

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ



Issue 2, June 2011

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

Paws and Claws Society (PACS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation legally registered with the State and Federal governments.

What's New at PACS

Here is a peek into some of the happenings at PACS lately. You can always read more details on our web site at pacsnj.org.

- Update on our New Jersey High School Library book project: The last of the books have finally shipped, and should be received by schools all over New Jersey by June 1st!
- The results are in! The winners of this year's Circle Of Compassion For Animals Senior Scholarship Award have been announced:

Best Idea

Prize - \$1,500.

Marissa Miller
Mainland Regional High School

Atlantic County

1st Prize - \$1,000.

Emma Elmer
Mainland Regional High School

2nd Prize - \$750.

Jared Kohr
Egg Harbor Township High School

3rd Prize - \$500.

Danielle Shenk
Charter-Tech High School

Cape May County

1st Prize - \$1,000.

Anthony Di Cicco
Middle Township High School

2nd Prize - \$750.

Joseph Safaryn
Lower Cape May Regional High School

3rd Prize - \$500.

Danielle Breckenridge
Ocean City High School

- Just for fun, check out the Caretakers Corner page on our web site for calculators to convert dog and cat years to human years. How old is *your* dog or cat?

- Pet Abandonment Hurts. See our Compassion Central page to read "How Could You", written through the eyes of the abandoned pet, and "Whatever Happened to Hope", a true story about how the kids are affected.

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Did You Know?



Fascinating bits of cat and dog facts and trivia found around the Internet:

From www.i-pets.com:

- A cat cannot see directly under its nose. This is why the cat cannot seem to find tidbits on the floor.
- The common belief that dogs are color blind is false. Dogs can see color, but it is not as vivid a color scheme as we see. They distinguish between blue, yellow, and gray, but probably do not see red and green. This is much like our vision at twilight.
- A cat can sprint at about thirty-one miles per hour.
- Scientists have discovered that dogs can smell the presence of autism in children.

From pets.webmd.com:

- Dogs Can Learn 250 Words. The smartest, best-trained breeds are similar to a 2-year-old child in their ability to understand human speech, according to researcher Stanley Coren, PhD. These dogs understand up to 250 words, while the average dog can understand 150 words.
- Cats Smell With Their Mouths. Cats have a small scent gland in the roof of the mouth called the vomeronasal organ. For a really good whiff of something like urine or another cat's private parts, they'll open their mouths wide to draw the odor to this scent organ. This fierce-looking behavior is called the Flehmen reaction, and it's often seen in males who are checking out a female cat in heat.

Find full links on our web site - see the Burlington Reports page.



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www.pacsnj.org

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Pets in the News

See the Burlington Reports page of our web site for links to read full stories.

Adorable lady finds missing cat during interview outside tornado-ruined home



After Judy Pugh's Tuscaloosa, Alabama home was destroyed by tornadoes that swept through on April 27, she was able to find two of her three cats. Worried and missing Cadie, her third cat, Pugh returned every day for three weeks to look for him. It was during a moment when she was being interviewed by local TV station WIAT that Cadie walked up, while cameras were rolling, dehydrated and hungry but otherwise unharmed.

"I have everything I want now," Pugh said, "I have all three cats."

Redmond Hero Dog Nala Finally Gets New Home



The Redmond, Oregon dog who made headlines in December 2010 for her heroic rescue of another dog, now has a new home.

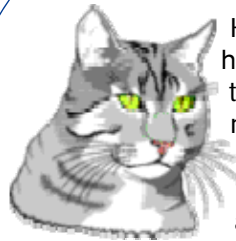
Nala had been a resident at the Humane Society of Redmond since April of 2010.

Chadwick, a blind 10-year-old cocker spaniel who had recently been adopted out of the Humane Society of Redmond, had escaped from his new owner's property and had been missing for a week. One Monday morning in December, Nala was taking her regular walk with shelter volunteer Allan Borland when she suddenly began pulling her walker in a different direction. She led him into a nearby ditch, and about 200 yards down, they saw a little dog who turned out to be Chadwick. He was filthy and had ice frozen to his feet but rescuers were able to return him to safety.

Nala was adopted April 14th by Philip and Janet Roberts of Powell Butte, and will share their 80-acre ranch with an older Lab/Mastiff mix named Grizzly and their cat.

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Burlington the Cat Saves Binkie



Hello, Burlington here. We met in the April newsletter, so you know a little bit about me already.

I didn't tell you very much about my human family, yet, however. Today I'm going to share a little about Mallory, the youngest member of my family. She's nine years old in people years, which would be, oh, not quite six months in cat years. She hasn't quite reached that gangly stage, where she'll be all paws, or as they call them, legs. She is remarkably intuitive and communicative. In fact, she and I have developed a language of our own, and she often translates for the adults when I need to get a message to them.

Something funny about humans is that they are often much more open to their senses and instincts when they are children, and as they grow, they somehow stop listening to that inner knowledge. We cats know we must never stop listening to our instincts. They are imperative to our very survival. Mallory may someday forget how to "hear" me with her instinctual hearing, but for now, she understands me. I talk to her with a combination of thoughts and physical clues.

After I'd been living with my family for about six months, Mallory mentioned to her parents that she thought I was bored during the day, when she and her brother were at school and their parents were at work. The family brainstormed over dinner about how they

might remedy that.

Mallory said, "What if we took him to the store with us during the day?"

My eyes opened wide and I purred to let her know that the idea intrigued me.

The store she spoke of was called "Paige Turners", a used book store in the center of town. It was owned by my family and cleverly named by Mallory's mother, Paige Turner. To the children and me, she was simply "Mom", but Dad called her Paige.

The Monday after that family discussion began like any other day, but after I ate my breakfast and chased the fuzzy thing with the bells that Mallory loves to flip up into the air for me, Mom came into the family room with that thing they call "carrier". I didn't care for it as a rule. Okay, to be completely honest, I hated it, and for a long time would go to undignified lengths to avoid being put inside it. It seemed that any time they brought it out, we always went to the funny-smelling place they call "vet". But that is another story, and eventually I adjusted to it.

It also helped that Mom wasn't saying "vet" that morning.

"Would you like to go to the book store?" she asked me.

I knew that "book store" was the place I'd met Mallory; specifically

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Burlington the Cat (from page 2)

the alley behind the store. I was interested in exploring the place where my family spent so much of their time.

We arrived at the store and Mom showed me a litter box and food and water bowls that she'd set up in the back room for me.

I went about exploring every corner of the store, taking in all the mingled scents and interesting shapes and spaces.



There were shelves and shelves of books. Some of the shelves had spaces just large enough for me to crawl into. There was a table in the center, with a few chairs, and against the side wall was a machine that made that heady-smelling liquid that my family made in the kitchen every morning at home. The humans tended to refer to it by a few different names, but apparently some of them drank it all day and the majority called it "coffee".

After my expedition through the store, I was tired. I found a large window in the front of the store, with a deep sill. I curled up there, filtered sunlight streaming in and warming my fur, and I napped.

I awoke some time later when I felt Mallory's touch on my paw, which meant her school day was over. I stretched and yawned, and when my eyes opened again, something caught my attention

in the parking lot. I sat up and watched. There it was. Movement. In one of the cars parked out front. I fixed my gaze on the passenger side window and sure enough, two ears popped up into view, followed by the worried face of a small hairy dog. His tongue was hanging out of his mouth and I immediately knew what he was trying to say.

I turned to Mallory.

"Rawwwrrr," I said loudly, and she looked up at me. I turned back to the window and put my front paws against the glass, kneading to direct her attention to the window.

"Awwwww," she said, "Are you enjoying sleeping in the window?"

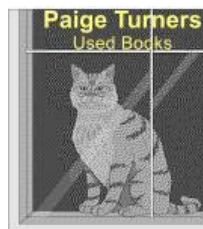
I rolled over onto my back and opened my mouth, mimicking an over exaggerated thirst. Mallory stroked the fur on my belly.

I flipped my tail and sat back up, patting the window pane again.

Finally, Mallory saw it.

"Oh no!" she said, "Somebody left that dog in that car with the windows rolled up!"

Sometimes humans don't know that a car acts like a greenhouse in the sun, quickly reaching temperatures much higher than



Humor

The haiku is a form of poetry that can be remembered this way:

Haikus are three lines
The first is five syllables,
Then seven, then five.

