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Talking Paws Newsletter

Volume 1
Winter
2018



Good Friends



The Shelter Corner -

As we look forward to a new year, we face many challenges and find ourselves in constant fund-raising mode. Yet we are optimistic that together with the wonderful people and organizations that have partnered with us for services and help, we will manage these challenges and find opportunities to better fulfill our mission serving animals.

We can't do it without your continued support and assistance. Our membership drive for 2019 is now open. We are also looking for sponsors - for all our events, not just each individually. If you or your company can join us by sponsoring our fund-raising events, please contact me at the shelter. We greatly need and appreciate your help.

The staff and board join me in wishing you a very merry holiday season and the happiest new year.

Mary Stocco
Shelter Director

*Dogs and Cats ...
everyone's responsibility*

Contents

The Shelter Corner	1
Cards and Calendar	1
Our Story Continued	2
Avoiding the need to Rehome Your Cat	2
Facility Update	2
Pet's Corner	3
Our Mission	3
Visiting Vet	3
Community Corner	4
Save the Dates	
FYI	4
Subscribe	
Join us	
Volunteers needed	
MHS Contacts	4

Cards & Calendars

Now available!

Need holiday gifts? Do you want to see the winning dogs and cats in our 2019 calendar or card deck? Go to our website or visit us at the shelter to buy either one.





Our Story, Continued: The Mesabi Humane Society

In our last newsletter, you read about our history and the early days of providing animal services and sheltering for free-roaming, lost, abandoned, or unwanted animals. Since that time we have continued to grow, providing more services for animals in our communities. Our animal control officer and van cover a large part of St. Louis County and the hoarding situations we handle seem to be getting larger and larger. If you know a neighbor whose cat or dog population seems to keep growing, please let the sheriff know, so that we can come and help.

Avoiding the Need to Rehome Your Cat

The most common reasons for rehoming a cat are allergies and behavioral issues. If a member of your household becomes allergic, many people assume it's the cat. That may not be so. It could be the cat litter. Change to a dust free litter. Reduce the risk of reaction by vacuuming daily and invest in an air purifier. Instead of brushing your cat, use a fragrance free cleanser specifically designed for cats. Simply wipe a warm washcloth over the cat to remove excess fur and dander. Do not bathe your cat, as this can be extremely stressful. Wash cat bedding regularly to remove the allergen particles and call your veterinarian for product recommendations.

Many common behavioral issues with cats come down to two areas of concern: emotional or physical. Cats, by nature, do not like change. Whatever changes in your life changes in your cat's life and affects him/her adversely. Do your best to identify and be aware of the negative triggers. Also, keep your cat entertained with interactive toys to help with the cat's emotional well being. Bored cats are stressed cats!

Behavioral issues present themselves if a cat's health is compromised. Excessive or inappropriate elimination could be a sign of an underlying medical issue so make an appointment with your veterinarian. Urinary tract infections or crystals in male cats can be cause for great concern and can lead to kidney failure and even death. In addition, stick with one brand of cat litter, preferably unscented, and keep the litter box in one or two locations permanently. Even moving the box could make your cat not want to use it.

Your cat's well being is your responsibility, and a happy, healthy cat is a wonderful companion.

FACILITY UPDATE

You may have heard of our dream of building a new shelter. The dream is alive, but we need to take care of our current facility. Thirty years of cats, dogs, staff & visitors have created a lot of "wear and tear."

Here are a few of our accomplishments.

2017

We painted the building a bright red and sealed the dog kennels to block the cold drafts of winter.



2018

With our large hoarding rescue this year, funds have been especially tight. However, we now have:

- Working phones and phone lines!
- Ordered broken windows/glass
- Started interior repainting

2019

We need to:

- Add an office and space at the back to handle intakes
- Convert an office into a 3rd cat room
- Revamp dog runs and kennels
- Add new ventilation equipment.
- Remove/replace old storage sheds

If you have handyman skills and are willing to volunteer your labor, let us know. We have many needs!

PET'S CORNER - MHS pets and their furever homes...

OUR MISSION

To promote the humane treatment of animals through sheltering, spaying and neutering, adoption & community education

VISITING VET

A lot of us gain weight over the winter when we spend more time indoors and get less exercise. The same can be true for your pet. So pay attention and avoid those few extra pounds. They could make a big difference to your pet and its health. Try to get your cat or dog playing inside to keep off those extra pounds.

If your pets do go outdoors, or hang out in a garage, pay attention to what they may be walking in. Antifreeze can cause kidney failure, and salt and other ice-melt products can aggravate paws. Pet booties can help if your dog is walking on treated walks or roads.

In our last issue, we talked about the impact of hot cars on pets during the summer; but don't forget our pets get cold too. Health issues, fur length, and outside temperatures all influence how a pet will do. If you must take your pet with you, bring blankets or find ways they can snuggle and stay warm.



NITTY My Miracle Girl

As told by Kathy Wiegert
who is now a key member
of our Board of Directors

As a shelter volunteer I met and adopted a very sweet and lonely two-year old pit-bull mix from The Mesabi Humane Society. A couple of days later, I made an appointment to have a wellness check with a local veterinarian. It was discovered that Nitty was a very sick dog. Her heart valve was stuck in the open position and she had an extremely enlarged heart due to excess amounts of blood. The doctor said that perhaps I would have her three or four months due to this condition and suggested that I take her to the University Hospital in St. Paul for a second opinion.

At the University a couple of weeks later, four doctors confirmed the local diagnosis - severe heart murmur. They also told me to love her every day, as there would not be many of them. There is a surgery available in four places in the United States, but no guarantees come with the very expensive surgery and two of the doctors did not think that she would survive the anesthesia.

This all happened in 2013. Nitty is with me today - eight-years-old, with only small signs of the problem. The murmur is still there and the vet says, "There is no reason for her to be alive", but one can find her running around the back yard wagging her tail or with me checking out the great smells on the bike trails. Clearly, there is a reason for her to be alive... Miracles DO happen and she is the April pet of the month on the MHS 2019 Calendar!

Please visit our website and like us on Facebook:

<https://www.mesabihumanesociety.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/themesabihumanesociety/>

COMMUNITY CORNER

SAVE THE DATES!



April 12, 5:30-9 PM

Mobile Adoptions - Find your purrfect companion

PetSmart, Duluth, MN

February 22-24 and May 17-19

Mighty Mutts

March TBD

Iron Range Home, Boat, and Travel Show

March 21-24 Miner's Memorial Arena

MN Spay/Neuter

June 10 and August 12 at MHS

Register online with MN SNAP

Shred-It-Truck

Saturday April 13

Tractor Supply Lot, Virginia 12 - 2 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Brat Barn

Thursday-Saturday August 29, 30, 31

10-6 PM Super One South, Virginia MN

Pig, Swig & Jig Brew Fest

To be announced

Putts for Mutts

To be announced

Volunteers Needed!

Beginning in March we need volunteers before and during our fundraising events. Join us to make new friends while you help our cats and dogs.

Are you able to donate an hour or two once a week to the Mesabi Humane Society? If so, please go online or come to the shelter and fill out an application to volunteer. We need your help! Can you be a dog walker, cat snuggler, or morning cleaner? Please visit us at the shelter or call: 218-741-7425. Thank you!

FYI

Subscribe

Know someone who would like our newsletter? Have them go to our website where they can download a free copy.

Join Us

in our mission helping animals
AND BECOME A MEMBER.

Individual: \$35 [\$25 Student (17 and under) and Senior (65+)]

Feed 7 dogs a week

Family: \$75

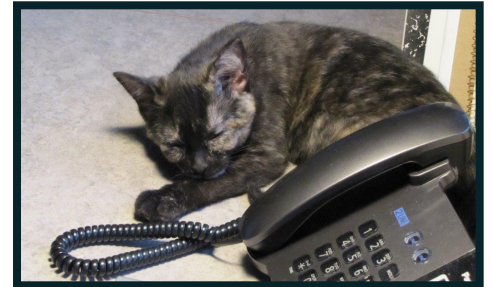
Feed 19 dogs & cats for a week

Cat's Meow: \$200

Vaccinate 10 dogs against rabies

Top Dog: \$450

Spay and vaccinate two cats;
or give 2 vaccinations + heart
worm tests to 8 dogs



MHS CONTACTS

Shelter Director

Mary Stocco 218-741-7425

mary.stocco@

mesabihumanesociety.org

ACO Officer

Liz Ward 218-410-3899

MHS Board Chair

Linda Scott 218-780-3821