



Fall 2011

Pawprints



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTT COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
GATE CITY, VA

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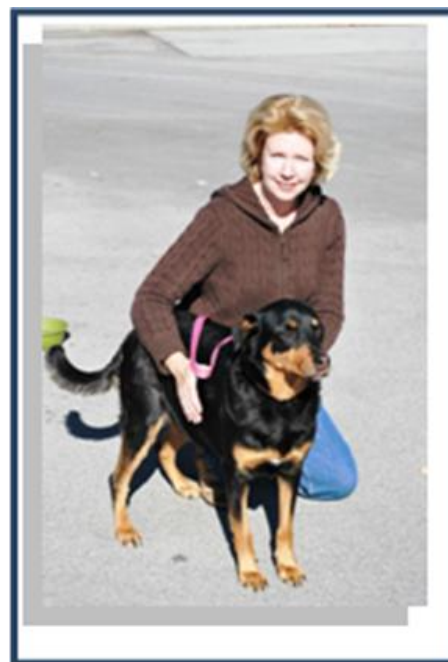
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SCHS Helps Soldier in Afghanistan

SCHS member Robin Skeen had the privilege of participating in a transport which began in Great Bend, NY on Saturday 10/30/10 and ended in Auburn, Alabama on Sunday 10.31.10. Being transported was Lilo, an eight year old shepherd mix, owned by a member of our military, who was being deployed to Afghanistan on October 28, 2010. Lilo had nowhere to go and her owner had had no luck finding a home for her while he was overseas. The soldier's grandmother in Auburn, Alabama volunteered to take Lilo - if he could get her to Auburn. Lilo's plight came to the notice of animal rescue volunteers who quickly arranged a transport which was posted on the internet. There were 18 legs to fill to ensure that Lilo arrived safely at her "Grandmother's".

"As soon as I saw the posting I signed up for the Kingsport to Knoxville Leg" said Robin. The rescue group which initiated the transport said that it filled immediately – the quickest ever. The transport volunteers not only wanted to save Lilo, they also wanted to show support for a member of our military. "Each leg of the journey was dedicated to family members and friends who were serving in the military" said Robin. "I dedicated my leg to my father who served in the US Army during WW II."

Lilo's journey went off without a hitch. She is now safe and sound at her "Grandmother's" in Auburn and waiting the safe return of her master.



SCHS President, Robin Skeen and Lilo

AS SEEN ON CHANNEL 5!

Robin Skeen and Ellen Barker were invited to appear on WCYB-TV's Pet of the Week segment on March 8, 2011 to discuss the activities and plans of the SCHS and to showcase three dogs in our foster care. This is the second time SCHS members have appeared on this program.

WCYB News Anchor Tarah Taylor invited Robin and Ellen to discuss the low cost spay/neuter program sponsored by the SCHS and our partnership with the Margaret B. Mitchell Spay and Neuter Clinic in Bristol, Virginia, to provide affordable spay/neuter services for the Scott County citizens. We also discussed upcoming fundraisers such as the flea market/yard sale planned in late summer, a cookbook, and a project to promote the Scott County Animal Shelter as the "go to" place for pet adoption.

Annual Yard Sale a Great Success!!

After weeks of planning, sorting and pricing, the Scott County Humane Society held its second Yard Sale Fundraiser at the old Food City lot on August 6, 2011.

SCHS asked the public for donations, and they came through once again! There were so many items! Clothing, toys, pet items, appliances (2 dishwashers!), furniture, kitchen items, electronics, exercise equipment, collectables, books, and just plain "stuff". Some of the items actually defied description. "What is it?" queried a puzzled shopper. "Heck if we know!" was the response.

The threat of rain loomed large over this event, but the weather decided to cooperate - if you can call 95 degree heat cooperation. Many bottles of water later the SCHS members called it a day. The oppressive heat failed to affect the enthusiasm of the shoppers who spent \$2,000 to support the Humane Society's fostering program and low cost Spay/Neuter project.

Thanks to everyone for their donations and support of this fundraiser!!!



I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the "lower animals" (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me.

