



Animal Chatter



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ANIMAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

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JACK B. JOHNSON
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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Charles W. Wilson
Director

Shelter Dog Becomes Super Hero



Super Hero Beauregard

Rachel Cross

never imagined that adopting a dog from the Prince George's County Animal Management Group (AMG) would one day save her life.

In February 2006, Rachel and her husband decided it was time to add a dog to the family and felt very strongly that they should adopt from a shelter. They adopted a dog who Rachel says "resembled an underweight albino Muppet." They decided to name him

Beauregard, and adopting him proved to be one of the best things they had ever done.

On August 17, 2007, Beauregard woke Rachel from a nap by jumping on her and anxiously barking, which is unusual behavior for this normally mellow dog. Rachel awoke to find that the back of the house was on fire, and the home's smoke detectors had not alerted them to the fire. The Cross family lost most of their home and possessions in the fire but escaped with their lives thanks to Beauregard. They have since rebuilt their home, and, according to Rachel, the now three-year-old dog has blossomed into a "healthy 72-pound mutt."

If you're ready to add an animal companion to your family, visit us today. You may just adopt the next super hero!

New Animal Shelter Opens Soon



With great anticipation, AMG is proud to announce that our new animal shelter will be opening soon. We are scheduled to move into our new state-of-the-art facility by June 1, 2009. The new building, located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro, will house up to 350 dogs and 150 cats. The current facility only houses 100 dogs and 50 cats. The new facility will have a room to house exotic animals such as iguanas, a cat mall, and two nurseries — one for dogs with pups and one for cats with kittens. A "puppy palace" and a "cat condo" will be located near the front door, so visitors can see some of our adoptable animals when entering

the building. Adoption counseling rooms will be available for potential adopters to spend quiet time with an animal they wish to adopt and to speak with adoption counselors who can help them find the "perfect" pet. The facility will also include a spay/neuter clinic and a community room that will be available for events and meetings. Future plans for the facility include a barn to house livestock and a dog park available for public use. Watch for further details in the next newsletter and in area newspapers regarding the opening of the facility and upcoming events.

AMG's Pet Food Drive a Success



AMG sponsored a Pet Food Drive from February 2 through February 24 and collected over 400 pounds of food to help animal owners feed their pets during these difficult economic times. A special thanks goes out to the citizens and employees of Prince George's County Government for their generous donations to this worthwhile endeavor.

June Is Adopt-a-Cat Month



Have you considered adding a cat to your family? If so, join AMG as we celebrate June as National Adopt-a-Cat Month. Anyone adopting a cat from our shelter in June is eligible to enter our drawing for a PetSmart gift card.

Birthday Presents Go to the Dogs

A little girl with a big heart wanted to help the dogs at the Animal Management Facility. Clarke Thompson-Gay, a second-grader at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School in Glenn Dale, has a strong love for animals and is hoping to add a dog to her family someday. Inspired by her favorite television show "Animal Cops," Clarke asked her friends to donate presents for the animals at the Facility instead of giving her presents for her eighth birthday. On January 27, 2009, she presented Chief Rodney Taylor with a large number of toys given to her by her friends for the dogs housed at the County's shelter. On behalf of the dogs, the AMG staff offers a heartfelt thank you to Clarke and her friends for their thoughtful gifts.



If You Think Your Pet Can't Get Lost... Think Again!



A delighted Rochelle Wade is reunited with her mixed-breed Schnauzer, Chase.

Rochelle Wade is a responsible pet owner who keeps her dog on her property and in the house when she is not home. Last November, someone broke into her home while she was out.

When she returned, she realized her seven-year-old Schnauzer mix, Chase, was gone. Rochelle was not sure if the burglars took Chase or if he ran away. Several weeks later, a citizen brought Chase to the Animal Management Facility. The dog was found many miles from his home. As with all dogs that come into the Facility, Chase was scanned for a microchip. Fortunately, he had one, and the staff traced it back to Rochelle. Rochelle and Chase were reunited on December 19.

If your pet does not have a microchip, consider speaking to your veterinarian about this internal identification system. Microchips are valuable tools in helping to reunite lost pets with their owners. All cats and dogs adopted from AMG receive a microchip before leaving our facility. For more information on microchips, contact AMG at (301) 499-8300.

National Dog Bite Prevention Week



May 17–23 is National Dog Bite Prevention Week. AMG would like to give you some safety tips to reduce the risk of you or your loved ones being bitten by a dog.

Each year, nearly five million people are bitten by dogs. Of those, almost 70% are children. On average, about a dozen people die each year from dog bites. Some of the reasons why a dog may bite include fear, to protect their territory and to establish dominance. However there is good news — most dog bites can be prevented.

There are ways that you and your family can avoid being bitten. Adults and children should always be cautious around strange dogs and treat their own pets with respect. Babies and children should never be left alone with a dog. Never disturb a dog that is sick, sleeping, eating, playing with a toy or nursing puppies. Do not run past a dog



since they naturally like to chase things. Never approach a strange dog that is alone without his owner, especially if the dog is behind a fence, tied up or in a parked car. If a dog approaches you, stay still. Usually the dog will sniff you then go away when he determines that you are not a threat. If a dog seems dangerous, avoid eye contact, and try to stay still until the dog leaves or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.

If you own a dog, there are ways you can significantly reduce the risk that he will bite someone. Socialize your dog by introducing him to many different types of people and situations. Train your dog to learn basic commands, and teach him appropriate behavior. Do not allow your dog to run at large, and don't chain your dog outside since he may become territorial and aggressive. Have your pet spayed or neutered, as this makes them less likely to want to run at large and to bite, and keep them current on their rabies shot. Make sure that your dog treats all people as friends because it is not realistic to expect him to decide who belongs on your property and who doesn't.






If you or someone you know is bitten by a dog, immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water, and contact your physician for additional care and advice. Be sure to report the bite to the Prince George's County Police Department at (301) 333-4000.

A Fourth of July Warning



The Fourth of July can be very difficult for companion animals, and it is the busiest holiday for animal care and control officers. With the hustle and bustle of the celebration and the loud noise of the fireworks, animals suffer severe stress. Many terrified pets run away from home and get lost or hit by cars.

To help keep your pet safe through the holiday, follow these tips:

-  Restrict him to one room of the house such as a bedroom;
-  Give him a T-shirt with your smell on it to cuddle up with;
-  Put a radio in the room turned to a classical music station with the volume down low;
-  Try to hang out with him while you read a book or watch TV; and
-  Make sure he has on a collar with his County license and I.D. tag in case he should get out of the house.

If your pet gets loose and runs away, please contact AMG at (301) 499-8308 to file a lost report. While a lost report is helpful, your description of your pet and ours may be very different, so we encourage you to visit us daily (if possible) until you have found your pet. You may also wish to contact veterinary offices in your area and leave a lost report with them.

AMG's Web Site

If you would like to stay up-to-date on animal-related information, learn more about our services, view animals available for adoption or read the most recent issue of this quarterly newsletter, you can check out our web page at www.co.pg.md.us/DER/AMG. Here you will find all the latest information regarding our facility.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering at the Animal Management Facility, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, JoAnne Brown, at (301) 499-8305 for an application. We offer positions in the kennel walking dogs, assisting in schools and summer camps with educational presentations, doing community outreach at special events or helping to show dogs at local pet stores on weekends. You can help to make a positive difference in an animal's life by volunteering. Call us today!

Local Events

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals/Humane Society (SPCA/HS) of Prince George's County holds a rabies shot clinic on the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville, which is located across the street from our shelter. Fees for rabies shots are \$8.00, distemper shots are \$12 and microchips are available for \$25. Please bring proof of a prior rabies shot (a rabies certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot. Without it, your pet will receive a one-year shot. Only cash and credit cards are accepted; checks are not accepted. All animals must be leashed or in a carrier. Visit the SPCA/HS web page at www.pgspca.org and check the "Events" listing to confirm the date of the next clinic.



"Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest






More than 300 entries were submitted in last year's "Be Kind to Animals" poster contest.

AMG is proud to sponsor its 16th Annual "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest. The contest is open to all elementary school students in Prince George's County and is designed to teach children the importance of pet care and pet owner responsibility. The contest begins March 1, 2009 and ends March 31, 2009. Contest rules and entry forms will be sent to the schools by mid-February. Entries will be judged on overall theme, presentation and message. Prizes will be awarded to the Grand Prize Winner and the First-, Second- and Third-Place Winners in kindergarten through sixth grade.

AMG Welcomes Your Donations

The Animal Management Facility is always in need of donations and animal supplies. If you can contribute any of the following items, your generosity would be greatly appreciated:

-  Blankets
-  Towels
-  Laundry Detergent
-  Hard Rubber Toys
-  Cat and Dog Treats

-  Bleach
-  Newspaper

AMG also welcomes your financial gift donation. Checks and money orders should be made payable to "Prince George's County," with a note at the bottom for "donation." Funds can be mailed to:

Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Animal Management Group
8311 D'Arcy Road
Forestville, Maryland 20747

Important Phone Numbers

Animal Management Group
General Information..... (301) 499-8300
Humane Education..... (301) 499-8305
Lost & Found..... (301) 499-8308
Pet Licensing..... (301) 499-8323
Volunteer Information..... (301) 499-8305
SPCA Spay/Neuter Information..... (301) 262-5625, ext. 6

Wildlife Information
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Wildlife Hotline..... 1-877-463-6497

To Report a Bite Case
County Police..... (301) 336-8800
Health Department..... (301) 583-3750

Sheri Lunsford, Writer

Spay/Neuter Saves Lives!