

ANIMAL CRUELTY TASK FORCE
A Force to be RECKONED WITH!
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PROVIDING SECOND CHANCES TO ANIMALS SINCE 1870

Canine Cruelty Prevention Act Implemented for the First Time in Lawrence County

On June 28, 73 dogs and puppies were rescued from a disreputable breeder in Monett, Mo. The event marked the first-ever use of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act to intervene on behalf of the animals.

The Office of the Missouri Attorney General and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) partnered with the Humane Society of Missouri Animal Cruelty Task Force to rescue Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers, American Eskimos, Poodles, Beagles, Papillions and Brussels Griffons. The animals came to the Humane Society's Veterinary Medical Center for immediate care.

MDA inspectors noted that the breeder failed to provide adequate veterinary care; several were in obvious need. Likewise, the animals' fur was matted and toenails untrimmed (long nails can curl up and grow into the paw pads). Their drinking water was dirty and food bowls were contaminated with excrement. Floors were covered in feces and there was no noticeable attempt to keep animal waste removed or cages clean. The owner routinely used a gunshot as a means of euthanasia, also in violation of the law.

The breeder surrendered all animals to the Humane Society of Missouri, surrendered her commercial breeder license and agreed not to operate a dog breeding facility for at least the next six years.

"This is the Missouri Solution in action," said Kathy Warnick, president, Humane Society of Missouri. "We are very pleased by the quick actions of the Office of the Attorney General and the Missouri Department of Agriculture to ensure the welfare of these suffering animals and hold accountable those responsible for the dogs' care."



The Missouri Solution in action for the first time...

Directory

Website

www.hsmo.org
www.longmeadowrescueranch.org

Main Number

314-647-8800

Report Animal Abuse and Neglect

314-647-4400 or 800-383-9835

Adoption Centers

Adoptions, Pet Lost and Found,
Cremation Services

St. Louis City Center 314-951-1562
Westport Area Center 314-951-1588
Chesterfield Valley Center 636-530-0805

Adoption Centers Hours

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. noon-4 p.m.

Veterinary Medical Centers

All locations 314-951-1534
Patients seen by appointment

Veterinary Medical Centers Hours

St. Louis City Center and
Westport Area Center
Mon. & Fri. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tues. & Wed. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chesterfield Valley Center
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Donations 314-951-1542

Memberships, auto donations, planned giving

Volunteer Program 314-951-1577

Longmeadow Rescue Ranch 636-583-8759

Open House: Fridays noon-3 p.m.
Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Other adoption hours by appointment

Location Addresses:

Headquarters/St. Louis City Center –
1201 Macklind Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110
Westport Area Center – 2400 Drilling
Service Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Chesterfield Valley Center – 17357 Edison
Ave., Chesterfield, MO 63005
Longmeadow Rescue Ranch – 480 Josephs
Rd., Union, MO 64084
All locations closed major holidays.

Tails Staff

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Society of Missouri

Tails is published quarterly by the
Humane Society of Missouri.

Mission

Since 1870, the Humane Society of Missouri
has been dedicated to second chances.
We provide a safe and caring haven to all
animals in need—large and small—that have
been abused, neglected or abandoned.
Our mission is to end the cycle of abuse and
pet overpopulation through our rescue and
investigation efforts, spay/neuter programs
and educational classes. We are committed to
creating lasting relationships between people
and animals through our adoption programs
and our shelter pet training program.
We further support that bond by making
available world-class veterinary care.

Pet Overpopulation Spay/Neuter is the Answer

Every day in the U.S., an estimated 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, compared to about 10,000 people. As long as these birth rates for dogs and cats exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals.

Convincing pet owners to spay and neuter pets is the most effective way to decrease the number of animals that enter the heartbreaking cycle of homelessness and suffering.

To encourage pet owners to fix their pets, the Humane Society launched its low-cost program, Operation SNIP, in 2001. Any Missouri resident, regardless of income, can get a pet spayed or neutered for \$19.95. Spay/neuter surgeries for pets are free to residents in the City of St. Louis through Operation City SNIP. Each surgery actually costs \$84.00; donations earmarked for SNIP make up the difference. When the SNIP fund is depleted, the program temporarily halts, sometimes as long as six weeks. Call 314-951-1534 to make an appointment to have your pet spayed or neutered.

We are proud that more than 325,000 pets have been spayed or neutered at HSMO veterinary clinics, preventing hundreds of thousands (possibly millions) of unwanted dogs and cats. Still, the problem of pet overpopulation continues to plague the St. Louis community. Every stray cat or dog that dies as a result of pet overpopulation is an animal that, more often than not, would have made a wonderful companion.



The Humane Society of Missouri is the only organization in the St. Louis area to offer spay/neuter surgeries at a deep discount to every household. It also performs more reduced-cost surgeries than any other clinic in the state. To donate, call 314-951-1542 and specify SNIP. Donate securely online at member.hsmo.org/snip.

How You Can Help Animals

Neuter or spay your pets

Encourage others to fix their pets

Help us provide more SNIP surgeries



Now Available

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF MISSOURI
HOLIDAY CARD

Verse inside:

Seasons Greetings to all creatures
great and small.

\$12.95

for a box of 10 cards 10 envelopes
designed by Mary Badenhop

Card sales benefit the abused and neglected
animals cared for at the Humane Society of Missouri
and its Longmeadow Rescue Ranch.

Visit the gift shop at City Headquarters
or Chesterfield Valley



Josie's Second Chance

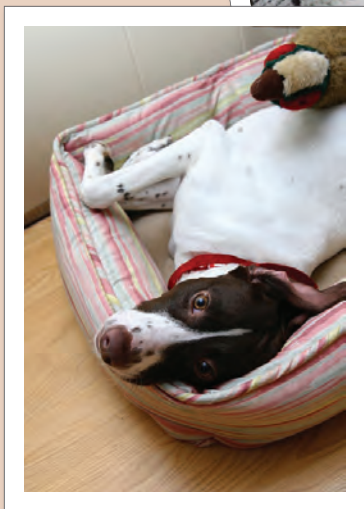
By Geoff Anderson, Josie's Adopter

In March of 2010, a scared-looking German Shorthair Pointer named Josie appeared on your website. When my wife Katie and I had time to go look at her, she was no longer listed. A couple of weeks later we checked ... and she was back! She had been adopted but returned because she was "too hyper". It also turned out she was terrified of going outside and of riding in automobiles.

Almost at the instant of seeing her we HAD to take her home. It wasn't an option to leave her. She was so scared I had to carry her out of the adoption center. During the drive home she tried to bury herself under the carpet, the seat and the dash board. Once we got her home, she seemed to settle down. She was excited to see a toy stuffed pheasant (Josie is a pointer, after all). She quickly snatched it and ran off (it is now her fave).

Since we live two miles from my parents, short trips to their house to play with the border collies quickly eliminated the fear of car rides. A screen door allowed her to watch the squirrels spin wildly up, down and around the trees. It quickly piqued her interest in the outdoors. Now it's a battle to get her to come inside. Josie enjoys roaming the conservation areas and my 240-acre farm land on an e-collar, pointing rabbits, quail, and getting scared/mystified by turtles.

To sum things up—a handful of camping trips, daily walks, long weekend hikes (8-10 miles), two playful border collies and a new kitty friend later—Josie has become an adorable, fun, absolutely crazy GSP. I hope you feel good about knowing she has found the perfect home and isn't going anywhere without us.



To find your next best friend, visit hsmo.org or our three adoption centers in St. Louis City, the Westport area or Chesterfield Valley.



HSMO Animal Cruelty Task Force

A Force to be Reckoned With!

Widely regarded as one of the best animal rescue teams in the U.S....

...the Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT) carries out HSMO's core mission to provide a safe and caring haven to animals that have been abused, neglected or abandoned.



Dog rescued from a puppy mill.

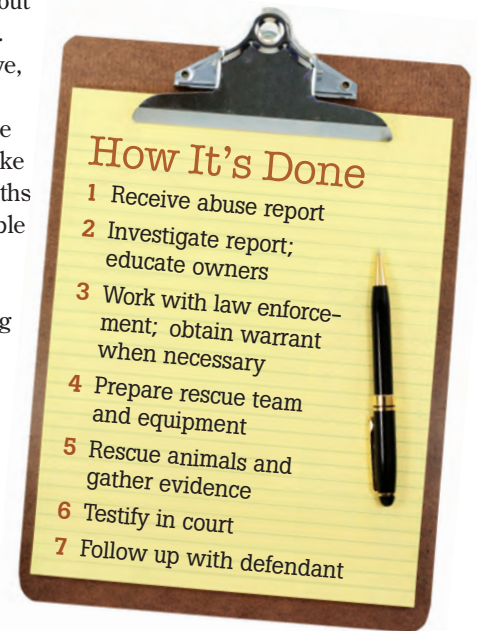
Intervening on behalf of animals starts with a hotline tip from a private citizen, a call from law enforcement or a request from the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA—which licenses and inspects dog breeding facilities, animal shelters and rescue groups). Every report is investigated; 80 to 85 percent of the cases are resolved by educating pet owners about proper food, water, shelter and veterinary care. When conditions for the animals do not improve, preparations for a rescue begin.

