

May is Pet Cancer Awareness Month

The Animal Cancer Foundation estimates that nearly 12 million pets are diagnosed with cancer each year. Cancer is never easy to talk about—which is exactly why pet parents need to strike up a conversation before their pet gets sick.

Despite the pervasiveness of the disease, there are still many myths out there about pet cancer. In the spirit of helping the tens of millions of pet parents on this journey with their pets—and for the many millions more who are lucky enough to have healthy pets—here are some truths everyone who loves a furry friend needs to know about pet cancer.

Myth 1: Only dogs get cancer.

The truth is that cats are at risk, too. Cancer can strike at any age in any pet

Myth 2: Veterinarians can't do much for pets with cancer.

Cancer is an emotionally loaded word, but a diagnosis doesn't have to mean the end for a sick pet. Many pet cancers are very treatable and it is possible for the disease to go into remission when diagnosed and treated early.

Myth 3: Treating my pet's cancer will make him or her suffer needlessly.

The majority of us have seen a loved one battling the effects of cancer firsthand, and it is devastating to watch. Fortunately, pets don't experience side effects from chemo the way humans do—some never feel sick at all.

Myth 4: My dog is "safe" because he's purebred and there's no cancer in his lineage.

While I wish it were this easy to avoid cancer, it's simply not. Cancer is a complex disease with both genetic and environmental effects at play.

Myth 5: There's nothing I can do to prevent cancer in my pet.

There's no way to prevent cancer 100%, but you can do plenty to reduce your pet's risk. Be sure your pet is spayed or neutered to reduce mammary and prostate cancers.

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May Calendar of Events

May 5th – Petco Gosford Adoption Event
May 12th – Shafter Vaccination Clinic – 9am
May 13th – Mother's Day
May 16th – ASC Meeting, 1115 Truxtun Ave -- 6pm
May 19th – Dog Tag Dash
May 28th – Memorial Day



ZIP

OUR TAKE

A look at animal welfare from the eyes of ... these two!



ZAP

ZIP: Bark, Bark, woof, Bark!

ZAP: Zip, English.

ZIP: That's right. Welcome to another edition of Our Talk. I must say that Mega Adoption was such a great success. I heard that almost 1900 people came in. Our volunteer coordinator was very happy to see the adoptions.

ZAP: The VC said that 21 volunteers were on hand and helped give out 100 applications for hopeful future volunteers. I say that alone was a success.

ZIP: KCAS as a whole had 33 adoptions but there were 79 in total for the event.

ZAP: I was a little sad. One of my cousins from my Granduncle's third wife was adopted. But it was so good to see her go to a great home. That's what happened on that wonderful day. So many great animals went to great families.

ZIP: And we want to thank the sponsors who came to support the event, because with their support, we can have a very successful event. And we had a raffle there, too. A 50 inch TV!! Wow.....that's where I put most of my tickets.

ZAP: I bought my tickets and put mine in for two very special prizes.....but like you, I didn't win. That Starbucks basket and the movie basket were so cool.

ZIP: Our buddy Danny Spanks from KRAB Radio was on hand and was interviewing people and showing off the event on Facebook live and talking on the radio. It was fun to talk with him.

ZAP: Director Cullen was very cordial to us. Well, at least to me. You know that he and I have had some very intense discussions about TNR.

ZIP: I wouldn't call those discussions. I mean seriously, wouldn't you be upset if someone came at you with scissors??

ZAP: I can't help it. (Sarcastically:) The guy doesn't know how much tipping the ear hurts. He needs to feel my pain.

ZIP: So it never ends. Have a great month Volunteers!

Ear-tipping is extremely safe and is performed while the cat is already anesthetized for spay or neuter surgery. There is little or no bleeding involved, and it is not painful to the cat.

NEWS & NOTES

MILESTONE HOURS	
(as of Mar. 31st)	
Rhonda Montgomery	2572
Julie Langers	1510
Shawn Fernberg	1168
Barbara Fowler	1091
Crystal Struckhoff	757
Nancy Apodoca	725
Danny Spanks	669
Teddi Rawles	527
Stan Cameron	489
Rhonda Smith	462
Rowena Yong	445
Lynette Coleman	354
Tabitha Sanchez	339
Sarah Abate	314
Maggie Sanchez	314
Tiffani Rawles	309



MAY BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Kelsie Ash	3
Jordan Lewis	4
Mariah Gomez	4
Kyleigh Earls	5
Lynette Coleman	13
Becky Rueda	15
April Brown	23
Erin Toogood	30



Coordinator's Corner

So I've been asked about the Volunteer Week activities and the lack thereof. Since I was hired, we've had a Volunteer Week and a National Volunteer Day when we would have special tours and activities for the volunteers and members of the public. Due to the very successful creation of MEGA ADOPTION and the need of volunteers at that event, we had to suspend the Volunteer Day events for the foreseeable future. National Volunteer Day was April 21st and Mega Adoption was April 22nd.

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I wanted to take a moment to help you understand the decision by Kern County Counsel regarding minor volunteers and work release. As of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the decision was that ALL departments cannot allow minor volunteers on County property while work release personnel are present.

The No Saturday plan seemed to work initially, but then there were some other instances throughout the county that made this protocol mandatory on all days; and so KCAS had to follow suit. Now we have been able to work around this a bit, but we still need to be vigilant. As adult volunteers, we will all be responsible to keep our youth safe at times when we have minor volunteers, such as on Wednesday evenings for clinic and any days that work release personnel are not scheduled to be on property. Outside of that, we will be using our current volunteers who are minors for Saturday and Sunday events offsite. We ask all volunteers to be vigilant when it comes to work release personnel or any other adults who we could question at any time and at any event.

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I wanted to take a moment to thank the 21 volunteers who came to Mega Adoption and worked the booth and talked with members of the public on April 22nd. The Fairgrounds building looked really cool with all those green shirts walking in and around it. Next year's event is on May 11th.

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Have a great month everyone!