~Mark Twain, Letters from the Earth, 1907

Winter Pet Safety Tips

Dr. Marnie Head, D. V. M.



As cooler weather settles in, there are a few things we need to remember to ensure the health and welfare of our pets. If your pet is housed outside, make sure that adequate shelter is provided. Check water bowls often to ensure that water is fresh and not frozen. Use plastic water and food bowls to prevent a pet's tongue from sticking to frozen metal. Another option might be heated food and water bowls. Many pet stores carry heated floor mats or non-electric warm bedding. Another good option is deeply bedded straw. Do not use a heat lamp or other types of home heaters. These are often the cause of fires. Some pets require extra food in the cold months because trying to keep warm can deplete them of energy. Please check with your pet's veterinarian to see if your pet needs additional nutritional intake.

Cold weather can worsen arthritis in dogs and cats. We mostly see this in middle age and older pets, but young pets can have problems with this as well. Pets who have suffered a broken bone may be more susceptible to arthritis even after the injury has healed. If your pet is having trouble rising or sitting, climbing stairs, or has unusual or painful behavior please talk to your vet about the possibility of arthritis. There are many medicines that are specifically formulated for dogs and cats that can improve their quality of life—especially during the colder months. Do not ever give a human pain medication to your pet. Just one over-the-counter pain med that we may use daily can be potentially fatal to cats and dogs.

Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) is also a very common winter problem for our pets. It is highly toxic to both cats and dogs. They are attracted to it because of its sweet smell and taste. Most pets can show clinical signs within an hour of ingestion. Initially pets may be stumbling, vomiting, and may appear depressed if they have ingested antifreeze. It can eventually lead to kidney failure. Because it has a high death rate, it is recommended to seek veterinary care immediately if you suspect your pet has come into contact with antifreeze. An alternative to ethylene glycol is propylene glycol. It does cost a little more, but ensuring the health of your pet is well worth it. It is also important to clean your pet's paws after coming in from outside. Salt or other ice-melting products may be dangerous if licked and ingested.

Shoemaker Students Donate to SCHS & Scott County Animal Shelter



It is never too early to educate young people about the humane treatment of animals and the students at Shoemaker Elementary have gotten off to a good start. Through "Change for Change," a program which encourages students to donate to local organizations, the students held a "No Snack Day" on May 27, 2011, and made a contribution to the Scott County Humane Society and Scott County Animal Shelter. A \$450 gift card was purchased by Shoemaker students from Food Lion (who also gave us a cash donation) to be used by the Shelter for dog food and \$305 was donated to the SCHS spay/neuter fund.

Southern Graphics donated animal-themed scratch pads for all the students, "honorary" SCHS membership cards, certificates of appreciation, and a beautiful plaque to commemorate Shoemaker's generous contribution.

Thank you to Shoemaker Elementary, Southern Graphics, and Food Lion!!!

Animal Shelter Open House Events



SCHS hosted its first Shelter Open House during the month of May. The purpose of the open house was to raise public awareness of the shelter and its services. Each Saturday morning in May from 9 a.m. to noon, SCHS members gave tours of the shelter and provided information on our low cost spay/neuter program.

Scott County residents donated several hundred pounds of canned and dry dog food, cleaning supplies, dog treats, and bedding for use at the shelter. Lynn Garden Restaurant also donated a gift certificate for two complimentary meals, which were given away as a door prize. We're pleased to report that two shelter dogs were adopted and found their Forever Homes during the Open House events!!

Christmas Spirit at Nickelsville Elementary Talk about Christmas Spirit!

Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts, the fifth grade class at Nickelsville Elementary voted to make donations to the Scott County Humane Society. Robin Skeen met with the class on February 2, 2011, to accept the donation and discuss the activities of the SCHS. The donation was substantial – loads of dog and cat food, plus lots of toys and some cash donations. Robin answered questions from the class (Does the animal shelter have snakes and turtles for adoption?) and discussed the Humane Society's Spay and Neuter program. Each child received a "goody bag" of humane educational information, pencils, and stickers. There was also something for Mom and Dad – a coupon for low cost spay/neuter. Thanks again to the class and teachers Amy Marchant and Sarah McConnell.



