



Until Every Pet Has A Home

PAW NOTES

An e-NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

MAY 2011

A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter
420 Industrial Drive
Naperville, Il 60563
630-355-2299
www.adoptpetshelter.org

Woof, Walk, Wags and WIND!!

A big thank you to all who attended and donated, watch Facebook for recaps and fundraising totals!

Walkathon May. 1st 2011



It was a hoppity good time! On April 16th, kids of all ages, dogs and cats joined the Easter Bunny at Country Inns and Suites, Naperville to celebrate Spring. Everyone enjoyed breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, games, pictures with the Easter Bunny and plenty of adorable A.D.O.P.T. pets and alumni.



Alvin and the Chipmunks, Now Showing at A.D.O.P.T.

By Candace Adkins





SAVE A DATE

- [Chicago Slaughter Indoor Football](#): May 14th and June 4th at the Sears Center Hoffman Estate. A.D.O.P.T. will have a booth featuring our dogs.
- [Farmer's Market Bake Sale](#): June 4th through October 29th.
- [Summer Day Camp Sessions for "Camp Paws & Claws"](#): Ages 5-8 weeks of June 13th and August 1st, Ages 9-12 weeks of June 20th and August 8th.
- [Chip, Clip & Dip](#) at A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter: July 18th.
- [Heartland Blood Drive](#) at A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter: July 18th
- [White Sox Fundraiser](#) (Sox vs. Tigers): July 27th.
- For details of all events check the [Events Web Page](#)



Supply of the Month

Purina One dry kitten food,
Royal Canin Baby Kat food and
canned kitten food

I can always tell when spring has sprung, because the chipmunks emerge from their winter hiding. They love to tease my cats and steal the peanuts we leave out for the squirrels. This year is no different at A.D.O.P.T. except that our chipmunks are Alvin, Simon and Theodore, the most adorable kittens ever. I know, I say this about all of our kittens and with kitten season now upon us I have already said it numerous times.

Kitten season unquestionably impacts our shelter. With the increase in the number of kittens, we quickly go from zero to 30 in just weeks and that momentum carries well into fall. The demand for care and food for all these little ones significantly increases. In addition, the attention our adult cats usually get is now shared with the many playful balls of fur we have. Kitten season is a yearly phenomenon that has an effect on animal shelters across the nation. We are all challenged to meet the demands of caring for these delicate creatures while balancing the adult populations we already have.

Whatever their names or wherever they come to us from, one thing is certain, they have found the best place possible when they end up at A.D.O.P.T. Thanks to our dedicated and skilled fosters, cat care staff and volunteers, we continue to successfully manage this yearly event.

Not only is A.D.O.P.T. committed to the rescue and placement of kittens in need we also make a long-term impact in pet overpopulation through our spay/neuter clinic by offering low cost services to animal rescues as well as a low-income program to the public.

Help us make a difference this season by fostering, donating food and supplies or by spreading the word about spay and neuter. The kittens and chipmunks say "thank you".

FUN FACT

Kitten Season is upon us, did you know that A.D.O.P.T. rescued over 200 kittens last year?



BY THE NUMBERS

May Adoptions

	Cats	Dogs
Received	21	36
Adopted	37	54

May Spay/Neuter Surgeries

	Cats	Dogs
Shelter Animals	35	26
Rescue Clinic	39	41
Low Income Clinic	6	4



Wags Or Whiskers Award

IT'S A PAW-TY!

Come celebrate your next birthday party with us at

A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter

Party Highlights:

- Two party leaders who supervise the party and all activities
- * Dog or cat theme decorated room
- * Dog or cat theme party supplies
- * Supervised playtime with our cats and dogs
- * Printable invitations & thank you notes
- * Behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter

Additional Options:

- * Dog or cat theme goody bags
- * Dog or cat decorated cupcakes
- * Pizza & beverages

Contact Bridget at:
bridgethatlestad@sbcglobal.net

(Trudy) (Reese)



What Makes A.D.O.P.T. Special?

By: Donna Picard

This month we highlight our foster homes that specialize in kittens. We are extremely fortunate to have several foster homes that help us

with the many kittens that come our way this time of year. As we enter kitten season we realize our success in saving kittens is directly related to the many wonderful foster homes we have that will literally take in litter after litter in the upcoming months.

Our kitten fosters take in moms with newborns, pregnant moms or mom-less kittens. Each of these situations can present their own challenges. Pregnant moms may require help during the birthing process or even need help as a new mom once the kittens are born. Mom-less kittens may require bottle-feeding and much more. Fosters have to take on the role of being the "mom". Imagine setting your alarm clock for a feeding every 3-4 hours or coming home from work at lunchtime to bottle-feed. Or even taking kittens with you to work so they can be fed on a

The April nominees were: Janet Garcia, Peggy Sue Seehafer, Mare Potts, Betty Weiler, Michelle Watson, Sherri Oslick, Judy Lampa, Aaron Beatty and the Board of Directors

The Drawing Winner was:

Sherri Oslick
For caring about the animals and her continued membership.

