

WINTER 2010

After a fast-paced summer and fall, Paws-itive Partners is slowing down and taking time to enjoy the Holidays. We hope you will also be able to make time to enjoy the Season with your two- and four-legged family members.

Merry Christmas from PPHS!

Relay for Life

Like many others in the community, Paws-itive Partners got involved in July's Relay for Life. We bought and sold luminaries, donated and had a team to walk to raise awareness.

Of course, Relay for Life is to fight cancer in humans but have you ever thought about cancer in animals? Cancer in cats and dogs is on the rise. Cancer is the leading cause of death in older pets, accounting for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age. The latest statistics indicate one in four dogs will get cancer. The numbers for cats with cancer is less, but growing. Learn the warning signs of cancer in pets.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On October 9th Rape and Domestic Abuse Program (RDAP) and Paws-itive Partners sponsored a walk against violence. Domestic violence is terrible and unacceptable behavior against partners or family members. Too often, batterers use pets to control others by threatening or causing harm to pets in order to get what they want for themselves. Pets, like other family members, are innocent victims.

Close to 30 dogs wore purple ribbons on their collars and led their people through Centennial Park. The beautiful fall weather made it a perfect day to walk united against domestic violence.



DOG CPR AND FIRST AID

In November, Paws-itive Partners and R' Dog Agility sponsored a CPR and First Aid class for dog owners. Eric Roth (CPRforCanines.com) traveled to North Platte from Denver to teach the American Red Cross dog course. Participants learned to recognize and treat medical emergencies until veterinary care became available. Participants practiced first aid techniques on life-size dogs and CPR on resuscitation mannequins. Everyone who attended the course agreed it was a Saturday well spent. The CPR and first aid information is invaluable and participants felt much more able to help their pets in an emergency.

PAWS-itive Kids

Paws-itive Kids began its fall season making toys for cats. The toys were stuffed with homegrown catnip and sold at Paws-itive Partners' craft fair boutique. FEMA supervisor Kathy Kirwan came to our November meeting. She brought PW, her therapy and service dog, to visit Paws-itive Kids. Besides therapy and service work, PW is studying to become a search and recovery dog. Kathy and PW travel throughout the United States helping others. If you met PW you would see that she dispels the stereotype of what we think of as working dogs – she's a whopping 5 pound Yorkie! Paws-itive Kids members are from 7 to 16 years old. We meet once a month to learn about animals, make a craft or project and have a snack. Sometimes we go on field trips. If you would like more information about Paws-itive Kids call 308-532-8814.

Helping

Recent house fires where pets lived brought to light the need for fire departments to have pet oxygen masks. This fall PPHS helped purchase life-saving pet oxygen mask kits for fire stations in North Platte and other communities in Lincoln County.

RAISING THE WOOF

Last August, Paws-itive Partners was asked to help build a quarantine area in North Platte Animal Shelter. The city had \$15,000 from shelter donations and memorials so PPHS took on the challenge to match what the city had. Our campaign became known as Raising the Woof. Paws-itive Partners accepted donations, started selling Raising the Woof T-shirts and having concession stands. As word about Raising the Woof spread, businesses, organizations and individuals came forward to help. NP Tornados challenged NP's police and firefighters to a softball game. We had a table at NP Rec Center's Drool in the Pool. Maurice's donated proceeds from their national Rescues and Runways event. Our friends in Maxwell Schools' FCCLA earned money sponsoring a Halloween dog costume contest and selling BooGrams. Curves for Women sponsored a dog bandana contest. Hall School held a Raising the Woof coloring contest. Coldstone Creamery offered ice cream treats to any dog that came in with their person. An anonymous friend to animals crocheted a Christmas stocking and businesses donated stocking stuffers to raffle. MidNebraska Community Foundation and Wal-Mart Distribution Center awarded Paws-itive Partners very generous grants.

After months of fundraising, Paws-itive Partners voted to donate the balance of what was needed for the quarantine area. Raising the Woof did a good job of raising awareness, but now it's time to start filling the need for the quarantine area. Thanks to the city, donors and Paws-itive Partners volunteers, Raising the Woof can begin. It is our understanding all that is left before construction starts is bidding, contract work and the city's approval. We've been told once the technicalities are completed building the special needs area will proceed quickly. It's hard to not try to push the project along; hurry, hurry, hurry, please.

Several people have asked Paws-itive Partners if there really is a need for a quarantine area. The answer is absolutely! Too often, cats and dogs arrive at the shelter with eye infections, feline leukemia, puppy parvo, injuries and more. As it is now, all the animals have to be placed together; thus, the potential for the spread of germs and unnecessary suffering. The first half of 2010, Paws-itive Partners paid over \$10,000 for veterinary medical care and a majority of that expense was for animals from the shelter. Being able to isolate animals with special

needs will reduce disease, infection and unnecessary suffering. PPHS has also been asked why the quarantine area will be so costly. Quarantine areas have unique needs. The existing shelter wasn't designed to accommodate the special needs of a quarantine area. The shelter's ceiling will have to be lowered. Special plumbing and draining systems are required for sanitation. The heat/air conditioning system has to be separate from others so not to contaminate. Special kennels and cages are required to barricade infection. Raising the Woof is an expensive project, but it's important and worth it to help shelter cats and dogs get healthy.

He's Making a List and Checking It Twice

We asked the North Platte Animal Shelter what would be on their Christmas list if Santa's toy sack was bottomless. Employees were quick to respond that if Santa stops at the shelter, this is what they hope he'll bring:

#1: Volunteers! Helpers are desperately needed to clean the shelter. Perhaps families, organizations or a group of friends could donate two or three hours one morning to mop and scrub kennels. A sanitary environment is essential for healthy animals.

#2: Stainless steel hanging water buckets! The shelter has bowls but need hanging buckets so dogs don't tip their water over. The hanging buckets are available at farm supply stores.

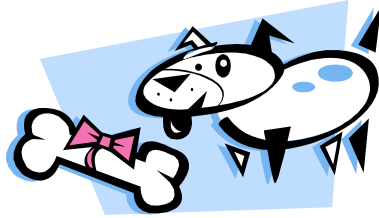
#3: Chew Bones! Rawhides are an excellent way for dogs to pass their time and reduce stress while they are at the shelter.

#4: Flea Prevention Products! Some cats and dogs arrive at the shelter needing treatment for fleas. Helping the animals can be so easy if you have the proper treatment.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Year after year, friends of Paws-itive Partners bless us at Christmas time. We appreciate the donations sent in honor of friends, family and pets. Thank you for the generous gifts that allow us to continue helping animals.

In this newsletter, you will find a form that will make donating to Paws-itive Partners easy.



St. Pat's Christmas Craft Show

Paws-itive Partners hosted a booth at St. Pat's annual craft show in November. We sold paw Christmas stockings, pet ornaments, cat nip toys and dog treats. We had a great response from shoppers and sold almost everything. A lot of cats and dogs will have a Merry Christmas as they enjoy the goodies their people purchased

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Paws-itive Partners has a website (www.pphs.com) and we're on Facebook too. We have a business meeting once a month. The PPHS phone is 308-650-PAWS.

WOOFSTOCK IN THE SPRING

The Woofstock committee is already working to make 2011's Woofstock the best yet. This will be the fifth year and every year has been better than the one before. We'll have a few new events in 2011 but we're keeping the old favorites too. Mark your calendar for a stroll through Memorial Park with your dog on May 21st, 2011.

Make a Difference

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY 2011!**

Unchaining Dogs

Have you driven down the street and seen a dog chained in a backyard? Can you imagine living in a world only as big as a chain is long? Chained dogs typically receive little human attention and don't receive fresh food and water on a regular basis. Few receive regular veterinary care. Many chained dogs are forced to eat, urinate, defecate and sleep in the same cramped area. A dog kept chained, or confined to a pen, can suffer tremendous psychological damage. Dogs chained for long periods of time can become highly aggressive. When confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who wanders into his or her territory. Chained dogs may suffer harassment from insensitive people, stinging bites from insects and attacks by other animals. They can become entangled with other objects, which can choke or strangle the dogs to death.

As people are becoming more aware of how inhumane chaining is they are taking action. More and more communities have provided provisions in their animal protection ordinances or banned chaining. For example, Denver prohibits chaining longer than one hour. Has the time come to consider limiting chaining in North Platte and Lincoln County?

Paws-itive Partners wants to help animals who are forced to exist on the end of a chain. We want to educate why chaining is wrong and we want to suggest alternatives. We want pets brought inside with their families and we want yards to be fenced. If people cannot afford fences, Paws-itive Partners may be able to purchase an appropriate size kennel. In exchange, we'll have expectations of pet owners (such as mandatory spay/neuter, not getting more dogs and not leaving dogs outside during inclement weather.) Pet owners will have a new kennel and PPHS will know life is a little bit better for another dog.

Don't know what to give the animal lover on your Christmas list? Make a donation in their name to :

Paws-itive Partners Humane Society

Donate any amount you wish in honor of, or in memory of, your loved one. You'll know that your gift is helping the four-legged members of the world. PPHS will send acknowledgment to the gift honoree.

Please fill out and mail to PPHS, P. O. Box 1145, North Platte, NE 69103. If you have questions, please call 308-650-PAWS.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____

Gift Amount: _____

Gift Recipient's Name: _____

Gift Recipient's Address: _____

If this gift is in honor/memory of someone special please list: _____

Paws-itive Partners is a 501 c 3 corporation. We do not receive any city or government funds to operate and we rely on donations and fundraising events to help domestic animals. PPHS-s primary goal is to stop pet overpopulation and to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs.