimalFriends.org

For More Information: Call (630) 407-2819

For information on upcoming events, visit the DCACC website at www.dupageco.org/AnimalControl
 or the Friends of DCACC website at www.DuPageAnimalFriends.org