

# Paws and Claws Society

## *Partners in Prevention Not Destruction*

### 2009 Annual Report

#### **CIRCLE OF COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS**

The “*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” brings together groups and individuals in a coalition of animal advocates with the expectation of establishing no-kill communities in South Jersey. First introduced in 2006, the “Circle” continues to build on its initial success by expanding the circle of participants each year.

“*Circle of Compassion for Animals*” objectives are to:

1. To increase the placements of adoptable, healthy cats and dogs
2. To reduce the deaths of shelter dogs and cats
3. To reduce the number of stray/feral cats in the county via TNR and placements
4. To increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries
5. To provide appropriate medical treatment, behavior modification and/or foster care to turn sick, injured, traumatized, infant or unsocialized animals into animals ready for placement.

“Circle” partners strive to find loving, permanent homes for all adoptable animals. PACS and their Partners further pledge that adoptable animals will not be killed just because they are homeless at a time when shelters and rescues are full; they pledge to find room at the inn by widening the circle of compassion. “CIRCLE” members may include representatives from local and county government, the veterinary community, animal control officers, businesses, and individuals who work diligently on behalf of animals. PACS offers financial support to “Circle” referred animals, including treatable and/hard to place animals. Support includes reasonable medical care and/or behavior modification training necessary prior to placement.

#### **PENNSVILLE POUND PURRFECT PETS**

In August 2007, Paws and Claws Society unofficially expanded its “Circle of Compassion” program to assist Pennsville Pound animals. Since then, PACS has worked diligently to meet the medical needs of Pennsville Pound animals, including medical care, spay/neuter, vaccinations, testings, internal and external parasite treatment. PACS placed many of the Pennsville Pound animals into loving homes with great marketing and screening skills. The remaining animals entered the “Circle” program and were adopted out by PACS “Circle of Compassion” partners.

On July 3, 2008, PACS officially kicked off the “Circle of Compassion for Animals” Program in Pennsville with the passage of Pennsville Township Ordinance A-8-2008, which provided for the establishment of an Animal Advisory Committee to the Pennsville Pound and the creation of the **TOWNSHIP OF PENNSVILLE SPAY/NEUTER AND ADOPTION PROGRAM**. The subsequent public/private agreement between Paws and Claws Society and the Township of Pennsville was the prerequisite for the official **PENNSVILLE POUND PURRFECT PETS** project; a “Circle of Compassion for Animals” program of

**Paws and Claws Society.** With the hiring of an Animal Adoption Coordinator on October 20, 2008, the project went into full swing. Animals entering the Pennsville Pound are now medically treated, spay/neutered, pampered, and then adopted into homes as beloved, family members.

### **CAT SPAY DAY**

Paws and Claws Society, in cooperation with veterinarians and clinics in the target area, sponsored its 15<sup>th</sup> annual “Cat Spay Day” to coincide with National Spay Day on the last Tuesday in February. Coupons redeemable for free cat spay/neuter surgery were given to eligible residents. Information about the importance of spay/neuter, free rabies clinics and various humane topics was made available at coupon distribution sites.

### **GIVE A LITTLE BOWL OF LOVE**

2009 was a year of great economic uncertainty for many families and their beloved pets. Paws and Claws Society is committed to helping people keep their pets. The need was urgent and PACS met that need with the purchase of more than \$9,000 in pet food. PACS commitment to this life saving endeavor insured that struggling families would not be forced to surrender their animals to already overflowing animal shelters.

### **FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION PROGRAM**

Our dedicated volunteers play matchmaker to some wonderful people and some equally wonderful pets. They counsel residents before, during and after adoptions, sharing with them many gems of wisdom and pearls of knowledge about pets. Our volunteers serve as ambassadors, educators, counselors, and animal caretakers who nurture abandoned pets, providing them with lots of love and companionship while they wait for a second chance at life.

Some animals arrive at PACS in various stages of neglect and may need more TLC (tender, loving, care) than any shelter is able to give. Our special volunteers provide foster care for these pets; they lavish them with attention until they are whole again and ready to be placed in a permanent, loving home.

### **PRETTY PETS PROGRAM**

The animals that arrive at PACS are a truly mixed group. They come in all sizes, all ages, all coat types, and all types of condition. There are cats with mats down to the skin, and dogs with toenails that have completely grown into the pads. Some animals have fleas and ticks, while others have spots or mange. Many of the animals need a quick bath, while others need a complete shave. We have no control over the condition of the animals that we rescue, but we want to give them the best possible opportunity for adoption. Improving their appearance can often save their lives.

Homeless animals are bathed, combed, clipped, ears are cleaned and nails are trimmed. We don't look for fancy results, but work hard to make the animals presentable. We know that clean, unmatted animals will appeal to the public and it is the public that will open their hearts and homes to these wonderful pets.

### **DOUBLE ADOPTION PROGRAM**

Our Double Adoption Program is a real win win service. Adopters double their pleasure when they double adopt and two homeless pets find love and companionship. PACS knows that the only thing better than having one pet is having two pets. Today, many individuals have very busy work schedules and, consequently, their pets spend much of their day alone. Many prospective adopters recognize that it could be advantageous to adopt two pets so they have each other for company, but find the initial cost of spay/neuter prohibitive. Our Double Adoption Program make it financially possible for them to adopt two pets by underwriting the cost of the second lower-cost spay/neuter surgery.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

An educational component accompanies all programs at all stages using all means of communication available. PACS has identified four steps that residents must climb in order to eliminate the cycle of cruelty caused by pet overpopulation: (1) **STOP AND ADOPT** from your local animal shelter or rescue group; (2) **SPAY/NEUTER** your pets; (3) **SPREAD THE WORD** to friends, family, and others; (4) **SUPPORT** your local animal shelter or rescue group by volunteering your time, talent and dollars.

### **2009 NO-KILL CONFERENCE**

Paws and Claws Society was a proud sponsor of the 2009 No-Kill Conference in Washington, DC. May 2-3, 2009, the No Kill Advocacy Center teamed up with the Animal Law program at George Washington University Law School to bring together the nation's most successful shelter directors and the nation's top animal lawyers. Attendees learned how to use the legal system to save the lives of animals and how to create a No Kill community.

### **KIND NEWS**

Paws and Claws Society first offered *KIND News* in 1994 to every child enrolled in the third grade throughout Gloucester County. Later in September, 2006, Paws and Claws Society introduced a formalized program of humane education to the children of Cape May County. *KIND News*, an award-winning newspaper that teaches children respect for animals was made available monthly to 3096 children enrolled in the second, third and fourth grades throughout the county. This teaching tool establishes a classroom theme of kindness, fosters compassion and responsibility, and motivates learning using the high-interest topic of

animals. Responsible pet care is one of the main themes of the publication which emphasizes the importance of spay/neuter. Each issue features a KIND Club Project designed to benefit animals. The program also provides each classroom with a poster-sized calendar of humane announcements--a different one for each school day--for students to read. Many years later, the Kind News offering, is still loved and used by students and teachers.

### **OPERATION CAPE MAY COUNTY OUTREACH**

Beginning in August, 2005, PACS partnered with Cape May County Animal Shelter Alliance, Beacon Animal Rescue, Animal Outreach, Animal Welfare Society, Humane Society of Ocean City, and individual rescuers to provide new and innovative programs and services designed to reduce pet overpopulation, increase adoptions, educate the general public, foster humane legislation, and help caretakers be responsible for their pets. Operation Cape May County was designed to work in concert with PACS spay/neuter voucher and SAFER program. In addition to spay/neuter programs first implemented in 2005, PACS funded in 2008 a new sink and countertop for the county shelter and a medical care facility. During 2009, PACS continued its partnership with Cape May County Special School District in offering its Dog House Building Project. This project brought together students and animal control officers in order to build and offer dog house shelter to animals belonging to low income residents. PACS also continued its Save a Life Medical Fund for needy animals in partnership with local veterinarians.

**More than 3500 free spay/neuter surgeries have been provided by PACS in Cape May County. Surgeries were performed by 11 private veterinarians and 2 clinics.**

### **SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM**

"I ask for the privilege of not being born ... not to be born until you can assure me of a home and a master to protect me, and a right to live as long as I am physically able to enjoy life ... not to be born until my body is precious and men have ceased to exploit it because it is cheap and plentiful." Need we say more? Pet overpopulation is a monumental problem. Spay/Neuter is the solution.

**587 cats and dogs have been spayed/neutered under this program.**

### **CAT LOVERS CAMPAIGN**

PACS has identified unchecked cat reproduction as the number one pet problem in South Jersey (actually in the country). Most of the cruelty endured by cats can be directly attributed to the failure of residents to spay/neuter their cats. These cats produce litter after litter adding to the surplus numbers of unwanted animals. Let's face it; there just aren't enough homes for all the cats being born.

Our "Cat Lovers Campaign" seeks to interrupt this reproductive cycle of cruelty at its roots; with the first cat or cats in the cat lovers control, before the numbers get out of control. The program reaches out to residents

with unaltered cats, educates them on the importance of spay/neuter and, if necessary, assists them physically and financially.

**539 Cats in Salem, Camden, and Burlington County were spayed/neutered ensuring that they will not add to the tragedy of cat overpopulation.**

### **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

PACS is sometimes called upon to provide medical assistance necessary to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by illness or injury. Many times, this assistance means the difference between life and death. We sincerely thank our financial supporters for giving us the means to respond favorably to these requests.

**150 pets received medical care as a result of this program; 17 pets received life-saving surgeries.**

### **SAFER (STRAY AND FERAL EMINENT RESCUE)**

Stray and Feral Eminent Rescue Program is a PAWS AND CLAWS SOCIETY initiative developed and implemented under the auspices of the STAATS FOUNDATION in accord with their plan for a NO-KILL COMMUNITY in Southern New Jersey. This "Stray and Feral Cat Assistance" program certainly epitomizes our philosophy of prevention, not destruction. The SAFER network of local rescue groups and individuals is committed to improving the quality of life for homeless and unwanted felines by providing and finding homes, assisting and educating the community, and controlling overpopulation. The SAFER network advocates compassion towards felines, community support and the belief that felines are life-long companions.

**509 stray or feral cats will no longer contribute to suffering endured by an abandoned cat population.**

**Paws and Claws Society is a 501(c)(3) Federal and New Jersey registered charity operated entirely by volunteers. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.**