

Burlington Reports

Paws and Claws Society, Inc., Thorofare, NJ




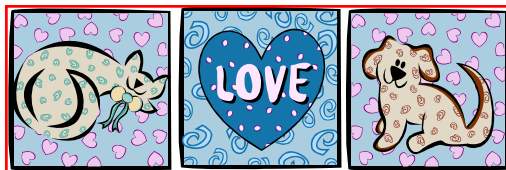
Issue 12, February 2013

Partners in Prevention *Not* Destruction, since 1993

For Fur-ther Information . . .

You can find more information on our web site at pacsnj.org!

- Find out "What's New" by following links on our home page or clicking on "News"
- Read other issues of our newsletter by clicking on "Burlington Reports", or join our email list to be notified when new issues are ready for viewing
- Click the link for any issue of the newsletter to comment on that issue's content. Start or join a discussion!
- Hover over "Burlington Reports" on our navigation menu to find "Links for Further Reading" for more information on topics mentioned in *Burlington Reports*, or click on "Share with Squirt" to share a question or story in our Squirty's Words column
- Click on "Furry Angels" to learn about pets currently available for adoption, read about pets who have found their Forever Homes, read or submit to the Funny Pages, read Letters From The Heart, or download forms
- Read about Paws and Claws Society's programs or see "Gems of Wisdom and Pearls of Knowledge: Humane Messages" at Compassion Central
- Find statistics and No Kill information on Tips From The Trenches
- Read articles about pet care (and even use the age calculator to find out your pet's age in human years) at Caretakers' Corner
- Look for "Share this page"  on any page in our web site to share the content via Facebook, twitter, email, or one of several other services



Happy Valentine's Day!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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Did You Know?

Celebrity Pets - In the June 2012 issue, we showed you some of the pets owned by various U.S. Presidents over the years. In this issue, we thought it might be fun to test your knowledge of celebrities and their pets. In some cases, it was difficult to determine if the pictures we found were of pets that belong to the celebrity in the photo or if the celebrity was posing with someone else's pet, but can you guess which celebrities own (or were photographed with) the following pets? (Answers are on pages 6 and 7.)



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Humor

From dancingdogdesigns.com:

Cat Physics

- 1. Law of Cat Inertia:** A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force - such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.
- 2. Law of Cat Motion:** A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.
- 3. Law of Cat Magnetism:** All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.
- 4. Law of Cat Thermodynamics:** Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.
- 5. Law of Cat Stretching:** A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.
- 6. Law of Cat Sleeping:** All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved as is possible for the cat.
- 7. Law of Cat Elongation:** A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.
- 8. Law of Cat Acceleration:** A cat will accelerate at a constant rate, until he gets good and ready to stop.
- 9. Law of Dinner Table Attendance:** Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.
- 10. Law of Rug Configuration:** No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.
- 11. Law of Obedience Resistance:** A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.
- 12. First Law of Energy Conservation:** Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will therefore use as little energy as possible.
- 13. Second Law of Energy Conservation:** Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.
- 14. Law of Refrigerator Observation:** If a cat watches a refrigerator long

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Hello. Burlington here.

February is the month for Valentine's Day, as Mallory told me earlier this week. She was busy signing a stack of paper things called valentines that she takes to school every year, and as she sealed them into the envelopes and wrote the names of their recipients on the front of each, she told me about the kids in her class.



"This one is for Mark," she said, "He's new. I don't really know him that well."

She told me about Jessica and Scott, and how everybody knows they are in love, and about the way some kids say that Mallory is in love with David but they're really just good friends.

I smiled as I listened to her. Friendship is the most important part of a great romance, but Mallory may be a little too young to realize that. Many people may be surprised to learn that I know anything about romance, but I do.

I'll never forget the day I met Breezy. We were still kittens, and I didn't call her Breezy yet. That came later. I was older than she was; I'd been weaned and had been away

from my mother and siblings for weeks by then,

Burlington The Cat's Lost Love

but she and her litter-mates were still nursing. I'd been given as a surprise gift to a lady who turned out to be allergic to me. She put me in her car and took me to the alley where I grew up and lived until I met Mallory and the rest of our family.

"There are other cats here," the allergic lady had said, "You'll be ok."

After she drove away and I realized she wasn't coming back, I went to meet the other cats she was talking about. The only other cats I'd ever known were my mother and my littermates. I wondered if they were the cats she was talking about, but they weren't. These cats were all very different from what I'd known a cat to be. For instance, I have stripes, and my mother had stripes, and all my siblings had stripes. Only one of these cats had stripes, and they were orange, not gray like mine. Some of the cats had spots. Big spots and small spots, or mostly black with a splash of white on their chest. A couple were completely black and one was solid gray. But nobody looked like me, or my original family.

