



Feral Cats...Their Plight

A feral animal is the offspring of stray and/or abandoned household pets that exist without human contact and have reverted to their natural, wild behavior. Due to the



fact that they avoid humans, ferals often live a short, violent and painful existence. They spread disease, produce offspring that also spread disease and compete with household pets for food. They also suffer infestation of parasites, cruelty by humans, loneliness, predator attacks, starvation, dehydration, automobile strikes, malnutrition, exposure, and untreated injuries.

FACT: An unspayed female cat can be responsible for over 400,000 kittens over a seven-year period. An unneutered male cat can sire 2,500 kittens in one year!

What can be done to curb some of this suffering and out of control reproduction?

One solution is T.N.R. (Trap, Neuter, Release).

Spaying/neutering prevents bad behavior (e.g., roaming and fighting) and certain types of cancer. This

contributes greatly to "Breaking the cycle" of reproduction and reduces the number of feral animals. During T.N.R., cats are tested for feline HIV and the highly contagious feline leukemia before being released. This alone reduces their suffering and helps prevent diseases from being passed onto household pets and other feral cats.

Since the vast majority of feral cats cannot be tamed, another benefit of T.N.R. is that there will be fewer animals in our shelters to house, feed, and ultimately euthanize. The cost of staff hours and medical supplies would also be reduced. Since trying to grab a feral kitten is akin to fishing for piranha by hand, a live trap is the safest and most effective method of trapping.

Fall Fundraisers

Chili's in Bastrop

During the month of September, Chili's will donate 10% of the cost of your lunch or dinner to the Friends of BCAS (Be sure to bring your coupon, which will be available soon)

Flea Market & Silent Auction

Aqua Water, Bastrop
November 7th
9 a.m.—3 p.m.
(Rain Date, Nov. 14th)

Let's Get Cookin' (See Page 3)

Rabies Clinic

Bastrop County Animal Shelter
October 3rd
8 a.m.—3 p.m.

We cannot break the cycle of reproduction in ferals until we break our own "Cycle of Ignorance." For too many decades we have, through our ignorance and lack of compassion, largely ignored the plight of feral animals. Unfortunately, there are no classes in our public schools that teach children about dealing with the feral population or caring for pets in general. Adding animal husbandry to the curriculum of grade schoolers, and visiting local shelters, would be a beginning to breaking our own human cycle of ignorance.

Through education, of both children and adults, we can change our current system of "Capture, Treat, Feed, Euthanize."

~Ralph Goff

Keeping Your Pet Safe in the Summer

The Austin area continues to experience record-breaking heat. Heeding these tips will help ensure that your pet stays healthy and cool during this hot summer season.

Don't leave your pet in a vehicle unattended:

It takes only minutes for an enclosed vehicle, or even one with the windows slightly lowered, to become dangerously hot. That extreme heat can cause heatstroke and death in your pet.

Water and shade:

Outdoor pets should always have plenty of shade and water. Pets that are extremely active and dogs with short snouts should be closely monitored.

Other summer hazards:

- Pools - pets should not drink from them, as the chlorinated water will make them sick
- Poisons - watch out for things such as charcoal starters, citronella candles, lawn & garden products such as fertilizer, some mulch and insecticides

Be aware and take precautions to prevent pet injuries and sickness!

~Sara Axton

Adoption is the Option!

The Bastrop County Animal Shelter is a great source when looking for a pet. Not only does it have a great selection of adult animals for adoption, but it also has kittens and puppies, sometimes even purebred animals. Save a life—adopt a shelter pet!



Let's Get Cookin'!

In 2008, FBCAS produced an "Adoption Stories" calendar as a fundraiser. Our contributors provided wonderful stories and memorable photographs, and our generous sponsors covered the cost of printing...and yet, we still have a whole box of unsold calendars! It was a good effort, but thanks to those more creative than I, FBCAS is embarking on an even better fundraiser. Our latest production will be a cookbook, whose utility will last forever!

Do you have a favorite recipe—for humans, canines or felines? Have you adopted a shelter pet? The FBCAS cookbook will feature delicious recipes, with photos and stories of adopted pets. Our goal is to have the cookbook available for the holiday season. Simply send your recipes and/or photos and adoption stories to bcasfriends@gmail.com by September 15th.

I hope you'll join us in producing a cookbook filled with love and delicacies for both our pets and their human companions.

~Roxanne Hernandez

Pookie's Parade

Hi, I'm Pookie the Dachshund, a regular contributor to the Friends' Quarterly. Despite what you may read in my column, I really am a good dog...



My first lesson for you is how to bathe a cat.

1. Thoroughly clean the toilet.
2. Add the required amount of shampoo to the toilet water, and have both lids up.
3. Obtain the cat and soothe him while you carry him to the bathroom.
4. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids (You may need to stand on the lid so that he cannot get out.) **CAUTION:** Do not get any part of your body close to the edge, as his paws will be reaching out for you.
5. The cat will self-agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.
6. Flush the toilet 3 or 4 times. This provides a "power-wash and rinse" which I have found to be quite effective.
7. Have someone open the door to the outside and ensure there are no people between the toilet and the outside door.
8. Stand behind the toilet as far as you possibly can, and quickly lift both lids.
9. The now-clean cat will rocket out of the toilet, and run outside where he will dry himself.

Sincerely, Pookie

P.S. For the royal spa treatment, drop in a couple tablets of Alka-Seltzer—oooh, sooo relaxing!