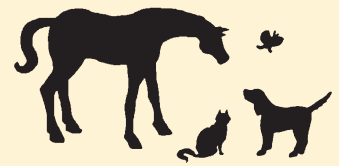


FMCA news



"Dignity for Animals"

FIGHT ANIMAL CRUELTY



Kathy Milani/The HSUS

Message from the President

Animal hoarding is one of the most flagrant forms of animal cruelty, impacting thousands of animals, mostly dogs and cats in communities nationwide. "Animal hoarding is a complex and intricate issue with far-reaching effects that encompass mental health, animal welfare and public safety concern."¹ Although historically, the animal hoarder was thought to be a well-meaning humane individual who took on too much responsibility, it is now thought that a hoarder suffers from attachment disorders coupled with personality disorders, paranoia, delusional thinking, depression and other mental illnesses. A quarter million animals are victims and 900 to 2,000 new cases are reported in the United States each year. Because hoarders do not provide even basic care, the victims suffer horrible abuse including severe malnutrition, untreated medical conditions such as open sores, cancers, advanced dental and eye disease, and severe psychological distress for years! The unsanitary conditions pose serious health problems for both occupants and nearby residents. In addition, the costs of cleaning up a hoarding case can place financial stress on local humane groups and put a severe strain on volunteers and law enforcement officials. In the short term, neglected and abused animals should be removed, but in the long term, only improved laws can prevent hoarding. The public also needs to be educated as to their role in preventing what the Animal Legal Defense Fund stated is "the number one animal cruelty crisis facing companion animals in communities throughout the country."²

PROFILE OF AN ANIMAL HOARDER

The animal hoarder is defined by the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, an independent group of academic researchers based in Massachusetts, as a collector having:

- "More than the typical number of companion animals
- Inability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care with this neglect often resulting in starvation, illness and death
- Denial of the inability to provide this minimal care and the impact of that failure on the

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Facebook

Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc. (FMCA) is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt humane organization. FMCA does not have a shelter. All rescued animals are cared for in foster homes. We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on private donations.

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Interested in sharing a heart-warming poem or article of interest to be included in our next newsletter? Contributions are welcome. Please mail your articles to FMCA, PO Box 386, Germantown, MD 20875 or send by email to fmca volunteer@comcast.net.

Do you have friends or neighbors who you think might like to join Friends? Please feel free to share this newsletter with them. We would love to have them as new members!

Don't forget to visit our website
www.fmca.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

animals, the household, and the human occupants of the dwelling."³

Several types of hoarders have been identified: the overwhelmed caregiver, the rescuer hoarder, the exploiter hoarder, the breeder hoarder (think puppy mills), and the incipient hoarder. "While many hoarders begin with the best intentions, they tend to lack the means or tools necessary to care for the number of pets in their care."⁴ Eventually, the compulsive care giving is pursued to maximize controls and fulfill unmet human needs. Although many animal



Kathy Milani/The HSUS

hoarders appear intelligent and clearly believe they are helping their animals, their psychological impairments have caused a total loss of insight: they are blind to the lack of care and extreme cruelty they are inflicting on the animals. Although treatment involving a combination of cognitive, behavioral and drug therapy has been tried, the recidivism rate is nearly 100 percent.

A detailed description of a hoarding case by the first responders will both upset and anger you. (It will resemble my description of a "Puppy Mill," FMCA Winter 2007-8.) A sampling of the hoarding cases from the animal hoarding project shows the wide range of hoarder profiles and the extent to which the condition rather than the number of animals is so important: a girl in her 20's with 11 sick pets in close quarters, used to be the life of the party; an exotic pet owner shared a small home with 50 reptiles; a woman afraid to let her 8 dogs outside, allowed them to destroy her home; a young man felt compelled to rescue pit bulls when he should have been caring for his two year old daughter; a newlywed substituted pets for kids, but her unspayed and unneutered cat population of 70 was escalating rapidly; a New York couple kept fifty severely matted Pomeranian dogs in their filthy one bedroom apartment.

Hoarding of any sort poses significant environmental and health concerns for occupants and nearby residents. It also places a burden on the social, animal, and legal networks in any community. Air pollution from gases of decay such as ammonia and bioaerosols can affect the health of animal and human occupants, neighbors, and first responders. Fire hazards from extreme clutter, damaged electrical wiring, and blockage of exits are often encountered. Infestations of insects and rodents can lead to the spread of zoonotic (infectious)

(continued on page 7)

Spring Into FMCA's Luncheon!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. for FMCA's annual spring luncheon. This year's event will be held at the 7,200 square foot Potomac home of FMCA president, Claire Proffitt. Come see Claire's lovely English Georgian home!

Built in 1979, its exterior is composed of used, Old Baltimore brick. The home's expansive interior features a large foyer with a baby grand piano and curved staircase. The upper front hall is distinguished by a gallery of railing running the circumference of the grand space decorated in Williamsburg inspired paint colors. A wealth of antiques and oil paintings create the perfect showcase for Claire's vast collection of metal and bronze sculptures purchased on her annual treks to Kenya.

In addition to the delicious food from River Falls Market, there will be door prizes and a silent auction too! Featured in the silent auction will be a gorgeous Pink Sapphire necklace, beautiful beaded dog collars and leads, and three Kazuri (Swahili word for small and beautiful) necklaces.

We hope you will help us with our membership drive by inviting several friends to join you at the luncheon. Help our non-profit grow! **Reservations are required in advance.** Cost: \$40.00 per person. Please RSVP by sending your check payable to **FMCA** to: Winnie Reed, 14211 Dufief Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.



PETSMART

Hosts our weekly
Cat Adoption Events

Visit us on Saturdays
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
at the Luv-A-Pet Center
in the Germantown store!

Milestone Center
20924 Frederick Road
Germantown, MD

SAVE MONEY, GO GREEN

VIRIDIAN

Make the switch to VIRIDIAN today!

FMCA has joined the Residual Fundraising Program with **Viridian Energy**, a socially responsible retail energy company that supplies competitively priced green energy in our area.

Sign up as a **Viridian** customer, and save money over time on the supply portion of your energy bill. Do your part to help the environment by choosing greener energy and you would be doing all of this while helping **FMCA**. As a **Viridian** customer, **FMCA** receives income based on your energy usage. Plus **FMCA** receives a \$250 bonus for every Customer milestone they reach.

This truly is a Win-Win-Win for all while supporting **FMCA**.

Choose from **Viridian's Fixed Rate Plan** or **Variable Rate Plan** with two green options!

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Ann Wagner, *Viridian Independent Associate* – 301-512-0232

www.viridian.com/fmca

Cat Facts

Susan Cameron

Training your cat? Or is your cat training you?

This may seem like an oxymoron, but yes, we can train our cats.

Most believe that cats are independent and have a mind of their own. Actually, they are quite responsive and dependent. They love their owners, and crave their attention and support. Some times an animal seemingly doesn't obey, because they simply don't understand what the owner is trying to communicate.

Time, patience and positive reinforcement are key. Never scold a cat. Instead, praise the animal for good behavior. Any cat can learn. It is best to start young, but possible at any age.

Start by training your cat to come when called. Hold a treat and call its name. Find a quiet room without a lot of distractions. Cats are unique creatures, and highly sensitive to noise and abrupt movements. Use short simple commands. Get on the same level as the cat, give the command in a happy voice, and reward the cat with a treat when it comes to you. Praise the cat as well. Then move away and repeat.

If the cat becomes bored and distracted, try another time. Try to do this two or three times a day, using the same command and the same tone of voice. Once you have established this command, you can move onto other things – such as the crate.



We think it is impossible to get our cats into a crate. Here are some helpful tips. Cats like warm dark places. So, place a comfortable blanket and maybe a toy in its crate. Praise the animal when you place it in the crate. Leave the cat there for a few minutes, and then let it out. Don't praise the cat when it leaves the crate. Begin to leave the cat in the crate for longer periods of time, always rewarding the cat whenever it goes back in.

Eventually the cat will be comfortable being in a crate.

Because of their exquisite sensitivity, cats need to be handled carefully and gently.

They can be skittish, mostly because they sense something that agitates them in their environment. They don't like noise or sudden movements. They love warmth, comfort, peace and tranquility.

And now the best part of being a cat owner – all that we learn from them . . .

“to go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence; to avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit; to nurture strength of the spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune; to be gentle with yourself and in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your souls (“Desiderata” Max Ehrmann).”

They can train us, if we are willing to be open, to live our lives with grace and ease.

Our cats are our Zen Masters.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Each week, several of FMCA's foster kitties are showcased in the Germantown PetSmart Luv-A-Pet center (Milestone Center).

Many thanks to the following people for giving the cats and kittens their daily dose of TLC and keeping the cages clean!



Susan Airis-Epes
Julia and Drew Barto
Morgan Campbell and Matt Fowler
Reed de Moss
Colleen Fishter
Shelly Murillo
Kim Paddision-Herr
Stephanie Pewitt
Ted Rosner and Olivia Rosner
Kathy Schonely
Sharron Snapp and Emily Snapp
Zea and Rob Van Tassell



2011 Adoption and Fix-It-Fund Report

During 2011, FMCA's Adoption and Rescue Group found new, loving homes for 186 cats and kittens. Please help FMCA increase the number of adoptions in 2012 by spreading the word about the group to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

Nine animals owned by individuals or families facing economic hard times were spayed/neutered or received other veterinary care through FMCA. We were able to TNR (trap-neuter-return) 63 feral cats due to the generous donations to the Fix-It-Fund.

Update On Kash

Several years ago, FMCA helped provide medical care for a horse named Kash. Kash, owned by Sher Povinale, director of House with a Heart Senior Pet Sanctuary, is now 26 years old. He is fostered by Kathy and Robert Taylor who own and operate TaylorMade stables in Mt. Airy.

Kathy provided us with an update on Kash!

"We at TaylorMade Stables just adore Kash. He is loved by all. The highlight of my day is driving up to the barn to have Kash greet me with his little head sticking out the window to see what is going on in the parking lot. He is turned out each day with his "herd." He has been with the same group for about eight years. A few new ones come in and a few leave. It is our designated "pony" field. Kash is the patriarch of the bunch.



Each night when I go down to do the nighttime check, Kash gets an extra hug and a few treats. My children just love him too. I think he has been here almost as long as my son can remember. So Kash is definitely a fixture here at the barn. He really enjoys his bran mashes each week. They are nice and warm during the winter months.

I cannot imagine going to the barn without having him there. We have children who come to the stable, and I teach them horsemanship. We use Kash in the classes; he is groomed and bathed. He enjoys the attention so much!

I cannot say enough about this horse. He is truly a blessing in our life."

Canine Obesity

Ellie Brown

The Cornell University of Veterinary Medicine warns us that canine obesity in this country has reached epidemic proportions. Nearly one half of the dogs in the U.S. are overweight and one fourth are obese. These statistics rival those of our human populations!

Medical studies have shown that dogs on a lean sensible diet live longer and have fewer health problems. Conditions exacerbated by overweight include osteoarthritis, hip dysplasia, diabetes, and cardiovascular impairment. If you think that your dog is a bit pudgy, do consult your vet about a feeding program that will help him lose weight safely. Your pet will live a happier, healthier and longer life.

A few other health and safety tips from the Cornell Veterinary University are as follows. One: See your vet regularly for check-ups, and to ensure his protection against heartworm, Lyme disease, distemper and rabies. Two: Have your female dog spayed before her first heat to guard against mammary cancer. Three: Do not give bones to your dog. None are safe. Chocolate, grapes, and raisins are a no-no as well. Lastly – make provisions for your pets in your will! Name a friend or a relative who is willing to take immediate responsibility for your pet. You do not want your Best Friend taken to the shelter!



Congratulations to "MY ABBY"



Household Pet (HHP) "My Abby" owned and loved by Kathy Schonely, FMCA volunteer and foster parent, at the Winchester, Virginia cat show in October 2011 with just some of her winning rosettes.

She was adopted from Frederick County Animal Control and enjoys showing in the HHP Class of CFA (Cat Fanciers Association) cat shows.

DONATIONS

We would like to extend our thanks to the individuals and organizations that made our mission possible in 2011!

Linda Abbott
Susan Airis-Epes
Carolyn S. Akin
Daisy Albanese
Terri Allen
Dr. and Mrs. Chester W. Anderson
Arts of Asia – Rich Blum
Dori Bailin
Julia and Drew Barto
Brenda J. Bayus
Linda Bennett
Andrew Berman
Betty Jane's Sweet Delights –
Bobbie Pontzer
Laura R. Bivans
Jean Black
Diane Blomquist
Beverly and James Blondell
Elizabeth Bradford
Irene Brody
Ellie Brown
Susan Cameron
Morgan Campbell
Alice Clogg
Diane Colgan
L. Jean Colison
Karen Collins
Pam Cook
Joan Cormack
Patricia Corthell and Bill Suydam
Pam and Phillip Cota
Polly Croyder
Carole Danielson
Marilyn and Harold Dankner
Pam Dawson
Deco – Allen Small
Reed de Moss
Stephanie DeMoss
Kim Desario
Kristen Doermann
Linda Doermann
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Natalie Falk
Laura Feidelseit
Colleen Fishter
Luanne Flynn
Matt Fowler
Marina Fox
Frederick County Humane Society
Gaithersburg Veterinary Clinic
Joan Gebhardt
Cathy George

James Gibbs
Sharon and Mark Gilder
Elizabeth Goggin
Ellen Gordon
Lynn Greenwald
Jacqueline Handley
Joan Harlin
Mary Hartz
Hearts Delight – Phyllis Condolon
Nancy and John Helsel
Sue Highsmith
Dr. Bonnie Hileman
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Betty and John Jones
Karen Kay's Cakes
Millicent Kaufman
Eleanor M. Keyser
Dr. Jenny Krueger
Lake Forest Animal Hospital
Janet and Tom Lamkin
Irene Lavorini
Amy Lee
Linda Lerch
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Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac
Tracy and Ryan Love
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Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McGarry
Linda McMakin
Shelley McVicker
Metro Ferals Spay/Neuter Clinics
Arlene L. Mirkin
Brenda and Nick Monaco
Montgomery County Humane Society
Montgomery Village Veterinary Center
June Morey
Marcia Morgan
Shelly Murillo
Suzanne P. Murphy
Dr. Daniel and Jo Anne Negola
Negola's Ark
Bonnie and Douglas O'Connor
Leslie and James O'Gwin Rivers
John O'Reilly
Jane Olmsted
Kim and Dave Paddison-Herr

Anne Panella
Gail Peterson
Petfinder
PetSmart Charities
Stephanie Pewitt
Nancy Piatt
Terry Pogue
Claire B.M. Proffitt
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Geraden Ward
Washington Humane Society
Billie Webster
Marion Webster
Anni Williams
Charlie Wilson
WPG Solutions, Inc.

"What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." –Helen Keller

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 2)

diseases. Animal hoarding places a tremendous strain on local law enforcement personnel and already overburdened animal shelters. They also give legitimate animal rescue groups a "bad name."

Animal hoarding is difficult to prosecute for a variety of reasons. Animal abuse cases are assigned a relatively low priority. Many do not know how severe the abuse can be in hoarding cases. The high cost of caring for the rescued animals is a huge disincentive to prosecuting hoarding cases. In addition, few states have statutory language specifically addressing animal hoarding and the minimal care standards of the criminal anti-cruelty laws should be strengthened. A pathway for civil options would reduce the burden on local prosecutors. Hoarders must be required to undergo psychological evaluation and treatment, allowed only two pets, and be monitored during a lengthy probation period.



Kathy Milani/The HSUS

You may be asking what you can do to stop this widespread animal abuse. First, educate yourself and others concerning the seriousness of the animal cruelty involved and the "tell-tale" signs of an animal hoarder: Does the person's home have a noxious odor and too many pets? Does a local rescue group seem unwilling to adopt out its animals, have regular adoption events, work with other shelters and share the names of participating veterinarians? You could enlist the help of relatives and friends of the suspect or convince the hoarder to accept help. Contacting local social services including a mental health agency is another option. You must report the situation to your local humane society, animal control department and police.

The most compelling aspect of this egregious form of animal cruelty is that it often lasts for the entire life of the animal. That fact alone would prompt me to report suspected animal hoarding.

- 1 Animal Hoarding.
<http://www.asPCA.org/fight-animal-cruelty/animal-hoarding.aspx>
- 2 Animal Hoarding Facts. Animal Legal Defense Fund.
<http://aldf.org/article.php?id=250>
- 3 Animal Hoarding.
<http://www.asPCA.org/asPCA-nyc/animal-rescuers/animal.hoarding>
- 4 Animal Hoarding is Not About the Number of Animals People Own.
<http://www.animalhoardingproject.com/animalhoarder.html>

If You Find A Baby Animal

Marion Webster

Spring is just around the corner. This is the time when you may come upon baby birds, rabbits, squirrels and other infants of various species.

Most importantly, DO NOT try to raise them yourself. There are considerations other than the law that restricts keeping and releasing wild animals. An important fact is that wild animals and birds often require special diets or care.

Handle wild animals only to the extent needed to save their lives. If a baby animal appears to be stranded do not assume that it has been abandoned. Some parents leave their offspring during the day. For instance, a mother rabbit will leave her babies a day at a time before returning to nurse. Unfortunately, sometimes this is the time when a cat may discover the nest. I have had this experience with my own cats. However, if the mother has been killed, if the baby, or babies is injured, weak, or is in danger from local cats or dogs it will need your help.

Fledgling birds spend a week or two on the ground before they learn to fly. This is when I keep a sharp eye on my own cats and dog. Cats and dogs must be kept away. If necessary, you may have to move a baby bird to a safer place.

If you have determined that a baby needs your help, keep it in a warm draft-free place. Nestle it amongst soft towels or flannel. A chilled infant should be warmed slowly and gradually. Use a hanging light bulb, hot water bottle, or heating pad AT THE LOWEST SETTING. Make sure that the infant can move away from the heat source and that it is mobile enough to move away. OVER HEATING CAN KILL A YOUNG ANIMAL.

Immediately call Second Chance Wildlife, 301-926-9453. They are professionals and will provide the best chance for the animal. You can also contact Montgomery County Animal Control at 240-459-2109 or the animal control organization in your area.



Mark Your Calendars!

Potomac's TPC at Avenel will be the site for FMCA's annual fall luncheon with boutiques! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. We hope you will come and fill your table with friends & family! The boutiques will be bigger than ever for your shopping pleasure. All vendors donate 20% of their proceeds to FMCA so, the more you shop, the more the animals benefit! Now, that's the cat's meow! See you there!

Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc.
14211 Dufief Mill Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-977-4833

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

"HOPE"



OUR MOST RECENT RESCUE!

Wish List

Animal carriers
Anti bacterial hand sanitizer (pump containers)
Cage covers and pads for our open house events
Cat food – dry and canned
Cat or dog beds (washable)
Crocheted/knitted blankets to send home with adopted cats
Dog food – dry and canned
Feliway collars, diffusers and refills
First class postage stamps for monthly mailings
Fold down (collapsible) cages to house cats during adoption events
Gift cards from PetSmart or Petco
Grooming items (brushes, combs, nail clippers) – no slicker brushes please
Homemade cat toys (knots, mice, fish, etc. – nothing with string)

Humane traps (Tomahawk) for Trap-Neuter-Return
Kong dog toys
Litter (scoop or clay)
Litter boxes (all sizes) and litter scoops
Monetary Donations – checks should be made payable to Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Inc.
Scratching posts, trees or boxes
Stainless steel bowls/dishes
Towels/Baby blankets
Treats

