



THE BARKER & MEOW TOO!

Monroe County Animal League ~ mc.al.petfinder.com

Annual Update

Winter/Spring 2009

2008 - Our Year In Review

- **Locally adopted 21 pets** through our adopt-a-stray, internet, and regular adoption programs.
- **Transported 149 dogs** and puppies to a cooperative no-kill shelter in Massachusetts.
- Found **forever homes for four** dogs through area rescue groups.
- Honored **30 spay/neuter requests** from Monroe County residents.

Remember: MCAL is an all-volunteer organization. Our volunteers are business owners, homemakers, farmers, and professionals in a variety of fields. Most volunteers maintain full-time jobs and a family, on top of what they do for the animals (which consists of giving a lot of time, love, and energy).

All animals in the care of MCAL are in a foster home network system. Monroe County does not have an animal shelter.

MCAL relies primarily on donations from its members, supporters, and the adopters of our animals.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of so many. We look forward to your support in 2009!

Help us make 2009 an unforgettable year for the animals in Monroe County! There are numerous ways to make a difference! We list a few in this issue. Of course, financial donations are always welcome!



Petfinder.com and the Petfinder.com Foundation are excited to offer a feature that allows you to sponsor a homeless pet that has touched your heart, but whom, for some reason, you can't adopt at this time.

It costs an average of \$180 to provide care for a pet while s/he waits for a home. Because it costs less to euthanize pets than it does to care for them, underfunded shelters are often forced to make hard decisions affecting good pets. You can help change this.

You can start by clicking to sponsor a pet that melts your heart on Petfinder.com! Your contribution of just \$10 may enable a pet to get the care it needs until a new loving family comes along. They all deserve this chance!

Contributions are collected and distributed to the shelter (please sponsor a pet at mc.al.petfinder.com) on a monthly basis and are tax deductible as the law allows.

If you have more time than money, please call us or register in the Petfinder.com volunteer database and post your availability to help your local animal adoption organization with fostering, calling, cleaning, or pet socializing. For more ideas on how to help, read *Your Local Shelter Wants You!* in the on-line Petfinder library.

mc.al.petfinder.com



Buster was high-lighted in our last annual letter. Buster still needs a home. He's a happy hound mix, with big floppy ears! He is a good house dog; is comfortable in a pen with a dog house, and he enjoys being outside on a long lead.



Been lookin' for love in all the wrong places?
Check out . . . www.mcal.petfinder.com



Facts About West Virginia Pet Overpopulation:

Please note these statistics were gathered in 1998. Today, stronger shelter spay neuter programs combined with the heightened number of rescued dogs going out of state, have reduced the euthanasia rate at WV shelters. However, the trends may still apply 10 years later.

- WV Shelters take in 102,000 dogs and cats, euthanizing 75% of them (3 out of 4 die).
- Shelters that do not require adopted animals to be spayed or neutered are themselves contributing to the overpopulation problem by allowing uncontrolled breeding to continue.
- Every day in the United States, 10,000 babies are born com-

pared to over 70,000 puppies and kittens. West Virginia had over 150,000 puppies and cats born last year.

- The average cost to pick up, house, feed and euthanize an animal is \$50, costing West Virginians \$3 million dollars yearly.
- Mandatory spay/neuter of adopted animals reduces the number of animals taken into a shelter. At the Kanawha Charleston Animal Shelter, for example, the number of animals taken in decreased from 16,000 in 1988 to 8,000 in 1998, after mandatory spay/neuter was implemented.
- An individual pays approx. \$30

to adopt an animal from a shelter. In addition, when spay/neuter is required, they must pay an additional \$20 to \$35. Under proposed legislation, the cost of spay/neuter will be borne by the adopting owner and not by the shelter.

- Of the animals put to death in West Virginia, 87% are placed in landfills, with the remaining 13% incinerated or sent to rendering companies.
- In West Virginia, only 31 counties have shelters or pounds.
- 21 states (including VA, KY., and D.C.) have passed mandatory spay/neuter laws.

Adoption = Saves One Life ~ ~ Fostering, Sponsoring and Rescue = Saves Countless Lives
Spay & Neuter = Saves Countless Future Lives and can eliminate the killing of unwanted animals

We Need Storage Space-Help us reach our goal of \$4,000!

MCAL wants to strategically place sheds throughout the county. These sheds will be used to store supplies of all kinds; food, crates, blankets, kennels, dog houses, etc. While we don't



MCAL is very proud of the fact that most every penny raised is used directly for the care of the animals. We don't want to divert funds used to care for our animals.



often have an excess of some of these items, when we do... we don't have any place to store them.

