Green Pet Tips from Yolo County SPCA

When people talk about being green and environmentally friendly, images of cars with low carbon footprints and buildings with solar panels come to mind. Lately, the Yolo County SPCA has hopped on the green bandwagon. We are proud that nearly all of our fundraisers that provide for our animals involve the key components of a green community: reduce, reuse, recycle.

The concept of our rescue organization is already centered upon the theory of saving resources (and lives). We help wonderful animals by finding them new families who will cherish them their entire lives. Helping these animals in dire need of homes, along with advocating spay/neuter, decreases the number of pets who are euthanized due to lack of owners and gives our worthy furry friends another chance.

To raise money for our cause, we have our Yolo County SPCA Thrift Store running year round. Unwanted clothes, lamps, dishware, purses, and all manner of things end up in our store instead of in a landfill. On any given day you might find the chair you’ve been wanting for your living room, or a pair of designer jeans. We are often able to get many of the supplies needed for our foster animals from our Thrift Store; re-using pet beds, towels, leashes, animal crates, and many other necessities. We have collected bottles and cans to make money to benefit our animals, provided our newsletters and announcements in an e-format, and have multiple fundraisers and festivals centered around less waste while still helping our animals.

One of our fundraisers is our Recycle, Reuse and Renew Festival held by our Thrift Store. The festival will be held in August this year and includes raffle prizes containing donated items, food, live music, activities for kids and more. This theme directly showcases how the Yolo County SPCA Thrift Store helps keep unwanted goods out of landfills while also helping animals with the proceeds. We also have a new e-waste fundraiser for 2012, so please collect your electronic waste anytime now through August 28th and bring it to our Thrift Store. You can clean your house of old household printers,
TVs, and other electronics while helping animals too! Our first book sale also occurred this year on April 28th, and included pre-used books, an author reading book signing, food, drinks, and a children’s reading corner.

We are glad to be able to help the community by following a basic principle of decreasing waste and helping re-use as many things as possible. So for all of you who follow the principle ‘waste not, want not’ and remember to recycle and compost, thanks. Keep Yolo County SPCA in mind the next time you are looking for somewhere to take your old things, and if you’re looking for some fun things to do this summer, come and join us! We have a good time helping the animals! - Jill Souza, YCSPCA Spay/Neuter/Community Cat Coordinator

Tips on Trimming Your Dog’s Nails

Most dogs do not enjoy having their paws handled, let alone their nails trimmed, but with a little bit of work you can change your dog’s emotional response to this procedure.

First, hold your pet in a position that is comfortable for nail trimming (for you and your pet) while feeding a high value treat. Start with a short amount of time (less than 30 seconds) and gradually work up to longer periods of time. Use a treat that your dog only receives at this time so he associates nail trimming with something extremely good.

Next, feed the treat while you touch your dog’s paw. The key is to touch the paw only while your dog is interested and eating the special treat. When you stop touching his paw, the treat goes away. This is easier with 2 people. Once he is comfortable with this, progress to tapping his nail with the clippers while feeding the treat, and finally clipping his nail while feeding the treat.

Initially, you will only be able to clip one nail at a time. Gradually work up to clipping more nails in one session. Remember to only proceed to the next step when your dog is calm, relaxed, and eating treats. The whole process can take weeks or months.

If your dog becomes aggressive (barking, growling, lip lifting, snarling, snapping, biting), consult your veterinarian or a veterinary behaviorist before proceeding. For a video on this procedure see: http://drsophiayin.com/resources/video_full/training_a_dog_to_enjoy_toenail_trims - Meredith Stepita, DVM, DACVB (Veterinary Behaviorist), Yolo County SPCA Volunteer
Why/When did you start volunteering for the Yolo County SPCA?

I started volunteering for the Yolo County SPCA in October of 2011, immediately after my husband and I moved to Davis from Sacramento. I started reading various dog-related blogs and discovered a large animal rescue community that I have never been aware of before.

What have you enjoyed most so far since you began volunteering?

By far, I have most enjoyed seeing the happy faces of people adopting dogs from YCSPCA. It is heartwarming to see dogs coming from unfortunate circumstances and finding their way into wonderful families who want to shower them with love and attention.

Do you have any pets of your own?

Yes, we have a goofy one-year-old beagle/boxer mix named Kai, who we dearly love. He is a happy-go-lucky guy who loves to meet new dogs and people, especially children, who make him wag his tail even more vigorously.

Volunteer Spotlight: Vasilisa Ayrapetyan

The story of the Catkin Around the World quilt begins in June of 2011 with Esther Pond of West Sacramento. Esther called a dozen rescue groups for assistance in collecting three semi-feral, 12 week-old-kittens born to a tame, abandoned momcat she’d already had spayed at the local vet.

Her 13th call was her lucky one. Shelley Bryant called her back, telling Esther she’d call one of the YCSPCA’s community cat volunteers to assist her. Using the momcat in a carrier as “bait,” Esther and the YCSPCA volunteer got all 3 kittens trapped, and very soon the feline family was reunited in Esther’s apartment, all spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

It turns out Esther, a former researcher and number cruncher extraordinaire, was an experienced quilter, so in appreciation, she created a beautiful quilt as a gift to the Yolo County SPCA. Esther’s grandmother was her quilting mentor, and remains her inspiration today, as she crafts quilts, wall hangings, and throws for organizations she wants to support. For her YCSPCA quilt, she chose her fabric from In the Beginning Fabric Company’s Catkin Around the World collection. This fabric was designed by Julie Paschkis. The quilt pattern Esther chose was designed by Jason Yenter. It was quilted locally by Deborah Dolce. Is this quilt destined for your collection? Look for it at a YCSPCA fundraiser coming soon!- Sue Tabor, YCSPCA Board Member

Catkin Around the World

Soap for Hope
Proceeds Benefit Animal Rescue Groups

Carolyn Waggoner
1610 Colusa Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-3131
(530) 758-4194
seawagi@yahoo.com
Late in 2011, we were asked to rescue a little rat terrier mix who had been brought into the Yolo County Animal Services shelter with a broken leg. She was a cute little thing and we have had a lot of experience with dogs with broken legs, so didn’t hesitate to take her in. An operation, a few weeks of crate rest, and they are up and running, literally. So we were a little surprised when “Pimpa” wasn’t bouncing back as quickly as expected. We became alarmed when we noticed she sometimes seemed to have some labored breathing, and became too tired too quickly.

We took her to the veterinarian who listened to her heart, and found she wasn’t hearing normal breathing sounds. We decided an X-ray was in order, after which the problem became pretty clear: Poor Pimpa had a diaphragmatic hernia—a hole in her diaphragm, and the organs that were supposed to be below the diaphragm were pushed up through it. No wonder she couldn’t breathe well!

Rips, tears, or holes can sometimes develop in the diaphragm when animals suffer traumatic injuries. It can be the result of any trauma, but a common one is being hit by a car. We suspect that was the case with Pimpa.

The next step was an operation to fix the hole. These aren’t common operations for most veterinarians, but it went very smoothly—everything was put back in it’s place, she was stitched up, and we held our breath for a few days until we were sure it was going to work.

It did! She got the wind back in her sails and was running around like a normal rat terrier in no time. The best part was when she got adopted. We were all thrilled when we got the following email:

“We just wanted to let you know that Ruby is doing great. She is such an affectionate little dog, we are just in love with her.

She has a very headstrong personality, but is very well behaved, and is very smart and listens well. She has adjusted to our home, and is very bonded to me, but still shares her affection with my wife Cheryl, as she does love a warm lap.

We are just so happy to have her in our life, our home really is complete with her as part of our pack.

We are so grateful for all of the hard work you and all of the Yolo County SPCA have done.”

- Sharon Montooth, YCSPCA Employee
Yolo County SPCA Animals - Now in Living Color!

Our animals are now on YouTube! You’ll notice as you browse our adoptable animals through our website that many of them now have videos.

We love all our foster animals; each one is sweet and worth every ounce of love we give them, but some of them don’t particularly love our adoption events. Who can blame them? Not everyone (especially adult cats and dogs who are still adjusting to their new situations) love the strange noises, unfamiliar environment, and barking dogs. However, these animals blossom at home and come out of their shells, and the videos are better able to capture their true personalities.

One of our volunteers, Lisa, has been helping each animal show off their real personality to the camera. When we have an animal who isn’t fond of placement, or perhaps just isn’t of the flashiest coat color or breed, we can post of a video of them in their home environment being the wonderful pet we know them to be. Check out our videos at yolspca.org and get to know a few of our fosters a little better! - Jill Souza, YCSPCA Spay/Neuter/Community Cat Coordinator

Volunteer Spotlight: Kenneth Johnson

Why/When did you start volunteering for the Yolo County SPCA?
I started volunteering with the Yolo County SPCA about a year and a half ago. I got involved with the organization after spending some time with a friend who volunteered at Saturday placements.

What have you enjoyed most so far since you began volunteering?
I have enjoyed interacting with all the amazing people that work and volunteer with the YCSPCA. I also have loved being able to use my interest in photography to take pictures of the adoptable animals for posting on Petfinder.

What do you like to do when you are not volunteering?
In my daily life I love to rock climb, ride my bicycle and motorcycle, study for school and spend quality time with my fiancée.

Do you have any pets of your own?
I am a proud new owner of a two year old lab mix, Velvet, which we got from the YCSPCA.

Dog Day Afternoon at Monticello

Sunday, April 15th, dog lovers gathered at Monticello Restaurant for Dog Day Afternoon. This event, which showcased good food, music, and dog-themed auction items, raised money for a new safety gate entrance at Toad Hollow Dog Park in Davis. This was our final fundraiser in the ongoing effort to raise the $2600 needed for the City-approved project. Thanks to everyone’s help, YCSPCA support, and a final generous donation from Midtown Animal Clinic, we reached our goal and work begins in May!

The gate project was hatched last June by Toad Hollow Dog Park regulars, who contacted the City with a proposal: Small dogs need a separate entrance to the dog park, directly into their small dog area of the park. Currently they must go through the big dog area, and there have been increasing problems and injuries. Let’s prevent what is preventable! The money raised allows the City to build the second double-entrance gate that is needed.

Since we’ll have a second entrance, we also will have a new path. There will be a Volunteer Day to work with the City on the small dog entrance path, scheduled for Monday, May 14th, at 10AM. Please contact Lori Malyj

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Why Collar Your Cat?

Even if your cat has a microchip (good for you!), a breakaway collar serves a similar but very important role. If your cat is lost or wanders away, many times he will be found by someone else. If this good Samaritan is up on all the current pet info, they may think to file a found report at the local shelter, and take the cat to a local vet or shelter for a microchip check.

However, the majority of people just assume your cat is a stray, and feed it. While this will help keep your furry companion from starving, it doesn’t get you any closer to getting your buddy home. A cat can be fed for months, years, or perhaps the rest of his life without anyone realizing he is lost and wants to go home. So owners- invest in a breakaway collar and tag with vital info on it; you will spend about $10 and be glad you did! - Jill Souza, YCSPCA Spay/Neuter/Community Cat Coordinator

Anastasia is a 14-year-old indoor only kitty who got out of her home on 1/5/12. Her parents notified our lost and found office at the Yolo County Animal Services Shelter right away in their search for her. They were so worried about her because she’s an older girl, had never been outside before, and is on blood pressure medication twice a day. They feared the worst.

Unfortunately Anastasia’s lost report sat in our Lost Cat binder with no matches despite all our attempts to locate her at the shelter. That is until April 4th, when I walked into one of the cat rooms and noticed a bedraggled kitty in a cage, shelter ID number A104722. It was Anastasia! Her white paws were grey from dirt and she was a mess of tangles in what should have been a luxuriously fluffy coat. When I saw the very distinctive marking on her nose I recognized her immediately!

Thankfully we keep lost kitty reports on file for at least three months just for this reason since, cats can wander off and end up coming in to the shelter long after they are reported missing. I checked the lost report and called her Dad. I told him that Anastasia was at the shelter and he was speechless! I had to check he that was still on the phone. Anastasia’s mom was on the way to get her and take her back home. Almost three months to the day and Anastasia was back home - if only cats could talk, the stories they would tell!

- Angela Kinn, YCSPCA Lost and Found Coordinator

Thanks to Yolo County SPCA Volunteer Coordinator Anamarie Urrutia for working at the event. The YCSPCA fold-up water bowls were a big hit! The fundraiser would not be possible without the generosity of Rhonda and Tony Gruska of Monticello Seasonal Cuisine, who provided great food and a wonderful venue.

In this time of limited budgets, it is wonderful to see the community come together to address a need, in this case so the dogs can play more safely. Thanks to all who help keep our animal companions happy and healthy. - Lori Malyj, YCSPCA Volunteer and small dog park regular with Katie.
Otter’s Happy Ending

In April of 2010, we were contacted by Yolo County Animal Services about a very sick grey kitten with a wonderful personality. He was very small, and both eyes were so infected that they were swollen shut and he could barely see, but he still loved everyone. Because he was grey, small, and sweet his foster home named him Otter. Once the eye infections cleared up, we discovered that he had a severe case of upper eyelid agenesis; his upper eyelids weren’t formed completely, and so the hair around his eyes would rub against his eyes and cause severe discomfort.

We are lucky to have a relationship with Dr. David Canton, DVM at Animal Ophthalmology Services in Vacaville. When he was seen by Dr. Canton, we were told that Otter had one of the worst cases of upper eyelid agenesis that he had ever seen. Often the condition can be treated with cryotherapy (a freezing procedure to destroy the hair that is touching the surface of the eye). Since he was so small, Dr. Canton wanted to wait until Otter was fully grown before the surgery was performed.

Otter thrived in his foster home. Because he was not able to see clearly during his formative period, he didn’t know proper cat etiquette. For example, Otter wags his tail when he’s happy, whereas with most cats that is a sign of displeasure.

Once Otter recovered from his surgery, he started coming to our placement events at the Davis Petco. He quickly became a favorite of the volunteers and Petco customers. He loved to walk around the store on his harness to visit with people. Unfortunately, many people were not interested in a cat who needed eye lubrication treatment multiple times a day.

Finally, one Saturday a wonderful couple came in to meet Otter. Once Sarah met him, she knew Otter was the cat for her. Otter has found the perfect home of his own. Otter has come back to visit our volunteers at Petco, and you may see him there one Saturday.

Sarah decided to help special needs animals like Otter, so she opened an Etsy shop online that she named The Otter Fund. Otter waited almost two years for the perfect home and now he has it. - Shelley Bryant, YCSPCA President

Thank You, PETCO!

If you shopped at the Petco in Davis during the month of December, it is likely you were asked by a sales associate if you would be interested in donating to the Yolo County SPCA. Petco has conducted this fundraiser for many years and the staff at the Davis store is always excited to tell us how well they are doing. This year, they raised over $2,300 for our organization. We are grateful to the dedicated people at Petco; they are a delight to work with and are fantastic fundraisers for the Yolo County SPCA! - Kim Kinnee, YCSPCA Executive Director

Looking to Donate your Vehicle?

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Your donation will help us care for the animals of Yolo County!

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Thank you for your continued support!

Creating a More Humane Tomorrow!

YCSPCA Membership Application
I want to help the Yolo County SPCA save abused, injured, and abandoned animals.
I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift of: (Checks payable to Yolo County SPCA)

[ ] Senior/Student/Junior - $10
[ ] Individual - $15
[ ] Family - $25
[ ] Business - $50
[ ] Contribution Only - $____

Your Name: __________________________________ Phone: ________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _______________________________________________________________

Be sure to check out our website at yolospca.org for membership benefits or to sign up online!

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