Here are some humorous haikus about cats and dogs.



Cat Haikus

Authors Unknown

You must scratch me there!
Yes, above my tail! Behold,
Elevator butt.

Small brave carnivores
Kill pine cones and mosquitoes
Fear vacuum cleaner

Grace personified,
I leap into the window.
I meant to do that.

Terrible battle.
I fought for hours. Come see!
What's a 'term paper'?

Dog Haikus

Authors Unknown

Dig under fence-why?
Because it's there. Because it's
There. Because it's there.

I lie belly-up
In the sun, happier than
You will ever be.

My human is home!
I am so ecstatic I
Have made a puddle.

Look in my eyes and
Deny it. No human could
Love you quite this much.



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W.A.I.T. - Prevent The Bite

When Kelly Voight and her mother, Kathy, started Prevent The Bite, it was to help Kelly get past her own fear that resulted from a severe dog bite when she was seven. Since then, they have been able to see how many others have been helped by their program, and, Kelly says, "It wasn't just about me anymore."

The mission of Prevent The Bite, online at www.preventthebite.com, is "to prevent dog bites to children through education". The site lists many resources, news, and promotional materials, including information about **W.A.I.T.**, which stands for:

Wait to see if the dog is with his owner.
Wait to make sure the dog looks friendly.

Ask the owner for permission to pet their dog.

Invite the dog to sniff you. Use a quiet voice to talk to the dog and stand with your hands curled at your sides.

Touch the dog gently to pet. Never pet near the face, head or tail.

According to a recent report by the US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the number of hospital admissions caused by dog bites nearly doubled over a 16-year period, from 5,100 in 1993 to 9,500 in 2008. Only a small percentage of the increase can be attributed to population growth during that time period, study co-author Anne Elixhauser, but the data doesn't answer the question of why biting inquiries are on the rise.

Nancy Hill, a member of the board of directors for the National Animal Control Association, says that dog bites are more frequently from owned dogs than from strays.

This sheds new light on the importance of messages like that of Prevent The Bite.

Burlington the Cat (from page 3)

those outside. Even on days that are somewhat cool, the temperature inside the car can rise to deadly levels within a matter of minutes.

Mallory ran and found her mother and the two of them went outside in search of car's owner. I watched as they walked around the car, looking inside. A few minutes later, a frazzled-looking woman ran from one of the other stores in the shopping center. They exchanged some conversation and the woman opened the car and got the dog out. I watched as they carried him toward the book store, and through the front door.

I backed up, my fur standing on end, as I kept my eyes on the dog. I wanted him to be ok, but my own territorial instincts kept me on guard.



Mom brought the water bowl she'd put in the back room for me and gave it to the dog, who drank gratefully.

"I thought I'd only be a minute," the dog's owner said, her voice catching with emotion, "And then there was a long line at the register and, oh, I don't know what I would do if Binkie

was hurt. I'd never forgive myself!"

The adults were all crouching around Binkie and his owner had his leash in her hand, so I felt safe in leaving my perch by the window. I jumped down and went over to Mallory, rubbing against her leg. When she looked down to smile at me, I stood on my hind legs and reached as high as I could, touching a display rack of bumper stickers. Most were humorous and all had some message about books and reading, but Mallory immediately knew what I was trying to say.

"What if you educated other people?" she suggested to the woman, "With bumper stickers and flyers that warn about leaving pets in cars?"

The woman loved the idea, and as they discussed details, Binkie noticed my presence and began to bark. Somewhere in the barking sounds, I heard him say, "Thank you."

"You're welcome," I said with a soft trill in my throat, and I retired to the back room. My job for the day was done.





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Many Plants and Flowers Dangerous To Pets

In our last issue, we included a section called "Remember Pets As You Spruce Up For Spring". There are many common landscape and house plants and flowers that can present a danger all during the year, however.

Here is a partial list, gathered from www.earthclinic.com. Visit the Burlington Reports page of our web site to find a link for the full list.

The ten most common poisonous plants:

Marijuana - Animals who attempt to snack on this plant can suffer serious consequences such as diarrhea, vomiting, increased heart rate, drooling, in-coordination, and even possibly seizures and coma.

