

PAW PRINTS

May 2016

A Volunteer Newsletter

Issue #23

National Sea Monkey Day is May 16th



National Sea Monkey Day is observed on May 16, 2016. "Sea-Monkeys", a brand name for brine shrimp (a group of crustaceans that undergo cryptobiosis) that are often sold in hatching kits as novelty aquarium pets. Invented in 1957 by Harold von Braunhut, the product was heavily marketed, especially in comic books, and remains a presence in popular culture.

Initially called "Instant Life", von Braunhut changed the name to "Sea-Monkeys" in 1962. This was based on the supposed resemblance of the animals' tails to those of monkeys, and their salt-water habitat. The product was intensively marketed in comic books.

The colony is started by adding the contents of a packet labelled "Water Purifier" to a tank of water. This packet contains salt and some brine shrimp eggs. After 24 hours, this is augmented with the contents of a packet labelled "Instant Life Eggs", containing eggs, yeast, borax, soda, salt, and sometimes a dye. The animals which hatched from the eggs over the previous day seem to appear instantly. "Growth Food", containing yeast and spirulina is then added every few days.

SUMMER TIME IS COMING!

For the last two years, during summer break, many of our volunteers have left us because of college and other such things. We ask our volunteers to be helpful and please make sure to inform the Volunteer Coordinator of their schedule changes or plans to resign from the shelter volunteer program.

This also applies to vacations at any time of the year. As soon as you know of your vacations plans please let us know ASAP.

Captain Jackie



ZAP



&

Our Take

Welcome to our take. This week, we have a special guest, as Zip decided that a vacation was needed instead of a vet check up!

Today's guest columnist is Capt. Jackie. Hey Captain, welcome to Our Take!

CJ - What be happenin', Matey?

Zap - Huh?

CJ - I was greetin' ye...

Zap - Umm....ok....so I am guessing you're a female pirate, dog?

CJ - Yarr, I be!

ZAP - So anyways, today we will be talking about hydration.

CJ - Drinkin' rum be one 'o th' most important thin's on th' high seven seas.

ZAP - RUM! Never Rum.....water and only water! Capt. Jackie, I am not sure that you understand what we are doing here.....

CJ - Rum be what we drink.....'n Yo ho ho 'n a bottle 'o rum!

ZAP - QUIET!!! Never give your animal Rum or any alcohol, it's never acceptable. Water is so important to the animal's health. We do not have access to soda and milk, and truthfully our human partners shouldn't drink soda anyways and milk is so fattening!

CJ - Spiced rum 'n soda....mmmm, sounds jolly!

ZAP - OH MY!!! NO RUM & SODA!! Enough! Water, Water and more Water. As it gets hotter, the more water the better.

ZAP - Even though we have a language barrier, thank you Captain Jackie for being here.

VOLUNTEERING

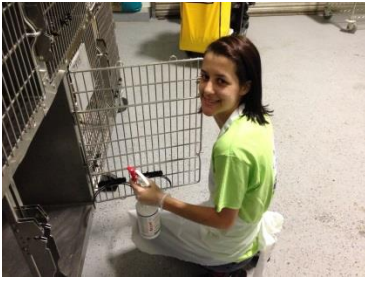
Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer? We are looking for some key volunteers to help with our Bed making project on Thursday afternoons.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in helping out with this and other fun projects, then KCAS is the place to be.

Ask those interested to contact Jeff George at 661-868-7130 or email at jeffg@co.kern.ca.us.



MAY BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Kelsie Ash	3
Kandi Drewry	5
Nick Langwell	6
Andrea Itliong	7
Lissa Lockard	10
Taylor Koronka	16
Nancy Ballinger	23
Carsyn Wiley	24
Wendy Reyes	28
Eddy Contant	29
Taylor Krok	31



Volunteer Spotlight

By Sarah Abate

After I graduated from college I was struggling to find a job and I was spending my days not doing anything at home. It was then that I decided to do something with my time. Becoming a volunteer at the animal shelter seemed like a good idea. I've always wanted to volunteer and I couldn't think of anything better than giving my time to help animals find loving homes. I couldn't of made a better decision. Everyone at the shelter is so friendly and always willing to help out and share their wisdom with me. I've met so many kind people who I now consider friends.

Knowing that something as simple as cleaning out a puppy's cage or just interacting with them for a couple of minutes is meaningful is the reason I keep coming back. While some mornings I find it difficult to get up early, as soon as I get to the shelter it's all worth it. Everyone's smiles are so infectious and seeing the puppies get so excited to see me, it's hard not to be put in a good mood. I love finding out when dogs find loving homes. It makes me excited for them and for the family who adopts them. Volunteering has really awoken my passion for these animals. I want to help however I can in finding homes for them, and to just show them the love they deserve until they find that home.

3 Questions We All Want to Know!

1. **If I could live anywhere in the world where would I live?** If I could live anywhere it would probably be Morro Bay. I would love to live by the ocean and it's pretty close to Los Angeles.
2. **If you just won the California lottery, what is one thing that you would spend your money on?** I would take a trip to Japan. I've always wanted to go there and I have friends there that I want to visit.
3. **If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?** Teleportation. Not having to deal with traffic and being able to go anywhere in an instant would be amazing.



Coordinator's Corner

Summer months will soon be with us! I want everyone to know how important water is for you and how essential it is to have fresh water available for your animals at all times. Why?

Here's the explanation, from some pretty smart folk.
PLEASE READ IT:

Dehydration causes an abnormal reduction in the volume of circulating blood. This has a number of adverse consequences, many of which are related to imbalances in the levels of electrolytes in fluids that normally are contained inside and outside of cells (intracellular and extracellular fluids). Electrolytes are natural chemical substances which, when dissolved in water or melted, dissociate into electrically charged particles called "ions". Ions can be negatively or positively charged and can conduct electrical currents. The key

positively charged ions in a dog's body fluids ("cations") are calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium. The primary negatively charged ions ("anions") are bicarbonate, chloride and phosphate. The concentration of electrolytes is carefully regulated, because electrolytes are critical to the normal metabolic activities and functions of all cells in the body.

When a dog becomes dehydrated, the relative concentration of electrolytes in its cells, blood and other body fluids becomes imbalanced. This can affect virtually any organ or system, including the kidneys, bones, gastrointestinal tract, nerves, muscles, blood pressure, heart function and respiratory tract, among others.

Symptoms of Dehydration

The observable signs of dehydration in dogs can include one or more of the following:

- Excessive skin tenting/decreased skin

turgor (the skin stays "stuck together" for a prolonged period of time after being gently lifted and pressed between two fingers. Normal skin pliability depends in large part upon hydration status. Obesity and emaciation can alter the results of this test.)

- Loose skin
- Wrinkled skin
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lack of appetite
- Weight loss
- Excessive volume of urine
- Lethargy; listlessness
- Weakness
- Depression
- Panting
- Excessive drooling
- Tacky, dry gums
- Elevated heart rate
- Weak pulse strength
- Sunken eyes
- Collapse

You, our valued human KCAS volunteer, could experience the same symptoms. Please make sure that you pay attention to any warning signs your body sends you, especially during the heat of our summers here in Bakersfield.

Taken from:

<http://www.petwave.com/Dogs/Health/Dehydration/Symptoms.aspx>