The majority of investigations unfold over the course of a few weeks (see clipboard). Some, like the 2009 multi-state dog fighting bust, take months to plan. But the experienced Task Force is nimble enough to quickly move from Step 1 to Step 4 when necessary.

"If a witness sees dead and severely suffering animals on the property, for example, this becomes Priority One," explained Debbie Hill, vice president of Operations for the Humane Society of Missouri. "Everyone drops what they are doing and heads for the scene. We have hit the ground running so many times we can deploy almost instantaneously."

The Dog Needed **ACTION**

The dog bore litter after litter of puppies for eight years, caged by an uncaring, unscrupulous breeder ("puppy mill"). The ACT found her covered in filth and struggling to survive with inadequate food and no veterinary care. This story is repeated over and over with the thousands of dogs rescued from puppy mills every year.



Brian Williams

Nathan Suneetha

Anne Vincent

Brian Thomas

Carmen Skelly

Jeff McRoy

Chad Shanks

Investigation

Even when acting on solid information, HSMO ACT investigators enter private property only with the owner's consent or accompanied by law enforcement officials who have obtained a warrant. Animals are removed at the request of law enforcement upon certification from an on-scene veterinarian that they are in immediate jeopardy medically or because of the conditions in which they are living, or both.

"Animal abuse laws state that authorities cannot seize animals unless they have a proper place to be sheltered," explained Mike Perkins, ACT assistant director. "HSMO provides that vital service. Equally as important, many law enforcement agencies rely on the considerable professional investigation, evidence gathering and animal rescue experience and expertise of our Task Force."



The Horses Needed ACTION

The sheriff of Andrew County had already obtained the warrant to remove 29 emaciated horses, mini-horses and goats from a barren pasture with no visible source of food or water. He called the Humane Society for help. Once ACT learned that some horses had already died and others were near death, the rescue became Priority One.



Anne McLaughlin

Josh Rennels

Darin Shell

Mike Perkins

The Animal Cruelty Task Force works statewide on behalf of abandoned, neglected or abused animals of all types and sizes. ACT work covers Missouri's 114 counties and the City of St. Louis, an area of 67,704 square miles containing nearly six million people. ACT numbers from 2010 demonstrate the enormous efforts expended on behalf of abused animals.

4,109 New tips and reports
15,115 Responses
255,007 Miles driven
36,823 Animals evaluated
2,779 Animals rescued

Rescue and Evidence

Once on the property, ACT investigators survey the area with law enforcement and a veterinarian to determine the number of animals involved and their condition. Once the decision has been made to remove animals, ACT investigators and staff immediately move to safely load them on HSMO's specially equipped, climate-controlled vehicles.

Animal crimes cannot be prosecuted without evidence gathered according to strict legal protocol. "When a warrant is executed, charges can be filed against the owners," Perkins continued. "As we proceed with the rescue, we must strictly follow protocols so the evidence is admissible in court."

Using an evidence log, ACT team members assign a number to each animal. All animals are photographed at the scene and again as part of the intake process at Humane Society shelters.

"The second photographs document that we have the same animals in our possession," said Hill. All other evidence gathered on the scene also is documented to assure a clear chain of evidence.

Every rescued animal is examined from nose to tail. HSMO veterinarians set up individual treatment plans and track the animals' progress, all of which also are entered into evidence.

The Animals Needed ACTion

When ACT entered the hoarder's filthy home it reeked of cat urine. None of her 47 animals had enough to eat and they were plagued with fleas, skin diseases, eye and ear infections and wounds. ACT members know her well; it was her third offense. The problem of hoarding is not fully understood and many are repeat offenders.

Top photo: each rescued animal is documented; **above,** this photo of a treadmill from a dog fighting operation was entered into evidence.



Perkins is New ACT Assistant Director

Mike Perkins has joined the Humane Society Animal Cruelty Task Force as its assistant director. Perkins spent the last 12 years of his 20-year law enforcement career in the canine unit of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD). His first partner, a German Shepherd named Rick retired after 10 years and lived the remainder of his life at Perkins' home. His second police dog Chico is currently in the "Perkins Retirement Home."

Perkins' lifelong affection and respect for animals, combined with his law enforcement work, has enabled him to hit the ground running.

In 2007, Perkins earned certification as a trainer from the North American Police Work Dog Association. Three years later, he qualified as master trainer of dogs for narcotics and utility. He is also a trainer and vice president of the Missouri Police Canine Association. Perkins served as the SLMPD head trainer for the last five years of his career, writing course curricula as well as training dogs.



Court Cases and Monitoring

While the animals are receiving expert care from our shelter and veterinary staff, the Task Force prepares for the upcoming court cases—disposition of the animals and prosecution of the offender.

The law mandates a disposition hearing be held within 30 days of seizure to determine that the animals were properly removed and who should be awarded permanent custody.

“The animals can go back to their owner, to a relative or to an agency such as HSMO,” said Hill. “Backed by the evidence, we always ask for the animals to be awarded to us.” Because we properly rescue the animals and have a reputation for high standards of animal care, HSMO usually is awarded permanent custody.

“Animals cannot be available for adoption until custody is awarded,” added Perkins. “Without the disposition hearing, the animals could be in limbo for as long as it takes for criminal prosecution to occur.”

HSMO expertise can be crucial in helping law enforcement prosecute the criminal case as well. Often the ACT provides expert testimony and the critical photographic and other on-scene evidence that supports charges of abuse and neglect.

ACT Supervisor Christine Portmann then monitors the progress of the case. “We want to know when the defendants go to court, the sentences they receive and when they are released from the criminal justice system so we can follow up if necessary.”

It’s not unusual for hoarders or substandard breeders to acquire more animals, even when the court has ordered them not to do so. Therefore, ACT investigators routinely check with law enforcement to see if any new complaints have been lodged and sometimes they visit the offender’s property to ensure compliance with any court orders.

There’s No Excuse for Animal Abuse

HSMO’s Animal Cruelty Task Force lives and breathes this motto. Investigators and staff are fiercely determined to protect those creatures that cannot protect themselves, rescue those in jeopardy and bring to justice persons who intentionally harm and refuse to properly care for the animals entrusted to them.

**If You Suspect
Inhumane Treatment
Call the
Animal Abuse
Hotline
314-647-4400
or
800-383-9835**



Winn Dixie was infested with parasites when we found her (left) at a hoarder’s. After treatment at the Humane Society, she became the beautiful dog on the right and found her forever home.



If you witness animals being starved, beaten, left in hot cars or tethered outside with no protection from the elements—call the HSMO Animal Abuse Hotline. You may remain anonymous if you choose; however, the more information we receive, the more thorough our investigation and the better the chance to help suffering animals. All tips are investigated by the Animal Cruelty Task Force. Please also contact local police or sheriff’s department. Thank you for looking out for those who can’t speak for themselves.



EmBARK on a Journey Created Just for Your Group

Teachers, Boy Scout, Girl Scout and all other youth group leaders: take advantage of Create-a-Class to customize the humane education experience you want to explore with your children. Programs are available at both Humane Society headquarters in St. Louis and Longmeadow Rescue Ranch in Union, Mo. Your children will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with our shelter and farm animal friends while learning how to respect and care for all living creatures.

Create-a-Class Programs begin with an in-depth presentation prepared specifically for your age group (grades 1-3, grades 4-6 and teens) and their interests. Specially trained volunteer humane educators lead the highly interactive, behind-the-scenes tours that

follow. You choose from a list of developmentally appropriate animal welfare topics.

All Create-a-Class sessions meet specific learning objectives and are aligned with the performance standards set forth by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Curricula are developed using principles of Caring Schools Communities, a nationally recognized character education program. Scout programs are tailored to help your scouts meet their badge requirements.

“Our goal is to work with you to create a memorable, enjoyable and meaningful learning experience that inspires children to get involved helping animals. Whether they choose to organize a community service project, facilitate a donation drive, make toys for the shelter animals, design adoption posters for homeless animals or encourage someone to spay or neuter their pet, children can make a difference,” said JoEllyn Klepacki, assistant director of Education.

