

The Barker *and* Meow too!

Kitten Season

Why Does Kitten Season Occur?

There are "The Dog Days of Summer," but did you also know that there's a "Kitten Season?"

Kitten season is the time of year when many cats give birth to multiple kittens, flooding animal shelters across the nation with homeless litters. Kitten season is really three seasons in one: spring, late spring or early summer, and fall.

When warm weather coincides with reproductive cycles, male cats from near and far are attracted when the females go into "heat." MCAL provides spay/neuter assistance, reducing the number of homeless kittens.

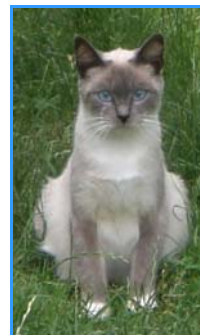
Spay/Neuter Assistance

Remember that membership with MCAL entitles you to three spay/neuter certificates. Spay certificates are valued at \$35, neuter certificates, \$25. All county veterinarians accept our certificates.

If you use an out-of-county veterinarian, we will call them and ask them to accept the certificate. Most vets are willing to support our programs.

Four Ways You Can Help.

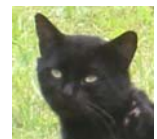
1. Spay/Neuter your cat.
2. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.
3. Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) cats in your neighborhood.
4. Adopt - Open your home to new cat or adopt a playmate for your existing pets.



The cat pictured here will be spayed as soon as possible after having the litter she is carrying.

She has a forever home lined up. Her kittens do not!

Available for adoption!



Mid-Year Update

- 200+ puppies and young adults have transported in the Puppies Across America program
- Two pets have been adopted through our Petfinder site
- Five spay/neuter surgeries have happened as a result of our Adopt-A-Stray program
- Two successful fundraisers (Make Us An Offer & Krispy Kreme donuts)
- Two community presentations

Please pass this information along to those who may not be familiar with our programs!

West Virginia Bill Proposes State Wide TNR

S.B. 6 failed. It was never presented in the Agriculture Committee; it was never put on their agenda. Apparently enough people didn't push this bill. For a bill to get heard, many people need to call or write their legislators!

State Sen. Donna Boley, R-Pleasants, has introduced S.B. 6 that will make Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) the legal way to treat homeless cats in West Virginia. **Contact Your Legislators To Express Your Support!**

A statewide Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program will reduce the number of cats in the environment, decrease the impact on wildlife and humans, and save taxpayer's money overall.

West Virginia legislators should approve S.B. 6 because it:

- Encourages residents to spay/neuter their pets.

- Effectively identifies and manages homeless cats.
- Contracts with local Animal Control agencies to conserve resources.
- Decreases the number of unwanted or homeless kittens born.
- Reduces the overall cost of dealing with homeless cats.

Contact Senate members:

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Senate1/members/senmemview.cfm>

Contact House members:

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/House/members/delmemview1.cfm>

Are you feeding stray cats?

If you are feeding the local outdoor cats, thanks for being a good neighbor!

Many people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave them behind. Contrary to popular belief, domestic animals do not automatically return to their "natural" instincts and cannot fend for themselves! Already, U.S. animal shelters are forced to kill an estimated 15 million homeless cats and dogs annually. The alternative to humane euthanasia for almost every stray is a violent end or slow, painful death. Many "throwaways" die mercilessly outdoors from starvation, disease, abuse, gun shot or car impact victims, even as food for a predator.

These cats and their offspring are victims of abandonment, accidental loss, and failure by owners to sterilize their pets. Feral cats are un-socialized cats who may be one or more generations removed from a home environment and may live in a group, or colony, of similar cats.

Studies have proven that trap-neuter-release (TNR) is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat colonies with the least possible cost to local governments and residents, while providing the best life for the animals.

You can help improve their quality of life by providing spay/neuter (TNR) services to stray cats.

Altered cats make better neighbors — less howling, fighting, and no more litters of unwanted kittens!

Please consider Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) - the only proven way to humanely decrease cat populations - for any cats that you may be feeding.

We need your help to end the pain and suffering that numerous cats in Monroe County must endure.

MCAL can provide you with information on humane traps, what to do once they're captured, ear notching or "tipping", reduced spay/neuter costs, etc.

If you want to get involved, or to learn more, please call our information line at 304-772-4445.

Trap-neuter-release is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat colonies

The Dog Days of Summer...

They are upon us!

Dogs in the Yard: Try to keep your dog indoors, but if you must keep him outside during the hot parts of the day in the summer, it is absolutely essential that there be a dark, shady place where the dog can escape from the blazing sun. A tree is probably not good enough. A ventilated dog house, a pen with shade cover, or a covered patio is a must. Make sure that there is adequate shade at all times of the day (remember, the sun moves)!

Dogs and Water: If the dog is outside, make certain there is a good supply of clean water in a weighted dish (or two in different locations in case one gets knocked over). For weight, add a large rock. For extra sturdy, use a large pale and bury it half way into the ground.

Keeping Dogs Cool: Some dogs enjoy water and can keep cool in a kiddie wading pool with a couple of inches of water in it. Keep these in the shade too. Sitting in a tub of 110 degree water won't help the dog. Consider a sandbox with damp sand for him.

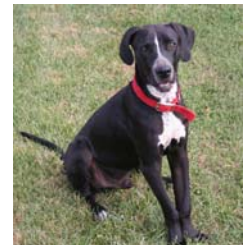
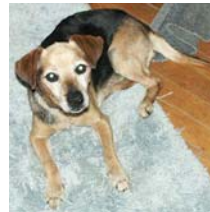
Traveling with Dogs: Always carry a water dish and water with you. Keep the water in a cooler or thermos so it stays cool. Never leave your dog in the car, even with the windows down. Countless pets lose their lives because their caregiver stepped away from the car "just for a minute". Summer temperatures can be deadly.

For a treat, see if your dog likes to play with ice cubes, or freeze a tray full of canned dog food!

The Blessing© By Lexiann Grant

Sing for joy my friend of fur:
Bark at the dark,
commune with the snow,
Comfort hearts with your soul-wide
smile,
dream of me
and Remember...

Angles shimmer betwixt us,
in disguise
but ever present;
Love never fails to bestow Hope,
nor can separation silence our song.



**Monroe County
Animal League**

PO Box 343
Union, WV 24983

Phone: 304-772-4445
mcalwv@hotmail.com

We're on the web!
mcal.petfinder.com

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Over the years, donations have been sent to MCAL as special contributions. We would like to openly recognize these contribution in *The Barker* and will continue to recognize them as they are received.

This is a nice way to remember those we care about and to support the animals in our community at the same time.

In memory of

Amber Bostic, Aunt Mildred Schultz, Belle, Billy, Bob Craft, Britty, Bud and his companions "Beauty" and "Mozart", Buttercup, Candy, Clendl Brown, Dottie Hess, Edison, El-Kee, Garnet "Shank" Shanklin, Ginger Banks' dog, Gladys Larew, Gray "Dutch" McMann, Harold Moloney, Sr., Hazel L. Sigmon, Herb Wood, Herschel Mason, Jr., Jake, Jesse, Sundance & Loma, Joyce Porterfield, Kathleen Amanda Haverty, Kathleen Crockett, Kirk Mason, Little Man, Louise M. Marr, Margorie Foland, Marti Banks, Nancy Miles White, Nathan Scott Traino, Ole Bud, Sandy, Peter, Polly Barrett, Rosie Wylie, Ruth Bostic, Sara, Shadow, Shirley Doubleday Baker, Suzi, Tara Lynn Capaldo, Tiger, Tom Toher, Top Cat, Vivian Bowie, Wayne Cowder

Addie and Marshall Ritter, Bill, Dina Wood, Eloise Appel, Linda Bishop, Marieta Woods, Warren, Judy & Bert Ellison, Willow Kelly & Ryan Appel

In the name of

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

**Mark your calendars ~ October 24th!!!
Doggone Dinner and Fur Festival of Fun ~ 4th**

West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Rusty needs a home!

Rusty was once an office and barn cat. He was abandoned when the property owner moved away and left the cat to fend for himself. He is fed by an automatic feeder, which is periodically refilled by previous employees of the property owner.

When last checked Rusty had been seriously injured and was inside the barn, unable to get out. He was inside, slowly starving to death, with festering wounds.

He is currently on antibiotics twice a day and is being cared for by one of the previous employees. However, he can not remain a bathroom cat for the rest of his life.

Rusty doesn't get along well with other cats. He needs a quiet home, with a lap to shed (um, I mean, sit) in. He enjoys ear rubs, being brushed, and being curled up in your arms.

Rusty is fine with dogs as long as they give him a large berth. He has been an indoor/outdoor cat but, I'm sure, would adjust to an indoor-only or outdoor-only cat if necessary. He just needs a safe place to call home, and be fed and loved.

Rusty is neutered and up to date on shots.

Please e-mail or call Amy:

mcalwv@hotmail.com

304-832-4112