Nickelsville Elementary students & teachers show off their Christmas gifts for SCHS.



"PRINCE"

THE UNLIKELY STORY OF A PRINCE

Earlier this year, we received a call from a terminally ill woman who asked us to take her 4-year-old Schipperke and find him a good home. Because of her bad health and other circumstances, the dog had been confined to a small kennel and subsisted on table scraps. Relatives of the lady were fearful of him and he had never been socialized.

Foster mom, Robin Skeen, named the dog Prince, though he was far from princely in appearance and behavior! Luckily, within a few weeks, Prince was adopted by a woman who was active in dog rescue in the area. She had always wanted a Schipperke and was willing to take on the project of socializing, training, and grooming Prince. For the next several months, Prince made great strides as we worked to help him be adoptable. Unfortunately, the adopter notified us that she would not be able to keep Prince.

We felt that we were possibly facing a really tough decision due to Prince's behavior issues that made placement difficult for him. Our goal is to find the right home for any dog we take into our care, but we are not experts on animal behavior or training. We listed him on Petfinder again, mentioning his issues, with little hope of finding an adopter willing to take him.

To our amazement, we received an immediate inquiry from a couple in Indianapolis, Indiana. We stressed all the factors that made Prince a challenge. Undiscouraged, the couple submitted an application and their references were checked within a few hours. All those contacted gave glowing remarks. Now comes the truly amazing part: the husband had frequent flyer miles he could use to FLY to Tri-Cities that very weekend! He would then RENT A CAR to drive Prince back to Indianapolis!! I told him that Prince was especially fearful of men and might bolt at any opportunity. We met on Interstate 26 early Saturday morning and, by nightfall, I received an email that both were safely home.

Here is the latest message we have received concerning Prince:

"Prince has settled right in and is relaxed and content here...he's 100% special and perfect for us no matter what his background. We feel blessed to have him."

When we first heard from his new family, we thought: this is too good to be true. We were wrong! Congratulations to Prince and his new family. Thanks for showing us that some stories do have a happy-ever-after ending!!

The Scott County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors. We couldn't do it without you.

Rosemary Brent

Virginia Gibbs

Vickie Roberts, for Henry Hill

Jeffrey Mann

Nickelsville Elementary School

Marilyn Federici, to honor Delta

Purkey

Brenna Carroll

Kathy Riley

Patrice Q. Castle

Ricky and Patrice Dockery

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AWA Copper Ridge Chapter

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Cathy Turner

Betty and Jim Berry

Helen and John Lane

Ann Gordon

Brittany Tolley

Bill Bowling

J. P. Owen

Ben Mares

Read It Again Bookstore

Celia M. Howell & Jimmy

Osborne,

in memory of George

Sanders

Delta Purkey

Amber Shaffer

E. H. Richmond, Jr.

Edwinna P. Baker

Jo Ann Castle

Kathryn Scott Seal

Don and Gigi Pippin

Mr. and Mrs. John Haynes, in

memory of "Prissy"

Melissa and Mickey Shull, in

memory of "Tookie" Barker

Barbara B. Humphries

Margaret Crouch

Mary B. Edwards, in

memory of "Cookie"

Nancy Horton

Carol and Jay Dixon

Bob and Ellen Barker, in
memory of "Kirby" Fuller

Fern Dockery

Fraternal order of Eagles,

in memory of Thomas

Leitch

Cathy McConnell, in

Memory of Jane Fugate

Judy Guinn, in memory of

Barbara Cook

Mary Edwards, in memory

of Mike Wolfe

Delta Purkey, in memory

of Judy Coley and Charlotte

Wallen

Lennea Hickam, Cathy

Depew, Karen Valk, Jamie

and Doug Larkins, Sandra

Taylor, Genevieve Worley,

James R. Morrison, in

memory of Peggy Fugate

Meade

The towns of Duffield,

Dungannon, Gate City,

Nickelsville, Weber City in

Scott County, VA

SCHS

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TO: