



Safe Harbor
www.safeharbor.org



The Scoop

A newsletter published every now and then by
Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary

A Day in the Life of a Safe Harbor Volunteer

by Alice Wybert

Thank goodness this was a pretty day or I would have screamed. We need a secretary to answer the phone.

OK, started out good this AM. Tuffy met me at the door all happy to see me. The other dogs enjoyed the sunshine and a little dry ground. Everyone's dog house was so yucky that I opened them up, dumped everything out and let them dry in the sunshine. This afternoon they got fresh cedar shavings put in them. Did multiple loads of laundry since footprints were on the bedding — and mud and litter.

Had a girl out looking for a playmate for her 12 lb male cat. She was there for some time and everyone was all over her. Plans to come back tomorrow or Sat. Too many choices. Lives in St Louis and may come back another time also. At the same time had a couple in looking to adopt. They fell in

love with Bethany so she's gone. Ernie leaves tomorrow. They have paid his fee and he is halfway out the door.

All this time I am running so far behind, I think I am ahead. At 1 p.m. I went outside to bring Ruby and Duke back from the exercise pen. When I went back to the Sanctuary building I couldn't get in. The knob would not turn and I tried everything. All the tools were inside so I couldn't take the knob off. Couldn't anyway since the screws are on the inside.

I had an appointment at 1:30 so I came home and got my tool box, met with my appointment, picked up a pregnant cat at a car lot, back to the vet and got her tested and she is neg. Probably less than a year old with maybe two weeks to go till deliv-

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REALLY BIG NEWS

In case you haven't seen us, Safe Harbor now appears the 3rd Friday of each month on KFVS-12's Pet segment that airs during the noon news around 12:15pm - 12:25pm.. And the second Saturday of every month is Safe Harbor day at Petco Adoption Day. Drop by and see our volunteers and featured pets from 12-4 p.m.

These are exciting events for Safe Harbor. It is a great time and it is always fun to show off some of our wonderful animals. The hardest part is deciding on only one or two to take.



Volunteer/Board Member Kelly Murray introduces one of Safe Harbor's kitties to an adoring audience at the Home Show.

Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary

Issue No. Four

May 2008

Events Calendar

- ☺ 5/23 & 24: Rags-into-Riches Yard Sale. Bush's Gardens on Hwy 25
- ☺ May 10: Petco 2-4 p.m.
- ☺ May 16: KFVS Noon News Pet Segment

Ins & Outs

Year to Date

Adoptions	53
Intakes	62
Cats at the Shelter	86
Kittens at the Shelter	9
Dogs at the shelter	8
In Foster Care	9

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An Open Letter to Pet Owners

by Alice Wybert, Shelter Director and President of Safe Harbor

It happens every day at Safe Harbor. The phone rings and someone has a dog or cat or several they want to re-home. Many are strays that are looking for people to care for them. Some were pets who have been discarded to fend for themselves. They are hungry and scared but have been taught to depend on people and now those people are gone.

Adopting an animal is a long term commitment. It shouldn't end when an animal gets old or jealous or sick. Nearly every month we have an animal brought to us that was found at the side of the road or crawled to someone's house. We have seen them so starved and weak they cannot stand. Some are past saving and the vet gives them a peaceful release. This is not the way it should be.

Pets are wonderful companions. Where else can you find such unconditional love? A dog that wiggles and smiles every time you come home, whether you have been gone all day or just went out to get the mail. Cats are described as standoffish and aloof, but nothing is cozier than a cat curled up on your lap, purring.

All pets need love and care. This includes shots and checkups from the vet. All pets should be spayed or neutered at the appropriate age. Don't be suckered in by the myths that having a litter will make them a better pet. An unsplayed female cat and her offspring can produce over 100,000 kittens in their lifetime. Most will die or be killed or unwanted

because the supply always exceeds the demand. A male dog or cat that is not neutered is always on the lookout for a mate and will travel long distances to find one. Sometimes they get lost and can't find their way home again. Dogs and cats are subject to many preventable diseases if pet owners would just provide the proper care and food. If your pet is acting different than usual, maybe it is sick. Inappropriate elimination or behavior should be checked by a vet. Your pet is telling you something is wrong in the only way they can.



Having children is no reason to give up your pet. Having a baby or moving are the among the most common reasons for giving up a pet. Children and animals are a great combination when handled sensibly. Even small children can feed the cat or brush the dog. I raised dogs, cats and children together and all survived.

Animals can live long, healthy lives and add greatly to ours. It has been proven that pets can lower our blood pressure and reduce stress. Just be sure you get the proper animal for your lifestyle. Check the Internet or library for information on certain breeds of dogs and cats. Talk to your vet. A toy poodle is not an outside dog any more than a Border collie is an apartment dog.

A pet adds much to our lives. Lets make theirs just as good.

Our "We Need it!" List

FACILITY NEEDS

- Benches, chairs, stools
- Storage Shelving
- Scrap lumber for shelves, bed, catwalks
- Scratching Posts
- Small rugs (washable)
- Bird bath & Bird Seed

OFFICE NEEDS

- Postage Stamps
- Copy Paper (White and Colors)
- Internet Capable Laptop

ANIMAL NEEDS

- Cash Cards & Gift Cards
- KMR Powdered Formula
- Kitten bottles
- Wal-Mart's Under-bed Storage Boxes (for Litter Boxes)
- Litter scoops
- Cat Collars
- Cat Beds
- Cat Toys (like mice)
- Dog toys

EVERYDAY NEEDS

- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Liquid Antibacterial Hand Soap
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Disinfectant for mopping
- Trash bags

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Direct Care Volunteers, All shifts
- Foster Families
- Carpentry (for building shelves, catwalks, cat condos, etc)

FUNDRAISERS

- Items for the Spring Yard Sale
(please call to arrange a time to drop off your items!)

A day in the life... con't

ery. Don't freak out. Angela has her to foster until the kittens are born and weaned. Her name is Esther and the kittens will be Bible names. She is black and has 3/4 tail. Doesn't even have earmites. While I was at the vet, the Science Diet got there so he loaded our order in my truck. Out to the sanctuary to see if I could get in. Finally did.

Angela, who was picking up Esther, brought a door knob and dead bolt. I took the old one off after locking up all the common room cats. Elise and Pierce showed up--HURRAY and then suddenly, so did Rick. He put the new knob on and it works so nice.

While all the bedlam was happening I got a call from the girl that adopted Austin. They have tried everything and they just can't keep him. He has been in obedience and on meds and he is aggressive to male dogs. We know how he was with Duke. He looks good and Pierce was thrilled he was back. Also DOES NOT LIKE CATS, except as snacks.

Took in 2 cats today. One, TC, is 13 lbs, spayed, orange. Her family is moving to Honduras. House is closing Monday. She likes to ride on your shoulder. She's friendly. The other was lost and now is found, but they can't keep him. Neutered. Owner moved down here from St Louis and the cat got loose and lost. Was found today 4 miles from where he got lost. Had collar and tags. The guy gave us \$40 and when he finds a place to live, he's with his cat allergic daughter, if we haven't placed him he will take him back. Cat's name is Pokie and he looks like Peanut and Riley and Fritz and Red. He is thin and hungry and ate well. TC was at the vet today and all up to date on shots. Pokie needs his.

Wanted: Yard Sale Donations

Also Wanted: Yard Sale Shoppers!

Yes, it's time once again for one of Safe Harbor's most important fundraising events: The 100 Mile Yard Sale on Memorial Day Weekend. We will once again be located at Bush's Gardens on Hwy 25 near the intersection of Route K in Gordonville (Thank you Laure!!)

Safe Harbor will have great "stuff" for sale Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Of course, exactly how great our sale stuff will be depends on the generosity of all our wonderful supporters. If you have great "rags" we can turn into "riches," please call 243- 9823 and make an appointment to drop off your items. We don't have room to store the sale items at Safe Harbor, so if you really want to help us, please call first rather than unloading boxes on our doorstep or in the driveway! Also, if you have the time to price your items in advance, it will be a huge help to our volunteers.

We will also need volunteers to sort and price items, help transport items & set-up for the sale, as well as work the sale & the sanctuary those two days. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so start cleaning out those closets, attics, basements and garages. And be sure to tell your friends and family.

Another Day in the Life... A Really GOOD Day

by Alice Wybert February 29, 2008

With the sunshine after so much February yuck, I should have known it would be a good day. Roberta came and tended to the dogs and we talked briefly. I did wash some litter boxes and furniture and hope some can be done this weekend too. Can't waste that sun.

I went to the Oak Ridge school today to accept the check for money the kids raised by saving their change during the month of January. I took Bea with me.

They had an assembly with THE WHOLE SCHOOL there and I had to talk to them! Didn't know about that, but I think I sounded intelligent. Have always said you don't have to have a BS to BS.

Those kids collected \$1,034.00!!!! Just from saving spare change for a month! I almost cried!

Went back to SHAS to leave Bea and get the mail, which contained a check from Petco for \$640.00.

Later I adopted out Isis to people that teach at Oak Ridge. Also, at least 2 of the kids want to volunteer and took applications. Got food from Wal-Mart and there was a goodly amount. I kept track of my SHAS miles today — drove 75 miles.

Now I am home and got my mail and there was a refund check for \$126.00.

Yep, it's been a good. day.

Finally got everything scooped, swept, fed, watered, walked and stuff washed off walls. Washed several items of plastic too. 3 cats on meds. Got the new ID tags.

Came home and repeated some of the above here. I am tired and think maybe I will get to bed early. HA!

Thus endth a day in the life of a SHAS volunteer.

The Shelter Diary by Tammy Nelson

Editor's Note: Every week, board member Tammy Nelson sends a Shelter Update email to all board members and our hard-working volunteers. This "diary" paints an incredible picture of the hard work, dedication, and love that goes into operating a No Kill sanctuary. There are no paid positions at Safe Harbor. It is truly a labor of love for everyone who gives so generously of their time and talents.

Beginning with this issue, The Scoop will begin reprinting portions of Tammy's weekly updates. Since it's been so long since you had any update at all on Safe Harbor, I'm going to go back a ways, starting in January 2008.

January 24, 2008

It has been another quiet week so far. Hopefully, Saturday morning will be as quiet, too. lol Last week was enough to send any of us over the edge.

Adoptions

Saturday we had 3 adoptions. As you already know, Morgan, the last of Ruby's Gems went to his new home Sat morning. October never came back from Petco, this is her 3rd time being adopted so let's all keep our fingers crossed and say a prayer for her. Next was Pumpkin; she was adopted by the family of one of Alice's co-workers while I was at Petco helping set-up. Then Peaches, the dog that Roberta was fostering, found herself a good man to love & care for her on Monday.

Intakes

We are still holding steady at only 2 Intakes for the month of January.

Special Thanks

I want to thank Diane & Angela both for doing such a wonderful job last Saturday morning at Petco Adoption Day. Your display boards look great! I also want to thank the rest of you for being such a big help last Saturday amidst the chaos. Luckily, those days are few and far between (averaging about once a month. lol).

February 28

I want to tell you all how much I appreciate each one of you for your dedication to the animals of SHAS. Last Saturday morning was living proof of your loyalty & dedication. I hope we never have to endure another day like that as long as we live! I have a whole new appreciation for clay kitty litter and sand!!

Intakes

We got a new cat, Pete, aka Re-Pete. He is a young slender dark gray guy, looks like a young Eeyore or Smokey, but slender like Ernie. Also Buck was exchanged by his new owner for yowling non-stop. It is not abnormal for a cat to yowl when they are adjusting to new surroundings, but not for 6-8 weeks. He is doing fine since his return and apparently just missed his feline friends. I have documented on his forms that he should not be an only cat.

Adoptions

Buck's owner exchanged him for . . . drum roll please . . . Kawasaki!! He was one she had originally considered when she chose Buck. Kawasaki was happy to go and I sent one of his favorite balls with him. While he will be an only cat, his new family also has a young Pug, a 9 yr old and 10 mo old humans. Kawasaki loves dogs and kids, so he will be happy in his new home. His new Mom has let us know he is settling in very well; the dog isn't sure what to think of him but I am confident they will be buddies.

Also, Bethany the kitten, is supposed to go to her new home Sat afternoon. We knew she would be adopted quickly.

Sad News

I have been fostering Wanda Ann since May of 2006, when we discovered she had cancer. Last May she was also diagnosed with diabetes. Wanda Ann passed away peacefully in my arms last night. I know she is in a better place and free of illness & pain. It is hard to imagine that there is a place better than a warm home with loving arms to hold you . . .

I plan to bury her at SHAS on Saturday.

March 5, 2008

Last Friday, Alice attended an assembly at the Oak Ridge School (grades K-8) where she was presented with a check for \$1034 that the kids had collected by saving their spare change for the month of January. Several times a year the kids at Oak Ridge make Safe Harbor their special project and collect items and donations for us. Last Spring Roberta had the honor of fostering a dog, Sunshine, that had been hanging around the school and the kids had all taken a liking too (who wouldn't). Thanks to those kids, Sunshine, was adopted into a loving home. It is nice to give back to those who give to us.

SHAS also received a donation last Friday of over \$600 from Petco, who makes quarterly donations to area shelters for their participation in Adoption Days & other in-store events. We are so grateful for the generous gifts that help us care for the animals.

April 17, 2008

This has been a busy week at SHAS, especially for the phone. Kitten Season is in full swing and the calls to take them are starting to pour in. Yeah! As volunteers for SHAS many of you may run into people who want you to take or assist them with placing kittens/puppies.

Intakes

Last Saturday the family that brought us Mason also brought us Scooby, an orange tabby, 8yrs old, neutered, and has a deformed hind foot which is a birth defect. His owner has a declining health condition and is no longer able to care for him. Angela Shell has another bottle feeder in her care, Roscoe. That makes, 4 bottle feeders in her care and a pregnant moma. We also took in 2 cats from an elderly woman, Pumkin looks a lot like PJ except with both eyes, she is 5yrs old & spayed. Toby is 14yrs old, neutered, he has been diagnosed with diabetes & hyperthyroidism, he is being fostered by SHAS volunteer Christine Spanley. Good luck, Christine. You and Toby are both in my prayers. (I do not regret the almost 2 years that I cared for Wanda the cat with cancer & diabetes. I miss her dearly!!)

Adoptions;

Roxie the siamese is going to her new home today. I took several calls Wed from people who are coming to adopt in the next few days. The Georgia Peaches that have been in Isolation 2 since Feb are going to their forever home this Friday. And Charlie & Katrina were adopted Monday by a couple whose cat died over the weekend, brought back Tuesday because it was too soon, then decided later that day they DO want Charlie on Wed. Decisions, decisions!!! They will be out next Tues or Wed to get Katrina & Charlie. Let's keep our fingers crossed!



TC



April



Spuds



Pokie

April 9, 2008

April has been a quiet month for adoptions, thus far. However, Intakes are rising with the onset of kitten season.

Intakes

Last week I reported Bob & Lewey being returned for allergies and dogs, April & Spuds coming in. This week so far, we have Roxie a young Siamese, very loving but a little shy right now. Roxie and Alberta were both spayed this week and are ready for adoption. We also took in Jackie, a plump orange tabby that looks so much like TC it is hard to tell the difference at first glance. Sunday Kelly recieved Bo an adult Min Pin mix, he is very sweet and likes to be held, carried, or cuddle in your lap. Then Tuesday we recieved Roscoe the kitten, he went directly into foster care.

We are also scheduled to take in another cat who has a club foot from the same family that brought us Mason. He will also come with a sizeable donation. Then Kim L will be bringing a mama cat & 3 kittens to be fostered until the babies are weaned, when she finds them. lol

Adoptions

So far this month we have had only one adoption, which was reported in last week's update. Tuffy the puppy went to her new home last Wed. Remember, poor little dog will have a rough life! lol

News

Alice arranged for several loads of gravel to be brought in to repair the road and driveway at SHAS. The company & driver both matched our purchase by donating 2 loads & we bought 2 loads. That should help the mushy part of the road at the bottom of the hill until next year hopefully.

I was able to do some experimenting today with the dogs and made a remarkable discovery . . . April and Austin do well together in the exercise pen and play like puppies. April looks really funny bouncing around with tiny Austin and she doesn't seem bothered by his, ahem, romantic gestures toward her.

Spuds will be neutered Friday. I am attempting to leash train him because I am a glutton for punishment and he is a lot of dog on the leash. He did really well for me today until he saw Alice, then he drug me to her. So as long as Alice stays in the house he should be easier to handle if we are consistent. Just kidding Alice! lol

Who Can Count at a Time Like This?

By Foster Mom & Chief Bottle
Feeder Angela Shell

As most of you know I have been fostering a pregnant cat named Esther. She came to us around Easter and we thought she was holding out to give birth to full grown babies! Well, April 18, 2008 at 1:50 A.M. (I know it can NEVER be during normal hours) the first one was born!!!

I was so excited I called Alice and woke her up. Oops, sorry Alice!! I have never been around a cat having kittens before.

Esther gave birth again at 2:10 a.m., then another at 2:15. She was having hard contractions and finally at 2:30 it came. Not a joyous one: it was breach and stillborn. Well she was calming down, but not done yet. At 3:00 she had baby number 5. Now she was relaxing and bathing and by 4:00 am, nothing, so I went back to bed. I told my husband Anthony that she had 4 live and 1 stillborn. He said

cool and went to sleep so did I.

At 6 a.m. he woke to go to work and came to wake me and said, "I thought you said there were 4 babies?"

I told him, "Yeah, 4 babies. Why?"

He said, "You need to count again!! There are 6 babies."

I jumped up out of bed and sure enough she had 2 more after I went to bed at 4. So she had 6 live and 1 still born!! Talk about a night!!!

Then I had to get ready to go with Alice to the KFVS12 pet segment with my four bottle feeders!!! That was ALOT of fun.

After I got home I settled the babies in and took a much needed nap!!

Being a part of Safe Harbor has been an exciting adventure and I thank God every day for bringing all of you into my life!!!

Kitten Season

It's sad but true that Safe Harbor can't possibly say "Yes" to every call we get during kitten season. For that reason, we have instituted a protocol that we try to follow.

When someone calls about a litter they want to bring to us, we first ask that they run a "Free for the Taking" ad in the SE Missourian. The idea is for them to place as many as possible on their own without bringing them to SHAS or another shelter. This is also an effort to educate people about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering.

We make sure to get the caller's name and phone number on that first contact call so that we can check the "Free for the Taking" ads to make sure the caller has followed our advice. We often hear responses such as; "I don't have time to deal with running an ad" or "I worry about who may be responding to the ads."

Pet owners with the latter concerns should ask for a vet reference or other references, offer to deliver the animal to its new home, etc. If they want a quick, overnight solution, the Humane Society is their only choice.

Dumping animals in rural areas is not solution either! There are people who believe an animal has a better chance at survival being dumped in the country rather than being taken to the Humane Society. Death by coyote, starvation, hit by car, or shot by farmer is not a humane solution!

The best solution? BE RESPONSIBLE! Have your pet altered!

How to Make Your Donation

If you would like to help us and our animal friends with a financial gift, please send your check made payable to Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary to:

Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary
359 Cree Lane, Jackson, MO 63755
You can also make donations by credit card through PayPal on our website, safeharboranimalsanctuary.org. To make a donation from the **We Need It! List**, you may drop by on Saturdays between 9 and 11 am or weekdays 8-10 am or 4-6 pm.

For all other deliveries, please call 243-9823 and leave a message. No blind drop-offs, please!

Your tax deductible gifts to Safe Harbor will:

- ♥ Facilitate the adoption of pets to responsible owners
- ♥ Make it possible for us to spay and neuter all rescued pets
- ♥ Provide basic vaccinations
- ♥ Meet basic and extraordinary medical needs of surrendered and/or rescued cats and dogs
- ♥ Provide food, litter, and shelter for the sanctuary population

You can make a difference. Won't you help?