

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ

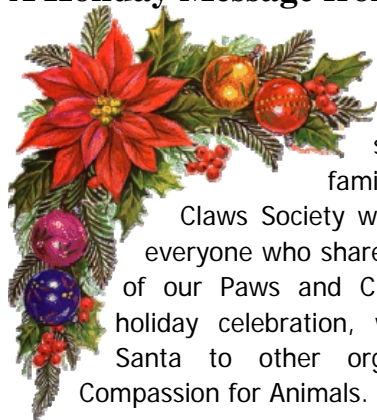


Issue 5, December 2011

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.

A Holiday Message from PACS



During this Holiday Season, when we pause to appreciate the wonders of creation, the spirit of peace, and our love for family and friends, we at Paws and Claws Society wish to express our gratitude to everyone who shares our love for animals. As part of our Paws and Claws Society "Share the love" holiday celebration, we especially enjoyed playing Santa to other organizations in our Circle of Compassion for Animals.

Paws and Claws Society was happy to share some financial gifts with the following wonderful organizations:

Animal Sanctuary Society, Inc.
Best Friends Animal Society
Keepers Of The Wild
Kindness Ranch
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
No Kill Advocacy Center
Cat Camp Foundation
Hearts And Paws
Strays R Us
Freedom Center For Wildlife
LaMancha Animal Rescue
Joe Joe's Place
Tabby's Place
Daris

Please see our web site for more information on these organizations, as well as links to their web sites.

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Did You Know?

Fascinating bits of animal facts and trivia found around the Internet:

From telegraph.co.uk:

A pig's snout is approximately 2,000 times more sensitive to smell than the human nose.

Pigs are the only farm animals that make a separate sleeping den (which they keep spotless) and use a latrine area.

From yubanet.com:

Turkeys have unique voices. Researchers have identified nearly 30 distinct vocalizations in wild turkeys.

From expertscolumn.com:

The blood of mammals is red; insects' blood is yellow; the blood of some crustaceans such as crabs, shrimps and lobsters is blue; the sea cucumber's blood is green and the blood of cockroaches has no color.

Camels have three sets of eyelids to protect their eyes from blowing sand. The upper and lower eyelids have eyelashes and the third one is a thin membrane also called *haw* or *nictitating membrane* that they can see through during sandstorms. Other animals with a third eyelid include cats, dogs, rabbits, birds and sharks.

From thebuzz.com:

While cat people and dog people tend to have a lot in common, there are some interesting and quirky differences, according to a poll of over 200,000 pet owners by Hunch.com. Of cat people and dog people, can you guess who is more likely to . . .

- 🐾 Use Twitter? Cat people (10% more likely)
- 🐾 Enjoy slapstick comedy and impressions? Dog people (30% more likely)
- 🐾 Enjoy irony and puns? Cat people (21% more likely)
- 🐾 Use a pop song as a ringtone? Dog people (36% more likely)

Find full links on our web site - click on Burlington Reports.



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Pet Toy Safety



Looking for some new toys for your pets (or gifts for others' pets) this holiday season? Be sure to use caution in choosing safe toys based on your pet's size, habits and style of play.

Colorado's KWGN Channel 2 ran a story earlier this year on their web site called "Popular pet toys that can be deadly". The article told the story of Jill Blue's West Highland white terrier, Skyler, who became sick and the vet was unable to find the cause. Skyler continued to be sick, "... wouldn't eat, was continuously throwing up and ended up with severe dehydration".

Four months later, the cause of his illness was discovered: pieces of a rubber ball that Skyler played with were inside his intestine.

"Rubber does not show up in x-rays. Who knew that?" Blue said.

The KWGN article advises that pets who chew are at risk of ingesting parts of toys, and this can be very dangerous.

“ Veterinarian Margret King says Skyler isn't alone. She thinks stuffing in toys is the worst, but anything with strings isn't far behind. Socks and Towels are also top culprits to tangle inside a dog or cat. Her advice:

"Those that especially don't have any stuffing at all are the best as far as I'm concerned," says King.

And she warns toys made in other countries don't always need to meet our safety standards.”

The article went on to share the following potential toy hazards, published on the HealthyPet.com web site:

- Sticks and bones can splinter and cause choking or vomiting, or they can perforate the mouth, throat or intestine. Hard bones can easily damage teeth. Instead, use hard, non-splintering chew toys to play fetch or to allow your pet to gnaw.
- Soft, latex toys can be shredded by a chewing pet. If the toy includes a squeaking mechanism, the squeaker can be easily swallowed or cause choking.
- Superballs can cause intestinal obstruction if

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Burlington the Cat's First Family Christmas



Hello. Burlington here.

Did you have a fun and safe Thanksgiving? I quite enjoyed the day with my family.

In fact, the entire weekend was wonderful. My people spent more time at home than usual. We had visitors who brought tempting-smelling food. They said it was for people and not for cats, but they did spend a lot of time playing with me and scratching my chin (which happens to be one of my very favorite things). I curled up with the kids while they watched some colorful and captivating images on the big rectangle they call "TV".

In fact, our current "TV" came to our house on my first Christmas with my family. Christmas is almost here again, and I am a lot more knowledgeable, now, about what to expect than I was that first year.

I'll never forget it. I was still a young Tom. I'd been with my family for just over half a year, which at that time was approximately one-third of my lifetime.

I still remembered what it was like to live outdoors; who could ever forget that? While the majority of my outdoor experience was unpleasant - the danger and the hunger and the fear, not to mention

braving all sorts of weather conditions with little or no safe shelter - there *were* certain things that gave me a sense of joy. One of those was tree climbing. I'm not talking about the tree climbing one does when one is being chased and feels as if he is in danger. I'm talking about the tree climbing one does when he is playing with his colony mates and goes running at top speed, almost flying, over fences and in between trees and around obstacles, and then, in a movement as fluid as water, zips up the nearest tree to look over the surrounding area from a dizzying height. That is *amazing*.

In that moment, your senses are more alive than ever, and even the slightest sound is magnified. The whisper of the breeze as it passes your ears, the rustling sound of one of your colony mates running through the grass behind you, the throaty trill of one of the mother cats telling her young not to venture too far from her. And the scents! Oh, my gosh. Intoxicating!

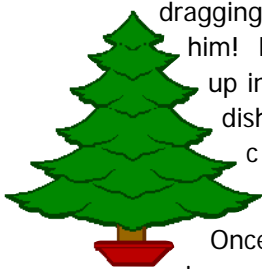
Well, just after my first Thanksgiving with my family, the preparations began for Christmas. I didn't know what that was, yet, of course. All I knew was that Dad came in the front door



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Burlington the Cat

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dragging a tree behind him! He propped it up in its own water dish, and I crept closer, to investigate.

Once the heady pine scent hit my nostrils, I was elated. He'd brought home a tree for me! Somehow, he knew that I missed trees! Was I the luckiest cat on Earth, or what?

It turned out that the tree wasn't intended for me, and Mom and Dad weren't happy when I zipped up the middle of it and clung to the top branch, surveying the room from above their heads. There were some raised voices and orders to "get down from there" (as if I were walking on the kitchen counter or some such thing!). Mallory and Matthew giggled as they tried to coax me down with treats.

"Let's go get your stringy toy and play while Dad puts the lights on the tree," Mallory said as she carried me to the other side of the living room.

I watched over her shoulder as Dad pulled a box open and withdrew a long, tangled mass of something green with small spiky things that reminded me of the thorns on some of the plants where I used to live. I hated when they would get stuck in my coat. These thorns were shiny, though, and looked smooth. When Dad put the fangs into the wall, the thorns suddenly sprang to life with

color, casting beautiful reflections around the room and across the furniture. I wiggled until Mallory couldn't hold onto me anymore, and jumped free so I could go and take a closer look. Mallory scooped me up again when I braced myself to pounce on the thorns.



The rest of the afternoon was a lot like that. Mallory continued to distract me while Mom and Dad played with toys that I thought were for me.

They wrapped the colorful thorns on the tree and then hung shiny round balls on its branches so that they looked like huge, ripe berries, but they wouldn't let me pick them or bat at them. Mom told Dad that they shouldn't use something called "tinsel", and she explained that it was dangerous for me. I don't know what tinsel is, and my people apparently don't know just what a brave tom cat I am in the face of danger, but I'll admit I'm glad they take such care to protect me.

Finally, Dad reached up and put a white bird on the top of the tree. I'd never seen another bird that looked like it before, but it

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Humor

From ibtimes.com:



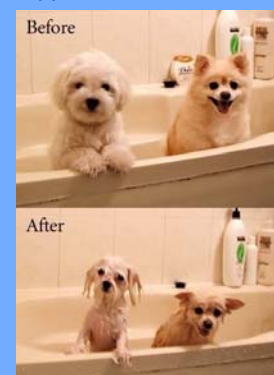
From icanhascheezburger.com:



From images4.fanpop.com:



From ifoundhappiness.tumblr.com:





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Pet Toy Safety

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- ingested. Other types of balls, such as tennis balls or handballs, may be too small for the pet playing with them and cause choking.
- Towels, socks, underwear and other similar clothing or materials can be swallowed by a rambunctious pet, causing intestinal obstruction.
- Some dogs like to chew on or eat rocks—bad idea! Rocks can cause broken teeth and serious intestinal obstruction if swallowed.
- Be careful if you offer your pet rawhides, as these can also cause intestinal obstruction if swallowed, and some are preserved with arsenic, which is toxic to pets.
- Some cats enjoy hiding out in plastic bags, but if they get their head stuck in the handles and panic, choking or suffocating could occur.
- String, yarn, feathers and rubber bands often offer enticing play for cats, but these can be swallowed whole, possibly lodging in the intestinal tract and causing blockage. If only partially swallowed, this, too, can result in severe problems. For instance, one end of the string can wrap around the cat's tongue while the rest of the string is swallowed. If you ever see your kitty with string (or a similar object) caught in its mouth, NEVER try to pull it out. If the string is lodged internally, pulling it can cut the cat's intestines, killing him. Instead, see your veterinarian immediately.
- Be aware of sharp objects that can cut skin, feet, eyes or ears.
- For birds, bells can be problematic. Most medium-sized or larger parrots can take apart a bell and choke on the clapper.
- Leather, if not specially tanned, can be toxic to birds.
- Paint and wood preservatives can also be toxic to your feathered friend.

Dr. Jennifer Zablotny, an AAHA veterinarian, is quoted in the HealthyPets article: "Probably the most common hazards are toys that are inappropriately sized for the pet. Generally, the toy is too small for the size of the pet and can be destroyed and cause choking."

HealthyPet.com advises to call your vet if you notice anything unusual in your pet's behavior or health, and says, "Used appropriately and with common sense, many household and store-bought pet toys can provide hours of entertainment and exercise for your pet. It's a good idea, however, to supervise your pet during play. Not only will this minimize the chance of accidents happening, but you'll also be providing your pet with quality time spent with his or her favorite toy-YOU!"

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had wings, so it must have been a bird, right? Some variety of bird called "angel", based on the conversation I overheard between Mom and Dad.

Once the decorating of the tree was completed, the family constructed an entire miniature town under the tree. They called it "Village". Gazing down at all the houses and roads and tiny figures of people and animals, I felt as if I were looking down on the town from the top of the tallest tree I could imagine. Cats love to observe from high places, in case you've never noticed, and this was quite intriguing to me. My family quickly voiced their disapproval, however, when I began to play Giant Feline Takes Over Tiny Town.

In the coming weeks, I learned of a creature called Santa Claws. I still don't quite understand who he is, but he has a thick white mane and a noisy collar. He has some four-hoofed friends that he travels with, and for his purported size and the noise of his collar, he manages to move stealthily. In fact, I have tried to catch a glimpse of him, but I am never quick enough. There is always evidence of his presence on Christmas morning, though.

When we go to bed on Christmas Eve, there are always an assortment of those paper-covered squares and rectangles that I'm not

Burlington the Cat



allowed to bite or rip open, and in the morning, there are several more! The Santa Claws creature brings them and adds them to the pile that is already there. On Christmas morning, and not before, the family will finally rip the paper off of the things under the tree, and they will squeeze it into paper balls for me to play with. They are much more interested in whatever is inside the wrappings, while I thoroughly enjoy playing with the paper and boxes.

I've since learned, in the years since that first Christmas, what the rules are when it comes to the tree and decorations. I have to say, as much as I love my human family, I will never completely understand them or why they do some of the things they do. That's ok, though, because they must have their reasons, and we love each other. That's what matters!





Animal Superstitions and Symbolism

There are countless animal-related superstitions and symbolic meanings that have been handed down through the years in many different cultures. They make interesting reading, and many can be found with a simple Internet search. Some of those on the Internet are duplicated verbatim on multiple sites, so in some cases it is difficult to know whom to credit. We compiled a partial list from four sites: purpleslinky.com, whimsy.org.uk, doghouse.com, and whats-your-sign.com. Please see our "newsletter links" lists on our web site for further reading. (Click on Burlington Reports.)

Bat:

If a bat appears during a wedding ceremony it is considered a bad omen.

A bat means long life and happiness, a good omen, to the Chinese and Poles.

If a bat flies three times around a house, it is a death omen. Conversely, when bats come out early and fly about playfully, it is a sign of good weather to come.

In the Native American belief of Totem animals, the symbolism of the bat is based on these key words: Illusion, Rebirth, Dreams, Intuition, Initiation, Journeying, Inner Depth, Communication.

The poet Virgil helped to establish the bat's reputation by identifying it with the winged monsters of Homeric legend. It is considered bad luck to kill one. If one flies past you, someone is trying to deceive you.

Bear:

Bears only mate once every seven years and when they do they cause such a disturbance in the atmosphere that any pregnant cattle in the district will give birth to still-born calves.

In dreams, bears are symbols of calm, stoic strength. Bears also indicate a time of introspection. If you are dreaming of a bear sleeping or hibernating, this is a message to do a little soul searching before you present an idea to the world. If a bear is chasing you, this means you are avoiding a big issue in your life, and it is time to deal with it. If the bear is standing up, this is a sign you need to defend your beliefs.

Cat:

Old Wives' Tales: If a black cat walks towards you, it brings good fortune, but if it walks away, it takes the good luck with it. A

cat onboard a ship is considered to bring luck. If a cat sneezes, then rain is on the way; a cat sitting with its back to the fire indicates a storm; while one sharpening its claws on a table leg is a sign of a change in the weather, usually for the better.

As an ancient symbolic Celtic animal, the stoic, silent and mysterious cat represents the guardian of the Otherworld. They keep the secrets of the Otherworld eternally to themselves, as they gaze with guile upon a world that does not see or understand the depth of their knowledge.

In Norse legend the cat is depicted drawing the chariot of their fertility goddess, Freyja, and therefore the cat is thought of as a blessing upon newborns and a good omen for those increasing their family ranks.

Often, when a cat makes an uncommon appearance in our lives it is a message for us to shake up our habitual routines and make some fresh changes in our lives, as well as be more flexible in our thinking.

Cats can also be quite aloof, and this too is often a message for us to distance ourselves from people or situations. Sometimes the best cure for a problem is to step away from it - the cat inherently realizes this, and we would be wise to recognize this need as well.

Lastly, the cat animal symbolism is about mystery. Unfortunately, its unpredictability has given the cat a bad name in some areas of folk lore, specifically witchcraft, when, in actuality, this is an asset that can be harnessed by us humans.

A black cat is lucky or unlucky, depending on where you live.

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Pets in The News

Dog missing for 8 years to be reunited with family

The information on a microchip confirmed that Petunia, an American Staffordshire terrier who went missing from Virginia in 2003, was found on November 30th in northern California!



Petunia's owner, Kristen Pruitt of Virginia, said her dog went missing from the family farm around Thanksgiving of 2003. The Yuba County Animal Care Services Shelter, who scanned for the microchip when Petunia was brought in by Meg Eden of Oregon, who found her, sent a photo of the dog to Pruitt. She identified her as Petunia.

"She was extremely excited," said Yuba County Lt. Damon Gill of Pruitt's reaction.

Gill added that Pruitt has an 8-year-old who has never even seen the dog.

The shelter is now working with Pruitt to make sure Petunia is home for the holidays.

If only Petunia could talk, and tell the world of her adventures in the last 8 years!

Dog Rescues Kittens Left On Roadside

We will likely never know how someone could be so cruel as to leave these 3-week old kittens in a Meow Mix bag on a busy Iowa roadside, but we can happily share the news that Reagan, a Yellow Lab, dragged the bag home and cried until his owner found the kittens inside.



The details of this story are disturbing and difficult for an animal lover to read, but the wonderful news is that the kittens, now named Skipper and Tipper, survived their harrowing ordeal and are ready to be adopted into a loving home.

Our hearts are grateful to Reagan, his owner Kerry, and everyone at the Raccoon Valley Animal Sanctuary, for making it possible for Skipper and Tipper to grow up and live normal and happy lives.

Read more by following the links on our web site. Click on Burlington Reports.

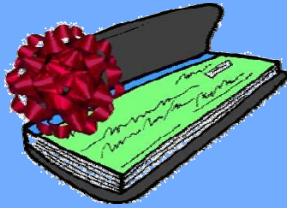




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Your Gifts Can Help Animals In Many Ways - But How Do You Decide?



As we near the end of another year, there are many people who would like to make a charitable contribution to a cause they

believe in. Sometimes the problem is in deciding which group is most suited to the type of work they would like to support, or which organizations are the most in need, or which charities best adhere to ethical practices.

The Knight Digital Media Center's web site provides tutorials on accessing public records and includes an article that explains how to view an organization's 990 reports. (Please see our web site for links.) This can be very helpful, to see the financial status of a non profit or charity, when you are deciding where your generous dollars are put to the best use.

You can find an article on our web site entitled, "What Is An Ethical Charity?", which may also help you in your decision.

An Internet search with the keyphrase, "animal charity reviews" will yield helpful results, with both reviews and advice in choosing organizations to support.

What if you want to help, but you aren't able to make a cash donation?

Check out sites like The Giving Effect, that match charitable organizations with people who have needed items. Find out who may need items that you no longer have use for!

Donate your time. Research the charities that are doing the work you feel passionate about and contact them to ask how you can help. Your unique blend of skills and talent may be just what they are looking for!



If animal welfare organizations are among those you would like to help, you can volun-

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Animal Superstitions and Symbolism

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The ancient Egyptians believed the cat held supernatural powers. Cats were sacred to the goddess, Isis, in Egyptian mythology. Bast or Pasht, the daughter of Isis, was represented with the face of a cat.

Dog:

As you might guess, Dogs in dreams deal with friendship and loyalty. Hearing dogs bark in your dream may represent damaging gossip in your life. Being bitten by a dog indicates you may be dealing with a guilty conscience. The dog is also a dream symbol for instinct. Being attacked by a dog may suggest you may be acting too much on impulse - think before you act. If you are being led by a dog in your dream, it suggests you are comfortable with yourself.

They say if a dog eats grass or rolls in the dust, rain is on the way.

Greeks thought dogs could foresee evil.

If you have your new-born baby licked by a dog, your baby will be a quick healer.

In Scotland, a strange dog coming to the house means a new friendship; in England, to meet a spotted or black and white dog on your way to a business appointment is lucky. Three white dogs seen together are considered lucky in some areas; black dogs are generally considered unlucky, especially if they cross a traveler's path or follow someone and refuse to be driven away.

Elephant:

When animals such as elephants come into our dreams, it is a message that we are able to deal with any obstacle we are faced with at this time. Dream Elephants represent power, sovereignty, stability, and stead-fastness. If you dream that you are riding an elephant, this suggests you have a tendency to be the leader of the family and others heavily depend on you. If you dream of elephants in a circus this suggests you have a cavalier attitude about a situation in your life and you may

want to invest more attention to it.

In Siam, white elephants were rare and not made to work for their upkeep, so a "White Elephant" is an item that is a non profit expense. Considering the value of space in our homes, items kept as memorabilia could be considered White Elephants.

Frog:

Frogs in dreams represent blessings, love, and prosperity. If you dream of holding a frog in your hands, it suggests your fondest wish shall come true. Dream Frogs also symbolize spiritual and emotional transformation. If you hear frogs croaking in your dreams, it is a call to learn more about spiritual matters. If the frog in your dreams is in the water, this suggests you are going through some emotional turmoil, but you have the ability to see your way out of it.

A well known country cure for thrush was to hold a live frog with its head in the patient's mouth. As it breathed, so it drew the disease away and into itself. Warts could also be cured by rubbing a frog across them.

A frog brings good luck to the house it enters.

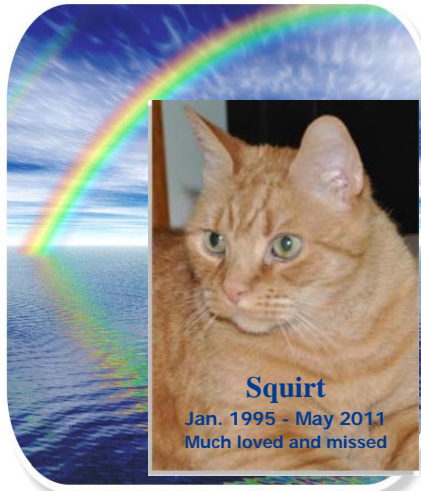
Hawk:

Dream Hawks represent our yearning for freedom. If your dream hawk is flying in the air, it suggests your plans are ambitious and you need to courage to see your vision to the end. If your hawk is in a cage or trapped, you may be feeling like you are not allowed to express yourself at this time or you are caught in a restricting relationship. The Dream Hawk is a message to use your intellectual power to obtain the freedom you desire in life.



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Squirty's Words . . . From The Rainbow Bridge



In memory of Squirty, a longtime friend of Paws and Claws Society who passed away on Mother's Day at the age of 16½, Burlington Reports added a new section to remember pets who have passed. Ask Squirty a question, or share your pet memorial story on our web site (click on Burlington Reports). Let Squirty meet your pet(s) at the Rainbow Bridge and escort them to Pet Heaven.

Question: How do I tell my child that his pet has died?

Answer: This can be very difficult, but it's always better to explain the truth to your child, in a way that is appropriate for his age and current understanding of death and dying,

than it is to cover it up or make up a story. It seems to be very normal for human parents to want to protect their children from hurt and sadness, but when a family is grieving the loss of a loved one (human or pet), there is a great deal of strength and healing to be found in grieving together. Knowing that those around you not only understand your feelings but feel the same way is very validating for anyone, child and adult alike.

Of course, you will want to take the age of your child into consideration when you are deciding how to explain this loss. Very young children, for instance, don't understand, yet, that death is final and their pet won't be coming back. Be careful to avoid using phrases like "put to sleep" with younger children. They are likely to either expect their pet to wake up and come home, or possibly to fear going to sleep themselves, by confusing the terminology. If your religious beliefs include a belief in the soul and the hereafter, your child may find comfort in imagining what Pet Heaven might look like. You can find a copy of the Rainbow Bridge on the pacsnj.org web site (click on Burlington Reports and look for the "links" page).

A funeral or memorial for your pet might be a good way to say goodbye as well as a good way to share the grieving experience as a family.

Sharing funny stories and fond memories of your pet can be helpful, as well. My human family members still find a lot of comfort this way. They talk about aspects of my personality that made them love me, and things I did that made them laugh, like head-butting their foreheads when I wanted attention, or playing with the drawstrings on their pajamas until they were soggy. In those moments, when they are remembering me, they can feel the embrace of the love we shared. And that's the great thing about love: it never dies! Once it has found a place in your heart, love continues to live there, throughout your life and in the lives of those you love, and who love you.

Also see the pacsnj.org web site for links to helpful advice on explaining pet death and dying to children.

Your Gifts Can Help Animals In Many Ways - But How Do You Decide?

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teer to foster pets who are waiting for loving, permanent homes. The Pet Foster Network's web site offers a wealth of advice and information on fostering, from why pet foster parents are



needed to qualifications to become a foster parent, what to expect from the fostering experience, and the joys of fostering. They also offer advice, flyers, and tools for animal organizations and shelters who are seeking foster homes for the pets in their care.

Under their Frequently Asked Question, "What are the joys of fostering?", blogger Dog Foster Mom lists the top ten joys from her own life of fostering. Her number one joy of fostering is:

“ **Saving a life.** The number one joy of rescuing. Because the feeling you get from knowing YOU made a life possible that would otherwise have ended is just amazing. Each foster pet becomes a part of my life that I will never lose, no matter what. And sometimes, I get to see my fosters again at a later time, and when they remember me and greet me happily, I think the feeling is mutual. But even when they don't seem to remember me (darn cats), i still have that same joy from knowing that I made a difference in their life - I made their life better than it was before. And to me, that's what fostering is all about. ”

There are so many ways to help organizations that work hard for the causes you believe in!





Paws and Claws
Society, Inc.

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1017 Grove Avenue
Thorofare, NJ 08086

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Paws and Claws Society wishes a safe and
warm holiday season to you and yours!