"I think I'll call you Stripe," Breezy said when we met, "You look very exotic with your gray stripes."

I thought she looked exotic, with her soft yellow-red and white fur. I'll never forget that first time I ever saw her, snuggled up and napping with her



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See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



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Burlington the Cat

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mother. I kept a safe distance for a while, observing the colony without getting too close.

After a day or two, Breezy and I began to talk to each other, and her mother was nice to me. The other adult cats didn't really like me at first, but in time they got used to me and accepted me.

In the weeks after we met, Breezy and her brothers and sisters grew bigger and more independent, and their mother taught them all the important things they would need to know in life, like how to hunt, how to groom themselves, how to defend themselves, and when and where to hide from danger when fighting back is not an option. She would play with them while she was teaching them, and she often included me in their games. My mother had already taught me those life skills, but I played anyway, and helped the younger ones out a bit, because it was so much fun, and of course, because I enjoyed spending time with Breezy.

My favorite game to play with Breezy was Chase.

That's where you run really fast, past another cat, and they chase you. After you let them chase you for a while, you suddenly stop and turn to face them. They immediately stop in their tracks and



then turn and run, and you chase them. It's a lot of fun. One day, when we were playing Chase, I observed that Breezy could run as fast as the wind. That was the same day that I realized that being with her gave me that happy sort of feeling like the breath of a warm spring breeze across my whiskers. That was when I started calling her Breezy. Everyone seemed to like it and it became her official name.

As the months rolled by and spring turned into summer, Breezy and I spent all our days together. We would play Chase until we were both so tired we couldn't run one more step, and then we would find a nice spot to nap in the afternoon sun. After nightfall, we would look up at the stars together and talk about our hopes and plans for the future.

One morning, as we were exploring, our noses were tickled by a tantalizing scent. We followed it and saw that it led to a large enclosure. It was made out of wood and wire and was propped up on a stick, like a funny canopy. There, underneath, was a bowl of some flaky, fishy delicacy.

Some of the other cats were already on their way over to check it out.

"Stop," warned a voice from behind us, "Don't go in there."

We turned to see Breezy's mom

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Planning for our Pets

Studies show that the majority of pet owners consider their pets to be members of their families, but how many have made decisions about what should happen to their pets in the event of the owners' death?

About one in five pet owners have made arrangements in writing, according to an NBC News report, for what happens, should their pets outlive them. The same report quotes the ASPCA estimate that "a half million owners die or become incapacitated each year without leaving instructions on how to care for their pets".

Many of these pets end up being surrendered to shelters and/or euthanized.

How can you make your wishes known about your own pets? An article on the Legal Language Services web site tells us:

The practice of including pets in wills isn't exactly standard yet. If you are drafting a will and want to include your pet, you may want to bring it up with your attorney, since your attorney won't likely be bringing it up first.

That being said, providing for pets in wills has become a lot more popular in the last decade, according to the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Pet owners are doing everything from specifying who should care for their pets to setting up pet trust funds to leaving entire estates to pets!

Another misconception is that remembering pets in wills is an American practice. The truth is that several countries, most notably England, have allowed provisions to benefit pets and other animals in wills for over a century!

The article goes on to say, "Leaving money or property to pets directly in wills is actually not legal since courts consider pets themselves to be property. However, setting up a trust for your pet is perfectly valid in over half of US states."

You may know of a couple who worked out a custody and/or visitation agreement after a breakup, or you may have read about celebrities like Katy Perry, who won custody of Krusty The Cat in her divorce settlement. Perry and then-husband Russell Brand each had a cat when entering into their marriage, and Krusty was adopted by both of them while they were married.

See our web site for links to more information about legal options regarding your wishes for your pets.



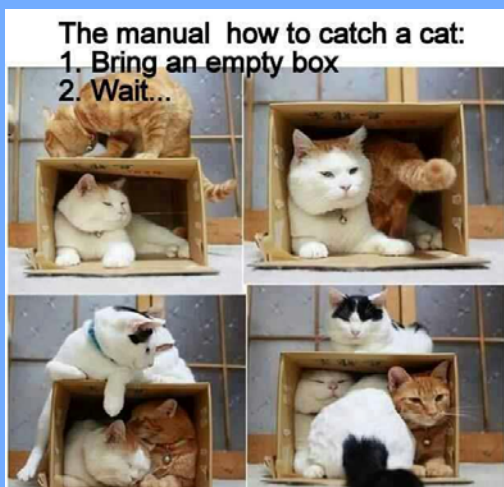
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Humor

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- enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.
15. **Law of Electric Blanket Attraction:** Turn on an electric blanket and a cat will jump into bed at the speed of light.
 16. **Law of Random Comfort Seeking:** A cat will always seek, and usually take over, the most comfortable spot in any given room.
 17. **Law of Bag/Box Occupancy:** All bags and boxes in a given room must contain a cat within the earliest possible nanosecond.
 18. **Law of Cat Embarrassment:** A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.
 19. **Law of Milk Consumption:** A cat will drink his weight in milk, squared, just to show you he can.
 20. **Law of Furniture Replacement:** A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.
 21. **Law of Cat Landing:** A cat will always land in the softest place possible.
 22. **Law of Fluid Displacement:** A cat immersed in milk will displace her own volume, minus the amount of milk consumed.
 23. **Law of Cat Disinterest:** A cat's interest level will vary in inverse proportion to the amount of effort a human expends in trying to interest him.

Received via email:



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standing there.

"Why?" we asked, "Didn't you smell that food?"

"It's a trick," she said, "That's called a trap, and humans put them there to catch cats. There have been cats who went under the trap who were never seen again."

We looked back at the enclosure, our eyes wide.

"Those that do come back tell stories of very strange and frightening experiences."

We promised Breezy's mom we would never to go into the traps. I kept my vow for a long time, until I met Mallory, in fact, when I went into the cage that her mother, now my mom, put out for me. It was a different type of cage, though, and I knew I could trust Mom because I already knew Mallory by then.

Breezy kept her vow for a few weeks, until one afternoon when we'd all gone without food for a few days. The people who worked in the shopping plaza and usually left food out for us had been away for days. It must have been what Mom refers to as a Holiday Weekend, when lots of people don't go to work for a few days in a row. On top of that, it had rained for several days and hunting was difficult as well.

Breezy was so hungry that, when we came to the edge of the

Burlington the Cat

wooded lot that ran along side the alley and she saw the trap sitting there, the familiar bowl of pungent-scented fishy food inside, she licked her lips and said to me, "I can't resist anymore, Stripe. I just can't."

"You have to," I said.

"I'll bring back some of the food for both of us," she said, and before I could stop her, she ran to the cage and joined a few others from our colony.

"No, wait!" I shouted, trying to catch up to her.

I was too late. She started to eat the food and at the same moment, I noticed a string that was tied to the stick as it was pulled taught, the stick flying out and the trap falling around my sweetheart and some of my friends!

"Breezy!" I yelled.

Her cries in return were drowned out by the cries and growls of the other cats, and by the voices of several humans who came running up to the trap. They covered it with a cloth that I now know is called a sheet and belongs on the sleeping place called a bed, and I couldn't see Breezy anymore. In the commotion, they somehow moved her and the others into separate small cages, also covered with sheets, and took them away.

I didn't see her again for a very

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Burlington the Cat

(Continued from page 4)

long time after that day. I thought I would never see her again, ever, especially after some of the others returned a few days later, funny scents all over them and some of their belly hair missing, and they had no idea where she was.

I was brokenhearted.

I swallowed hard at the memory while Mallory told me about Valentine's Day this week, and then I smiled as I recalled what happened just last month.



Mom took me to Dr. Tails for my annual checkup and shots. She put my carrier down on the waiting room

couch and I peeked out from between the squares in the carrier door. I heard the bells on the office door as someone else came in.

"Oh, hello, Helen," I heard Mom say.

"Paige! How are you?" a woman replied.

And then it happened. The woman put a carrier down next to mine on the couch. I turned to look and who did I see in that other carrier? Right! Breezy!

"Stripe?" she said, her eyes wide

when she saw me.

"Breezy!" I said, "Oh my gosh! I've missed you! What happened to you?"

At the same time, I heard the lady say to Mom, "I adopted Patches from the rescue group that does TNR behind your store."

Mom looked over at Breezy and me and said, "Oh my, look at them. They seem to like each other!"

I turned to Breezy and said, "You're called Patches now?"

"You can still call me Breezy," she mewed.

"And you can still call me Stripe, even though my family calls me Burlington."

"They actually seem like they know each other," Breezy's mom said.

Mom replied, "Maybe they do. I rescued Burlington from behind my store."

They were both smiling at us. We purred and reached our paws through the doors of our carriers, trying to touch.

"You know," Mom said, "I take Burlington in to the store with me a few days a week. You could bring Patches for a visit and they could play together."

"A play date," Breezy's mom said, "What a

Humor (Continued)

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From llewellynsecurity.com:

My dog can read

I was introducing my dog to a restaurant under renovation that he was to guard. The dog had a strange quirk in that he would not go through a tight spot. A door had to be wide open or he would balk. (I guess he had been caught by a spring door when he was younger.)

There was a section of the building with posh furniture and carpet. Access to the section was through an opening in a planter wall. I didn't want the dog to go into that section, so I placed a "THIS SECTION CLOSED" sign in the middle of the opening, and said "See that?".... The dog looked, and we walked on.

A workman shouted "Hey are you saying that dog can read?"

I replied "Well, watch.", and I squeezed past the sign but the dog who had been at my side in perfect obedience, planted four feet and wouldn't go through, no matter how much I shouted and tugged.

I moved the sign (now there was lots of room), and the dog walked through as though nothing was wrong.

Each time the sign was in the doorway, the dog couldn't be forced through; remove it and he would trot on through.

Somewhere there is a work crew that believes my dog can read. *Bev McQuain*



See "For Fur-Ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!



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Did You Know? (Continued)

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Celebrity Pets - Answers to quiz on Page 1.



1. Betty White and Bob Cat

2. Henry Winkler with his dog, a cross between a Labrador and a poodle, named Charlotte



3. Katy Perry and Kitty Purry

4. Denise Richards and her pets



5. Nicholas Cage

6. Jennifer Love Hewitt



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great idea!"

They did just that, in fact, two days later. Breezy and I caught up on everything that had happened in our lives since we last saw one another. We played Chase through the store (she is still the fastest runner I know), and we played with my toy mouse. She told me about the people who put the traps out, with the food that was so hard to resist.

"It's called TNR," she said, "That stands for Trap, Neuter, Release or Trap, Neuter, Return. They aren't bad people after all. In fact, they are doing a very good thing!"

"Really? What are they doing?"

"They catch stray and feral cats in those traps and they take them to be spayed or neutered."

"I know those words," I said, "That means they can't have kittens anymore, right?"

"Right. Then, if the cats are able to be adopted and live with people, they find homes for them, like they did for me. If not, they return them to the colony, knowing they won't continue to have more babies that would have to live on the streets."

"I'm so relieved," I told her, "I'm glad we both have human families now, and I'm also



See "For Fur-ther Information" on page one to learn about links for additional reading on topics mentioned in Burlington Reports!

Burlington the Cat

glad we can see each other again."

When the afternoon sun began streaming through the front window, we hopped up onto the window seat and sprawled out.

"Cats are solar-powered," Mallory often teases, "That's why they lie in the sun so much. To recharge."

We do love lying in the sun; that's for sure. Have you ever watched a cat, as the afternoon progresses and their favorite patch of sunshine gradually moves across the floor? The cat will get up and follow it, lying down in a new spot every few feet until the sun is gone for the day. Occasionally, if the cat becomes too warm, he or she may lie in a cooler spot for a few minutes, and then return to the sun to continue the "recharging" process. It's all about balance, you know.



I rolled over onto my side and turned my head upside-down in that way that seems

to fascinate humans, and I looked over at Breezy. She took a deep, satisfied breath at that moment and exhaled without even opening her eyes.



The only thing better than relaxing in the sun, I think, is . . . relaxing in the sun with someone you love.



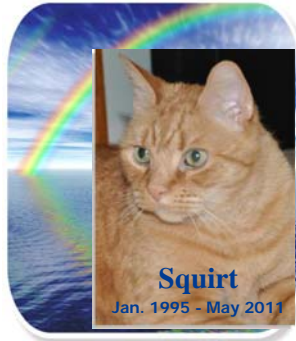
Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!





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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 2011 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: If I have a cold, can my cat or dog catch it from me? Can I catch a cold from my cat or dog?

Answer: A quick internet search on this question reveals that there are many differing opinions out there! To answer the question, we must first look at what we mean when we talk about a "cold". Many people confuse a cold with the flu. They can be very similar. In humans, a cold can be caused by any of thousands of viruses, while there are only three types of viruses that cause the flu, according to an article on the CBS News web site. The thing that seems to cause confusion about this question is that the *cause* of colds and flu in dogs and cats is different than in humans.

According to a post by an administrator on pets.ca, "In cats, the most common "cold" is viral (herpes/calici virus) and more recently it has been demonstrated they often get a bacterial "cold" from Bordetella bacteria. The most common "cold" that dogs get is a combination of Bordetella and Flu virus. In cats, they usually sneeze in rapid succession and dogs usually manifest as a cough". An article on pets.thenest.com tells us that humans cannot catch the feline type of herpesvirus or calcivirus. The Bordetella bacteria (Kennel Cough in dogs) "has been implicated as an infrequent cause of infection in humans, primarily in immunocompromised patients exposed to infected animals, although infections have also been reported in immunocompetent individuals as well," according to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

More than one commenter on forums and articles that turn up in a search of this question have said that their pets have, in fact, caught colds from them, although most medical professionals maintain that it isn't possible. What may have happened, however, is that the humans had the flu or another similar illness, which their pets caught, and in the pets it manifested as a cold.

The important thing is to always take precautions, just as you do to protect your own health. Keep your pets up-to-date with their vaccines, as many common pet illnesses can be prevented. Wash your hands often, keep surfaces in your home clean, and if your pet shows any signs of illness (cold symptoms or other symptoms), visit your veterinarian. Symptoms such as sneezing or watery eyes could indicate a cold, but also be sure to pay attention any time your pet is not acting like his or her usual self. Even changes in behavior such as going potty in inappropriate places can be an indicator of illness. An article on WebMD tells us that the six most common signs of illness (of all types) in our pets are:

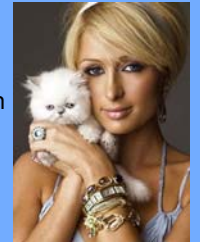
1. Vomiting or Diarrhea
2. Lack of Appetite or Decreased Activity
3. Urinating More or Less Frequently
4. Coughing
5. Hair Loss or Itchy Skin
6. Stiffness, Lameness, or Difficulty With Rising

*Peace, Love, and Head-Butts,
Squirty*

Did You Know? (Continued)

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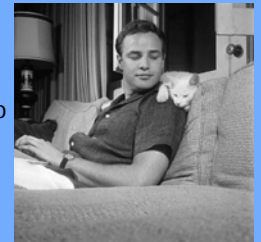
7. Paris Hilton



8. Steven Tyler



9. Marlon Brando



10. Mickey Rourke



11. Kate Hudson with Bernese Mountain Dog named Nana



12. Pamela Anderson and Star





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Registries For Animal Abusers

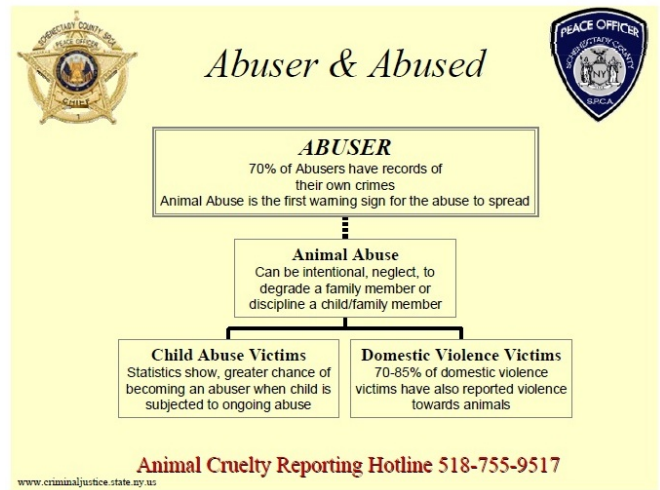
While many legislators are working diligently in favor of a national registry for convicted animal abusers, similar to the national sex offender registry, there are groups, cities, and individuals who are also compiling records that can be very helpful in screening would-be adopters of pets for histories of abuse offenses.

Not only are animal abusers known for repeating their offenses, but links between animal abuse and violence toward humans are astounding. Rapists, spouse abusers, child abusers, and serial killers all have very high likelihood (up to 100%!) of a history of animal abuse.

A pdf on the Schenectady County SPCA web site lists national crime statistics showing that:

- 48% of convicted rapists abused animals in the past
- 70%-80% of spousal abuse victims situations have also included animals
- 88% of child abuse situations have reported cruelty to animals
- *100% of serial killers have abused animals*
- 50% of all children and 66% of all male children are exposed to cruelty to animals

A registry of convicted animal abusers would not only alert animal shelters, veterinarians, and the public about potential



animal abusers in their communities, but would also provide an indicator of potential violence toward humans. If citizens and law enforcement can be aware of an animal abuser's presence before her or she abuses another animal, or hurts or kills a person, or commits the crime that lands him or her on the sex offender registry, perhaps many people and animals alike can be spared a lot of pain.

See our web site for links to information about proposed legislation as well as already existing databases of animal cruelty cases that have been or are being investigated in and around a given zip code.