We're asking for your help to raise funds specifically for storage units. Remember, MCAL is a 501 c 3.

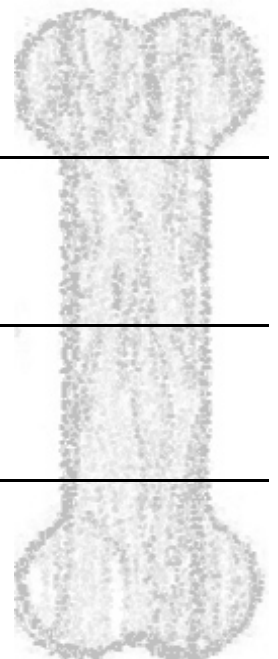
Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



\$3,000

\$2,000

\$1,000





Helping the community in different ways...

Our Mission Statement: The purpose of MCAL is to provide education and assistance regarding pet population control, to promote the care of pets in an acceptable manner, and to encourage the adoption of abandoned animals.

Every now and again we stray...

Please join us in supporting those in our community who are experiencing difficulty as a result of these economic times.

Ashley's IGA in Union, WV has graciously allowed us to place containers at the entrance of the store.

These boxes are posted with the following signs: **"Give what you can. Take what you need."**

If you are in need of pet food in order to keep your pet at home, please take some. On the other hand, if you can help a family in need, please drop an extra bag or can into the box.

If this pilot effort is a success, you will see more boxes throughout the county!



Donation Ideas

- 1) Organic/holistic pet products.
- 2) Walk a dog.
- 3) Donate grooming supplies (shampoos, combs, brushes, etc.)
- 4) Puppy (piddle) pads.
- 5) Eco friendly cleaning supplies.
- 6) Gift cards (to any store!)

We are in need of storage sheds (8 x 12). Help with material and/or assembly would be very much appreciated!

- 7) A roll of postage stamps
- 8) Long distance calling cards.
- 9) Puppy food (not dog food); IAMS or Pedigree.
- 10) Drive a dog or cat to and from vet appointments.
- 11) Puppy (itty-bitty) collars.
- 12) Treats and toys.

Call our information line to arrange a drop off, or send your donation via the US mail. Remember, we travel to NEAS regularly; donations may be left with them. Be sure to say "this is for MCAL"!

If you have a place where we can locate a shed, that would be helpful too!

Winter Care Tips

H o u s i n g : It is best to keep pets indoors during the winter months, but if this is not possible, outdoor pets must be provided with shelter. Their home should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet, and snow. Shelters should be insulated

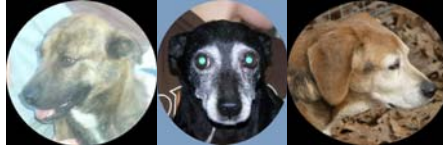
or heated. Water sources should be heated to permit constant access to unfrozen water; thermal units designed specifically for this purpose are readily available. Outdoor pets require extra calories to keep warm. Feed your pet according to its needs when the temperature drops. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside.



**Monroe County Animal League ~
mcal.petfinder.com**

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Save these dates! **May 2nd - Spring, Make Us A "Reasonable" Offer Sale ~ at IGA** **October 24th - Doggone Dinner and Fur Festival of Fun ~ 4th Annual Auction**

All pets pictured in this issue are in need of a home! Please help a pet find a home! Spread the word! Sometimes people don't understand the "no kill" commitment. Quite frankly, we can't take another one in until we move one out! Animals die as a result of our not having room. Please encourage adoption from a rescue group!

This newsletter will be sent to your e-mail account! If you asked to receive your newsletter via e-mail and didn't get it, let us know. Accordingly, if you receive the newsletter via e-mail and prefer not to, let us know. E-mail delivery saves on printing and postage costs!

Membership / Donation 2/09

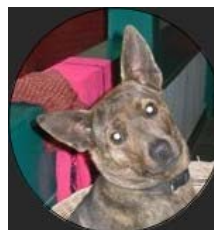
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|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | Amount |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paw Pal (recognize your pet!) | 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor A Pet | 2.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Donation | 100.00 |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |

Remember: A donation of \$75 or more gets you a hand-woven Mayan Hammock! Spring is just around the corner ~ get ready!

Sign me up for newsletters by e-mail

Name _____
Address _____

E-mail _____
Phone _____



Be one of the first fifty to submit your membership or donation and receive a Pet Alert decal!