Create-a-Class brochures are available online at hsmo.org and longmeadowrescueranch.org. At Longmeadow Rescue Ranch, contact Linda Chapman at 636-583-8759 or lchapman@hsmo.org. For classes at Headquarters, contact JoEllyn Klepacki at 314-951-1572 or jklepacki@hsmo.org.

Kids who learn about animals become kids who care.

Volunteer as a humane educator.

Next training date: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. – noon

HSMO Headquarters, 1201 Macklind Ave.

Contact Sue Gassner at 314-951-1578 or sgassner@hsmo.org

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We Understand Your Grief

Half of all American pet owners consider their pets a part of the family according to a 2009 opinion poll conducted by the Associated Press and Petside.com. Yet when a pet is lost, stolen, dies or must be given up, others don't always understand the resulting trauma and sadness.

After the loss of a beloved animal, the Humane Society Pet Loss Support Group provides a safe place to share your grief.

"In our group, we express emotions and share stories of beloved pets," explained volunteer Susana Hemingway-Hird who facilitates the support group and is involved in Greyhound rescue.

It makes no difference if the loss is recent, occurred a long time ago or looms in the near future. "Those who know their pet is nearing its end are as welcome as those who have lost a pet," she added. "People need a lot of support when making a decision about euthanasia."

"Susana is a tremendous comfort," praised Suzanne Gassner, director of Education at the Humane Society. "We appreciate her volunteering as the support group leader."

The Pet Loss Support Group is a free service of the Humane Society Education department. It meets 7-8 p.m. the first Monday of the month. Reservations are required. For more information, call 314-650-9725.

Saying Goodbye to a Pet



We know our pets' lifespans are shorter than our own. Nonetheless, our hearts break when the end comes.

The decision to euthanize a pet is not an easy one for either the owner or the veterinarian. However, the alleviation of a pet's suffering is a selfless and humane way to reward the great joys and the companionship we received from our pets during their lifetime. We can draw consolation from that fact, no matter how much we feel torn apart.

"It is easy to say we should be prepared for the inevitable, but, of course, we never are," said Steven Schwartz, director of the Veterinary Medical Centers, who added that you and your pet will be treated with tenderness during the euthanasia process. "We are sad along with you."

Cremation

Cremation can be arranged at the time of euthanasia or when you bring your recently deceased pet's remains to one of our adoption centers during business hours. Carol Gates Throop Memorial Park features a columbarium in which you may inter your pet's ashes. Proceeds benefit the animals in our care. For more information, call 314-951-1562.

Tribute Gifts

In memory of your pet, or the pet of a friend or family member, make a contribution to the Humane Society in the pet's name. Announcement cards let pet owners know of your thoughtfulness. Any amount is appreciated; gifts of more than \$50 are acknowledged in *Tails* magazine. For more information, call 314-951-1542.

News *from Longmeadow Rescue Ranch*



Winsome Walter The newest Barn Buddy is Walter, an adorable miniature pot-bellied pig. Since coming to Longmeadow Rescue Ranch in January, he's learned to walk on a harness, climb steps and go down a plastic playground slide. He comes when he's called by his name and flops over on his side for his much-loved belly rubs. The charmer also sits and begs for treats (banana peels and peppermints are his favorites).



Welcome, Ollie! The scene-stealing colt was born in April to Stella, a mare rescued from starvation in November of 2010. Of the 35 Andrew County horses brought to the safe haven of Longmeadow Rescue Ranch, 19 (including Ollie and a filly named Stormy) are available for adoption.

To sponsor Walter or another Barn Buddy, please contact the Development office at 314-951-1542. To meet Walter, visit Longmeadow Rescue Ranch any Friday noon-3 p.m. or Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit www.longmeadowrescueranch.org for directions to the ranch.

ADD TO YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



*Sponsor a Barn Buddy
or give a Barn Buddy Sponsorship as a gift!*

Our Barn Buddy sponsorship program gives you the satisfaction of giving a unique gift, while knowing you are helping to care for rescued horses and farm animals at Longmeadow Rescue Ranch. For your sponsorship we will deliver a Barn Buddy Membership package to anyone on your gift list in the U.S. And not to worry... we'll do the feeding and clean-up!