Sago Palm - While the seeds and nuts of this plant are most poisonous, the entire plant is toxic. Animals ingesting parts of this plant may suffer from diarrhea, vomiting, depression, seizures and liver failure.

Lilies - Plants of the lily variety are very poisonous to cats. Even very small amounts of this plant could cause serious kidney damage.

Tulips - The toxic portion of this plant is the actual bulb, which can cause drooling, central nervous system depression, gastrointestinal irritation, cardiac issues and convulsions.

Azalea - The toxins in azalea plants can be very severe and potentially cause drooling, diarrhea, vomiting, central nervous system weakening and depression, and in some cases possibly coma or death.

Oleander - All portions of this plant are poisonous and can cause gastrointestinal irritation, hypothermia, heart problems and possibly death.

Castor Bean - Poisoning as a result of

this plant can cause abdominal pain, drooling, diarrhea, vomiting increased thirst, loss of appetite and weakness. More serious cases could also lead to dehydration, tremors, seizures, twitching muscles, coma and possibly death.

Cyclamen - The most poisonous portion of this plant is located in the root. Ingestion of the plant can cause severe vomiting and gastrointestinal irritation. In some cases death has been reported as a result.

Kalanchoe - Ingestion of this plant can cause gastrointestinal irritation and cardiac rhythm and rate problems.

Yew - Poisoning as a result of the yew plant can affect the nervous system and cause in-coordination, trembling and breathing difficulties. It may also result in gastrointestinal irritation, cardiac failure and could possibly lead to death.

Some other well-known, common plants that can be toxic to pets:

Apple - The seeds of an apple can be poisonous to pets.

Caladium - a houseplant that is poisonous in its entirety.

English Ivy - Is an ornamental vine that is completely poisonous but especially the leaves and berries.

Jerusalem Cherry - Is an ornamental plant whose un-ripened fruit and foliage are poisonous.

Laurels - This is a type of shrub with poisonous leaves.

Oaks - Are trees with poisonous leaves and shoots.

Wisteria - Is an ornamental plant containing poisonous seeds and pods.

Pets In The News (continued from Page 2)

Feisty feline, washed away in storms, swims safely across New York Harbor



Security guards on Governor's Island's north shore discovered a cat, fur salty, matted and caked with seaweed, on Sunday, April 17. Workers believe that she swam across New York Harbor when a weekend storm hit the Southeast, killing at least 45 people and dumping drenching rains in New Jersey. The staff is caring for her and seeking any information that leads her back to her family.

SEALs canine commando piques interest in war dogs



While about 300 retired U.S. military dogs are put up for adoption each year, military officials say they've received more than 400 adoption applications in the three weeks since the May 2 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound. War dog organizations credit the rise in adoption inquiries to the mission involving Cairo, the Navy SEALs dog whose job it was to track anyone who tried to escape from the compound and to alert special operations forces to anyone approaching.

"They made a really big deal about Cairo being a super dog but all dogs in the military are super dogs," said U.S. War Dogs Association president Ron Aiello, "These dogs are fully trained, are worth probably \$40,000 to \$50,000 each at least, and it's a dog that has been saving American lives. It's kind of a hero in a way."

In past generations, most military dogs were euthanized once their tours of duty were done, but in 2000, President Clinton signed a law allowing the dogs to be adopted. Last year, 338 dogs were adopted, including 34 that were given to police departments or other government agencies.

Gerry Proctor, a spokesman for Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, said none are euthanized now. "All the animals find a home," he said, "There's a six-month waiting list right now for people wanting to adopt. And (the applications) have gone up substantially since the raid."



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Burlington would like to introduce you to Squirt, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day at the age of 16½.

Squirt was a loving and gentle cat, and during his lifetime was a Foster Brother to several other cats while they waited for their Forever Homes. He was a much-adored member of his human family, and once he made his way into someone's heart, he never left.

Beginning in our next issue, we will be adding a section to remember pets who have passed. Ask Squirt a question, or share your pet memorial story by email to email@pacsnj.org. Let Squirt meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.



Squirt

Jan. 1995 - May 2011
Much loved and missed