

Paw Prints – a Volunteer Newsletter

May/June 2015

No. 13 & 14

MAY is National Chip Your Pet Month

A traumatizing fact, once a pet is lost, the chances of him/her making it home again are not in their favor. The good news is there is something you can do to help the chances of a lost pet finding its owners again. Microchipping your pet, serves as a fantastic secondary identification system for your pet.

A microchip is an identifying integrating circuit implanted just under the skin at the shoulder blades of your pet. It is no bigger than a grain of rice. When your pet is scanned with a microchip reader the microchip number will appear on the screen of the reader. This number is then linked to the owner information.

Microchips are made from an inert, biocompatible substance, which means it won't cause an allergic reaction in your pet. Once implanted the microchip will stay in place and will not degenerate over time, ensuring that your pet has permanent identification if he/she were ever to be lost or stolen.

<https://allentownanimalclinic.wordpress.com/2013/05/08/may-is-national-chip-your-pet-month/>

JUST ONE DAY!

June 11th is approaching so quickly. Last year we participating in this great nationwide event when all participating shelters will go no kill for one day!

June 11th, for 11 hours and all animals are just \$11!!

So on that Thursday, we will be doing an all call for volunteers to assist in every aspect of the shelter.

Normal duties on the morning crew, but we will need people to be in the shelter talking with potential adoptees and helping with meet and greets.

Please be ready for more information soon!

Coordinator Corner

As you can tell this month's newsletter is in your hands late! Normally it comes out in the beginning of the month, but with the recent challenges that we have faced, it's been a little trying to get this approved and out to you.

So here is your double issue!

You will notice that it is extra-long because of this, but the Monthly training tip that usually is here is in my normal spot for the Coordinators Corner due to size.

Thank you for understanding!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Drake	4 th
Bailey Layne	4 th
Lissa Lockard	10 th
Joni Field	12 th
Brooklyn Gutierrez	15 th
Stephanie Gray	18 th
Nancy Ballinger	23 rd
Gabriela Rivera	23 rd
Wendy Reyes	28 th

My Volunteer Story



By Clarissa Little

My love for animals started when I was growing up in elementary school and high school. I was blessed enough to have parents who wanted me to experience the love and responsibility of having pets.

I have had everything from rabbits, rats, iguana's, snakes, dogs, cats, turtles, to larger animals working on a ranch consisting of horses, cows, goats, and rams!

I grew up wanting to be a veterinarian or something to do with being able to help animals. I ended up because of my life at the time going into healthcare. Not my particular wanted route of life, but, needless to say I got to help people and that was pretty close!

Once I got older and so did my son, who is 6 now, I decided it was time to start doing what I love! I have

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jeff George	3 rd
Cynthia Tellez	4 th
Mariah Munoz	4 th
Rose Harkey	6 th
Lisa Enns	12 th
Elizabeth Travares	13 th
Lisa Mayes	23 rd
Jennifer Bartlett	24 th
Ianice Kim	27 th

only lived here in Kern County now for going on two years, when I found out about the volunteer program at Kern County Animal Services, I knew it was the place for me!

Since being there I have been able to help more animals than I could ever possibly help on my own with my own funds at this time!

The thing that drives me to be here every day, is the faces of the animals when they get attention, and I am also a socialization coach! Meaning I get to take animals outside and work with them, making them more adoptable and giving them that human contact they really need and deserve after being neglected or abused!

The love that they can still give humans after what some of them have been through is the most amazing and heart-



warming part of my "job", I call it!

To me, that's what I was put on this earth for and I love every minute of it! Especially when I can take pictures and recommend dogs to friends!

Then they end up coming down and giving them their forever homes! It's an amazing feeling! These are the faces that drive me every day! To foster, and volunteer my time to this community and family I have at Kern County Animal Services!

In March Clarissa was selected for employment with the Shelter and resigned as a volunteer. She is greatly missed in our Volunteer Program, but now she gets to do even more for the animals as an employee.



Coordinators Corner

Monthly Training Tip:

CROSS CONTAMINATION

One of the most important things that you learn as a volunteer is the fact that we want and need you, as well as the animals, to be safe and healthy.

This means that contamination in our shelter can turn into a very big problem. If an outbreak of disease occurs, it can be very hard to get things back under control.

This is why we strive to make sure that you, as a volunteer, take all necessary steps to keep yourself and the animals safe during every part of the cleaning and handling process.

A crucial step is the wearing of gloves and aprons when cleaning and changing them out each time you move from kennel to kennel.

Clearly, this procedure alone will not end all contamination problems, but it is an important way to help minimize the possibility of disease outbreaks that can occur.

Recently our shelter had a major outbreak of Parvovirus. Not only was it damaging to our shelter, it made it very hard for staff and volunteers to work with the affected animals.

We all know that volunteers are not the only potential source of contamination that could explain how this MAY have occurred.

Our customer base – the visitors who come to the Shelter -- are another potential source of contamination. We all must strive to inform our visitors of what can happen to the animals when they move from kennel to kennel and touch the animals, try to educate. I am asking you, as a volunteer, to use your animal advocacy skills to educate the public about what can happen to the animals when they are exposed to cross contamination.

Make sure that when you are interacting with our visitors, you inform them of this potential threat to our animals. And most importantly, do not EVER be afraid to tell other volunteers to keep their hands out of the cages without gloves on!

Non-Human Animal Disease

Animal diseases are a concern principally because of the economic losses they cause and the possible transmission of the causative agents like

viruses or parasites to humans. Veterinary medicine deals with the study, prevention, and treatment of diseases in domesticated animals.

Programs for the control of diseases communicable from animals to humans, called zoonoses, especially those in pets and in wildlife that are closely related to human health, are being funded and studied so that advances in their control and the elimination of cross contamination in shelters can be achieved.

Recently, it has been discovered that many invertebrate animals (those without a backbone) are capable of transmitting causative agents of disease from person to person or from other vertebrates (animal with a backbone) to people. Such animals, which act as hosts, agents, and carriers of disease, are important in causing and perpetuating human illness. Because about three-fourths of the important known zoonoses are associated with domesticated animals, including pets, the term zoonoses was originally defined as a group of diseases that people are able to acquire from domesticated animals.

Common zoonotic diseases that most people know of are Rabies and Cat Scratch Fever, but others like Parvovirus, Panleukopenia, Ring worm

and demodex mange are others.

So how can we help eliminate, eradicate or just keep control of cross contamination?

Scientists at UC Davis have determined that the best way to overcome the problem is by educating staff who can then educate the visitors who come to the shelter about what can happen when disease is introduced into a shelter.

Most shelters (including ours!) do not have sufficient staff to provide this scary information to every visitor, none of whom want to cause the animals to get sick. And that is where you, our valued volunteer, come in. You are the health information expert for most of our visitors.

“An animal - cat, dog, bird - does not have a voice. Animals can't tell you what is happening and how they feel. By discussing this issue with our visitors, staff and our volunteers can help make sure that the animals don't get sick unnecessarily” says Apryl Manning, KCAS Supervisor.

As your Volunteer Coordinator, I know you want to do everything you can to protect our animals. One way is to take the time to explain to our visitors, and sometimes other volunteers, why and how we want to avoid possible cross contamination of the animals we are ensured

to protect. It takes so little to pass infection from one animal from another. But the little time you spend discussing this issue with each other and with our visitors pays off thousand-fold dividends to you and our animals.



IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME!!!

It's that time of year and we are always cleaning, but we know that your cleaning too.

If you see that you have gently used towels, lots of newspaper laying around or even some old blankets and sheets that could be used again.....

DONATE - DONATE - DONATE

TO THE

Kern County Animals Shelter

We use approximately 2 days of newspapers per puppy

&

A towel, a blanket, a sheet - the dogs enjoy so much. You see a difference when they get that softness in their kennels.