Questions? Call 314-951-1519 or email Development.Office@hsmo.org

To order, visit hsmo.org or longmeadowrescueranch.org, download a Sponsor Form and mail with payment to Humane Society of Missouri Development Office
1201 Macklind Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

Holiday orders must be received by December 20, 2011.



Meet a Volunteer Who Gets the Picture

Chesterfield Valley Center (CVC) pooches put their best paws forward on the Humane Society adoption website, thanks to Sherrol Nicklas' photos.

It began when Chesterfield Valley volunteers dressed up some adoptable dogs in Halloween costumes to add pizzazz to their online listings and Nicklas offered to take the photos. After Halloween they decided that dogs dressed like Santa Claus would be fun. She said she "just sort of morphed into the volunteer photographer."

A year ago, Nicklas also began producing promotional flyers for the CVC bulletin board, another brainchild of the volunteers.

"We choose a dog being overlooked by potential adopters, maybe because it is older, doesn't respond well to being approached, or is just a 'plain brown dog'. I spend one or two hours taking pictures of the dog doing whatever that dog does. I write a little article about the dog and add 8 to 12 photos."

In at least one case, the bulletin board flyer led to a happy match. An exuberant seven-month-old Vizla mix needed an adopter who'd work with his jumping and mouthing. "A woman came into the shelter and read his feature on our bulletin board," said Nicklas. "This was just the kind of dog she was looking for."

She began volunteering four years ago, not long after the death of her 12-year-old Shih-Tzu, Sam. "I thought that being with the dogs would be good for me and them. My husband Don insists that I was only auditioning the dogs," she laughed. Buddy, a Poodle/Bichon mix, got the part. "I can say without a doubt that I have never had a dog that has loved me more."

To learn more about becoming a volunteer, call 314-951-1577 or e-mail volunteer@hsmo.org.

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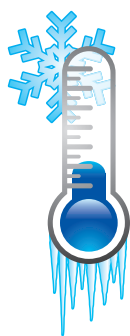
ADULT DOG



ADULT CAT

Find us on Facebook and see how we're trying to go beyond
for shelter pets and the environment we share with them.

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B-r-r-r-! *If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet.*

Bring dogs inside. Don't leave them outside in the cold for long periods of time or they can develop frostbite on ears, tails and feet. If you run with your dog, be attentive to cold paws and leave Fido at home when it is too cold.

Always keep cats inside. Winter or summer, they are safer indoors.

Provide adequate shelter. If your dog lives outdoors, you must provide a well-insulated and draft-free doghouse. (It's the law.)

Provide plenty of food and water. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated. Provide more food if he or she spends a lot of time outdoors. Snow is not a substitute for water.

Beware of anti-freeze and rock salt. Anti-freeze smells and tastes good to your pet, but is lethal. If you suspect your pet has ingested it, contact your veterinarian immediately! Rock salt can irritate footpads.

Dry off wet pets. Towel or blow-dry pets when they get wet from rain or snow. Dry and clean paws to prevent tiny cuts and cracked pads.

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Tributes & Memorials

The following companies and individuals have contributed \$50 or more to the Humane Society of Missouri as a memorial or in honor of someone special. Donations were received between June 1, 2011 and July 31, 2011.

In Memory of Pets

Agatha Ms. Emily Popovic	Gracie Mrs. Pat Marstall	Pepper Burcham Keri and John Delaloye	Carol Booth Ms. Leslie Grabowski	Nelda Foster Lynn and Janet Meyer
Amber Donna and Mike Boland	Hershey Marian and Van Black	Pippin Sharon and David Raich	Lawrence M. Borger Friends from the University of Missouri Libraries Ms. Joyce Edinger	Marie Corno Gabriel Mr. and Mrs. James G. Castellano Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kaufmann
Aslan Lisa and Jeffrey Fierstein	Hershey McDonnell Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Armstrong	Punkin Judy and John Williams	Glen Strong Mr. and Mrs. James B. Ashwell Herbert Gaither	Beatrice Groebel Mizpah Manor
Belle Mr. and Mrs. Mark Pearlstone	Jackson McWhorter Ellen, Jim, Bella, Shadow, and Furdinand Bonnie and Ital Veron	Rattlesnake Agnes McKernan - I'm sorry for your loss. She had a good home and was loved.	Irene M. Brown Richard Meschke Family	Barbara Golub Norma Wilcox and Jody Buchanan
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