Anyone can nominate a volunteer, member or employee to recognize his or her "above and beyond" contribution to our organization. Nominations can be dropped in the boxes located throughout the shelter.

Low Income Spay/Neuter Days

May 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29		31				

Did you know that May 30th is National Hug Your Cat Day? Feel free to give out hugs!

regular basis.

Fostering kittens can require a commitment of up to two months and many of our foster homes take on multiple moms and litters at one time. The immune system of kittens can be delicate and often fosters deal with the emotional stakes of trying to save the lives of the most fragile.

Our kitten fosters inspire us and make us proud. We are thankful to have such a dedicated and compassionate group of volunteers that genuinely know the meaning of making a difference in the lives of many.

**Humane Education:
"Where kids connect with animals"**

By: Donna Picard



A.D.O.P.T.'s humane education program offers children of all ages a variety of opportunities for hands on experiences to learn about our shelter, the animals we help and the important issues in animal welfare today. The importance of humane education ties back to our mission statement.

The purpose of our humane education program is to provide a variety of unique learning experiences that support the bond between people and animals by nurturing knowledge, compassion and respect towards all living things.

Our educational themes speak to what it means to be humane, what is a pet shelter, responsible pet ownership, pet overpopulation and lending a hand. We currently teach these themes through our group tours, day camps and birthday parties.

We feel the future of animal welfare lies squarely in the hands of our children and we are committed to sharing our messages with them in fun, educational and memorable ways.

Fostering: A Family Affair

By Toni Robinson



Wet Noses and Warm Hearts

We want to give a great big shout out to volunteer and exceptional baker Laura Cox. Many of you might not know who Laura is because her volunteer work is truly behind the scenes making yummy treats in support of the animals of A.D.O.P.T.

Laura has supported many of our "cake worthy" events with her unique creations. She is always happy to supply us with cakes or cupcakes for our volunteer celebrations, the Farmers Market and kid breakfast events as well. Laura has also donated her goodies to our many humane education programs such as birthday parties, day camps and this years walk-a-thon.

We thank Laura for her generosity, creativity and scrumptious goodies!

Great place to find
CUBS & SOX
tickets!!!



TIX4CAUSE

TIX4CAUSE is a ticket

When I was growing up we always had dogs, some temporary (we raised beagles) and some family pets. I used to tell my children that I never had nearly as many toys as they had, but we always had puppies to play with. So, they bugged us for a dog. Four children and now they wanted a dog. Hmm..., who will take care of the dog, walk it, feed it, train it, and clean up after it? "We will!!!" Hmm... Thus the idea of a trial run was born - fostering a dog and see if they pitched in as they said they would. Our first dog was amazing. We taught her to sit and roll over. The kids walked her, I walked her, my husband walked her. She was smothered with attention. She thrived. And then we got a call, "can you bring her in on Saturday, we have a family interested in adopting her?". Were we attached to her? Yes, but she was our first dog and we knew going in that she was not our dog. We were the caregivers for a dog that belonged to ADOPT. OK, we'll bring her in. There's a family out there that wants to give a permanent home to this dog. More dogs need to be fostered. We let her go.

So began the cycle of fostering dogs. The varieties of dogs that come through our door make it a new adventure every time and the kids get excited when they hear a new one (or sometimes a litter of puppies) is coming. Having a break between allows us to welcome the next dog with enthusiasm and the kids continue to take their turns walking, feeding and yes even cleaning up after them. Years from now when someone asks my kids, "Did you have a dog growing up?" They can reply, "Oh ya, we had 50 dogs, sometimes 9 at a time" They are very proud of their contribution to this cause. Having a dog humbles you and nurtures your soul.

"Oh, how can you bear to

exchange website, allowing ticketholders to donate unwanted tickets and A.D.O.P.T. will receive 100% of the proceeds. Please donate your unwanted tickets today! [Click here](#) to go **their website.**



**The Animal Rescue Site
\$300,000 Shelter Challenge of
2011!!!**

Now you can help A.D.O.P.T. with a few mouse clicks! **It's easy:**

[The Animal Rescue Site.com](http://TheAnimalRescueSite.com)

* Type in A.D.O.P.T. , Select State- IL and hit Search. * Hit the VOTE button next to A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter, Naperville and confirm your vote * You can cast one vote every day for A.D.O.P.T.

A new challenge started April 4th, so remember to keep voting!



give them up?"

By: Janet Potts

That's the question I always get asked when people find out I'm a foster for A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter. I won't deny that it can be hard sometimes. However, I remind myself that these adorable fur balls are the easiest to get adopted and by giving them up, that frees me to take care of other cats and kittens in need.

Raising a litter of kittens is hard work. Rewarding, but hard. Kittens only a few days or weeks old can be very fragile and many don't have the greatest start in life to begin with. They often arrive covered in fleas, suffering from ear mites, malnutrition and upper respiratory infections.

When there's a mom, it's a little easier since she does the bulk of caring for them. For the first several weeks I weigh the kittens every day as they should be putting on several tenths of an ounce each day. Like humans, cats and kittens will lose their appetite when they get sick. Being so little, they can easily go down hill unless they get regular nourishment. Sometimes that means force feeding them when they don't want to eat, at least until their appetite returns and they are eating on their own.

Having fosters adds at least 2-3 hours of extra work to my day. There's the twice daily litter box cleaning, providing fresh food and water and just the general tidying up of a room that has been attacked by rampaging kittens. Then there's the all important "socializing" which involves playing with the kittens, petting them, picking them up and smothering them with kisses. It's a tough job but someone has to do it.

By the time kittens are ready to return to the shelter they have entered what I call the Kitten Terrible Twos. At two months, kittens are at their most active and are literally bouncing off the walls and I'm ready to see them head off to their new life.

Within Our Four Walls

A chat with our Director

By: Mary Weiler

I stopped by the shelter last week for a quick chat with Rich Glessner, our Operations Director, hoping to find the answers to a few questions that were solicited from volunteers about the shelter. My bet is that you too



2174
Volunteer Hours
recorded at the
Shelter for
May 2011!



- **Birthday Party Hosts:**
Come party with the animals! Birthday Party Hosts help set up, take down and Supervise the party and activities for children. Our parties include animal interaction time so you must be comfortable with both cats and dogs.
- Offsite Event Participants
- Foster Homes
- Website Maintenance
- Graphic Artists
- Teachers K-6
- Bakers are always needed

have pondered them;

Let's start out simple; people always want to know numbers, let's start with the numbers on these items.

Q. Cat litter, how much do we use and how does it come packaged?

A. About 4000 lbs., we get 2 pallets of 40-50lbs bags each monthly.

Q. Monthly utilities costs for the shelter

A. Electric/water is roughly \$1200, and gas is seasonal ~\$650 winter and ~\$250 summer

Q. How many Kuranda dog beds do we have and why?

A. We currently have 38 and they are counted and inspected regularly to ensure we always have enough. As you know, the beds are comfortable, durable, and easy to clean bedding that provides comfort for the dogs while they are with us. Not to mention chew proof!

Q. How many animals have been returned to us, for any reason?

A. In the 8 years we have been at this site, about 83 animals have returned, and that number is pretty well split 50/50 between the dogs and cats.

That's it for the numbers, just a couple more questions for today.

Q. Who cuts the grass?

A. The shelter contracts a lawn maintenance company to take care of the shelter grounds. We also have about 12 people yearly, which serve 40-100 hours each of community service for DuPage County at the shelter. They do not interact with the animals, but are often asked to do work around the shelter grounds.

Q. Who picked the spot where the Shelter stands today?

A. The land here in Naperville was donated to A.D.O.P.T.

for the Farmer's Market

Thank you for reading!

We appreciate your feedback and if you would like to author an article please contact Betty Weiler at constantcontact@adoptpetshelter.org

Your Newsletter Team: Mary Weiler, Candace Adkins, Donna Picard and Betty Weiler, Editor

Find us on **Facebook** 



and has served us well.

Q. Who designed the building and does A.D.O.P.T. own it?

A. The board of directors and building committee back in 2000-2003 time frames are the ones who designed it. The shelter was built with the idea that there would be a designated side for both cats and dogs, along with a medical suite and outdoor runs. A.D.O.P.T. owns the entire property, land and buildings outright. As I mentioned, the land was donated and within the first 2 years the building was paid for by the sale of another A.D.O.P.T. property in Boulder Terrace where the shelter started, and several bequests.

Here is the last question for the day so you can get back to getting things ready for the walkathon this weekend;

Q. Who were the first dog / cats adopted from the new building? Can you give me a few names? Are there any pictures? Okay, that was 3 questions...

A. Well that is something we will have to look up, I think that would make a great story, to see where they are now, we have been here 8 years so there are probably a few that are still with us!

Stay tuned.... those will be stories for the coming months!



[Privacy Policy.](#)

A.D.O.P.T. Pet Shelter | 420 Industrial Dr. | Naperville | IL | 60563