

PASS IT ALONG!

Parsippany Animal Supporters Society

**JUNE IS ADOPT A
SHELTER CAT MONTH**

Welcome to Parsippany Animal Supporters Society, Inc., also known as PASS! PASS is an all volunteer, non-profit group of citizens.

PASS mission statement: PASS is dedicated to the improvement of animal welfare by providing education on animal issues for the general public, by supporting the Parsippany Animal Shelter in its efforts to place unwanted animals in caring homes, and by fundraising to support these goals and other animal welfare initiatives. PASS is not part of the Parsippany Animal Shelter, which is controlled and operated by the Township of Parsippany/Troy Hills.

PASS was officially organized as a non-profit corporation on May 29, 2003.

On September 5, 2003 PASS received its 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

Any person who is in sympathy with the objectives of the organization may become a member. So enjoy our newsletter and pass it along!



COUNTRY COOKOUT



FOR THE BENEFIT OF CRITTERS

Saturday - June 9, 2007
Noon - 4:00 pm
Smith Field Park
Route 46 East
Parsippany, NJ

We are planning an exciting time for you to join us for a day filled with fun, food and lots of activities including:

Mounted Unit & K-9 Academy demonstrations!

**50/50 Winner
Announced!**

**T-Shirt contest
Winner Announced!**

Baking Contest!

Dog Contests!

For more information visit our website:
www.pass4pets.org & click on the Activities page
Or leave a message at: 973-402-7387 in Box 5

ADVANCED TICKETS

\$10 - Adults
\$5 - Children under 10
Free - Children under 3

At the Door Tickets

\$12 - Adults
\$7 - Children under 10
Free - Children under 3

Indicate the number of tickets (Adult/Child) you want and mail together with your check payable to "PASS" to: PASS - Box 5077, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Include your return address. Tickets will be mailed to you.
Ticket needed for admittance & food wristband.



VOLUNTEERING AT OUR SHELTERS

Imagine yourself confined to a small room (with no TV!) for most of the day, allowed out into a slightly larger outdoor area for a few hours, and then re-confined in that small room (no TV!) for the whole night or even longer on weekends. That's about the situation at most shelters.

Why do shelter dogs bark non-stop when people come around? In many cases it's simply that they are just so anxious for human contact (sometimes I wonder why). **DOGS ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS AND MOST WANT IS TO BE PART OF OUR PACK.** As Volunteers at the Parsippany Animal Shelter or other facilities, we have an opportunity to provide the dogs and cats with very important social interaction until they are adopted to loving homes.

The Parsippany Shelter is fortunate and usually has only a few dogs (at this writing: None!). And, equally important, the staff works hard to socialize the dogs as much as they can. That is not necessarily true at other facilities. With most dogs, there is never enough human contact! The more socialization they have while in shelter-land, the more "marketable" they will be and the easier will be the transition to a conventional home.

Volunteers take the dogs out of their confinement, help them to interact with a variety of people, expose them to the smells, sounds, and sights of the world outside the shelter fencing and provide them with the touching and yes, the loving for which these dogs usually are so desperate.

I would be remiss if I didn't include the importance of discipline

for these dogs. Many have received little to no instruction on permissible and non-permissible behaviors and have (by the lack of proper ownership) established their own ground rules, such as pulling on a leash, mouthing the hand that's trying to pet them, or even being fearful or defensive against humans. Where the occasion arises and a volunteer's experience and skill make it possible, progress can be made toward extinguishing unacceptable behavior. You have the awesome opportunity to convert these animals into good citizens. But it is hard for improvements to take place when a dog is exposed to new people once or twice a week. The more experiences a dog has, the faster he/she will settle down—or come out of his/her shell and become an acceptable canine citizen.

If you really want to have fun, just brush a dog who may have never been exposed to a brush or comb. He or she may go crazy, may be frightened, or may just lie on his/her back and relish the love, the touch, the stimulation. If you want a real blast, give a shelter dog a bath!

I believe we also have a responsibility to observe the dogs for health problems, parasites, or behavior quirks. By being alert and notifying the Animal Control Officers, we can help prevent major medical issues, avoid returns by adopters, and, in the worst cases, prevent what could be serious incidents down the road.

I've devoted this column to dogs but I really don't mean to exclude the kitties. Cats also benefit from being held, played with and, in some cases, from being groomed. You

won't be taking them for walks but most of them love to be stroked or have a toy waved in front of them. Some of the mature cats simply do not understand what happened to them and may become very withdrawn without human interaction. Shelter kittens may have never known human contact or may be the offspring of feral cats and exhibit inherent caution. With regular handling, you can enjoy watching these animals change into loving kittens that will make wonderful pets.

Come in to the Parsippany Animal Shelter or go to other shelters and experience the wonder of having an animal love you—no strings attached!

—Herb Skovronek

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T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

The winning design from our T-Shirt contest (announced at our “Country Cookout for the Benefit of Critters” on June 9th) will be featured on the next PASS T-Shirt. Why not take a moment and pre-order yours today? The T-Shirts will be gray with black letting and the cost is \$15.00 per shirt payable by cash or check when you place your order. There will be no refunds.

Please indicate the size and quantity of T-Shirts that you would like to pre-order (after June 11th only Adult sizes of Large, X-Large and XX-Large will be available)

	Child	Adult
Small		
Medium		
Large		
X-Large	XXXX	
XX-Large	XXXX	

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Total # of shirts _____
 @ \$15.00 each
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

- Please make check payable to PASS
- Mail your order form & check to:
 PASS, Box 5077, Parsippany, NJ 07054

UNATTENDED ANIMALS

It is potentially a disorderly persons offense in NJ to leave an animal unattended in a car:

NJSA 4:22-17(a)

Cruel treatment—includes knowingly failing to provide necessary sustenance, proper food, drink, protection from the weather; leaving animal in unattended vehicle; harming animal directly or indirectly (e.g., through use of another animal)

Disorderly Persons Offense plus mandatory community service and possible restitution.



MEETING SCHEDULE

Our meetings are fun and informative and will give you all the latest PASS news. So come join us and bring a friend!

- ✓ Tuesday June 12
- ✓ Tuesday July 10
- ✓ Tuesday August 14

These meetings will be held at the Parsippany Library located at 449 Halsey Road at 7:00 pm.

HAPPY TAILS

If you adopted from the Parsippany Animal Shelter and would like to share a picture of your new pet and comments, you can send us an email at info@pass4pets.org or mail them to PASS, P.O. Box 5077, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



We would love to hear from you!



WHY IS THIS DOG DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS?

Your family decides it wants a doggie. You research breeds on the internet, you read literature from the American Kennel Club, and you even visit a couple of litters in your area. But something is missing. Then your youngster asks, “how about a dog from the shelter?” Hmmm, you’d be saving a life, and it will be a heck of a lot cheaper than buying one of those designer dogs. So you go back on the internet, maybe to www.petfinder.com if you know about it, and then you start visiting shelters.

Not too many puppies available probably, but there sure are dogs of all sizes, shapes and colors. The basic rules for selecting a 10-15 year member of your family still hold:

1. Do you prefer long hair or short hair in your soup?
2. Are your kids old enough and big enough to manage a significant sized dog?
3. Do you want a quiet dog or an entertainer?
4. Do you, your spouse and your youngsters have the time and desire to train a dog (notice, no inherent skill is required)?
5. Do you want a dog who will be totally dependent on you



(“Velcro-dog”) or can you tolerate a relatively high degree of independence?

6. Recognizing that you’re embarking on a relationship with a (more or less) adult dog, is your family ready to deal with and correct bad habits and retrain good habits?
7. Do you want a dog who will be around for 10-15 years or is 5 years as far into the future as you care to look, considering expected life style changes?
8. Do you have problems with someone challenging your requests/demands?
9. Can you handle a dog who’s smarter than most of your friends?
10. Do you understand that whatever dog you get, you are in for significant expenses: food, vet bills, grooming, toys, replaced couches, training classes, etc.?

Sure, you will still rely on what appear to be the main breeds that seem to be in the dogs you’re interested in. But as with pure breeds, “your mileage may vary!” If it looks like a terrier, it will probably dig, if looks like a lab, it may like swimming or chasing bunnies (don’t think that that terrier won’t!).

Once you’ve narrowed your selection down somewhat and used Petfinder or phone calls to shelters to identify some dogs that meet your outline, go and visit. Some shelters or rescue groups

may require a home inspection before adoption can be completed, or you may even be turned down because of a lack of proper facilities (no fence) or because a specific dog (or any dog!) is not considered suitable to your family (small children, another pet). Don’t get angry. These people are trying to do right for the animal *and you*.

Once you’ve passed that initial inspection, ask to see the dogs. Don’t hesitate to ask the staff to direct you to dogs that they think would be “right” for you. But, in any case, walk down the line, looking at each dog—which ones catch your eye, which ones catch your heart? Don’t hesitate to ask one or more dogs to be brought out for you to look at. Ideally, spend time with *more than one*. Take advantage of the staff; they’ve spend at least 7 days with those animals (probably a lot more). Pick their brains, ask how the dog behaves in different situations. Does he/she get along with other dogs; is he/she stubborn/playful/fearful, etc.? How does he eat-fast/slow/defensively? What do they know about his background? Was he/she turned in and why? Was he/she found as a stray? Did he/she have a collar when found? Get down on the ground with the dog, play with him/her.

Ultimately, a dog may look at you or cuddle in your daughter’s arms—he’s picked you. Give up! Of course, he’s completely different from what you planned. So???

Whether it’s your family’s choice or the dog’s choice, STOP. Have a family powwow and decide

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AN INTRODUCTION TO FERRETS

The domestic ferret belongs to the family of *Mustelidae*, which includes weasels, minks, otters, and yes, skunks. Most of us see those cute little faces in a pet store, and decide to take one home, without really knowing much about them. Most ferret owners own more than one ferret. In this article, we hope to give you an overview of ferrets, and the scope of responsibility necessary to care for them.

Ferrets have been domesticated for hundreds of years, initially as working pets, for hunting and rodent control. They are similar to the European pole cat, which are still used in other countries for hunting. Domestic ferrets do not exist in the wild in the United States. They do have a relative in the endangered species, the black-footed ferret, which reside in the plains states of North America.

This cute little critter, with its long body and short legs, can make a wonderful pet. Ferrets are naturally curious, and don't show much fear. They are, however, a high-maintenance animal. Their care is more like that of a cat or a dog, not a hamster or a gerbil. Ferrets are not rodents. They are carnivores, and have characteristics of the canine family. They have canine teeth and nails. Their nails require regular trimming.

Ferrets are very inquisitive, and must investigate everything. They can squeeze themselves into any space that they can fit their head into. It is necessary to fully ferret-proof your ferret's play area, blocking off any spaces that are more than 1 inch. They are determined to find ways to get into things—holes, plants, couches, clothes dryers—anywhere they are not supposed to be. Ferrets are also cunning, and will find ways to climb other objects to reach things that they should not be able to reach—windows, plants, table tops, to name a few. Initial ferret proofing of your home is essential, and it will be an on-going process, until there can be no other way for them to create havoc.

Ferrets require high-protein food. Most cat foods will not be sufficient to maintain a healthy animal. There are a number of brands of ferret foods on the market, which contain a minimum of 36% protein and 30% fat. They cannot digest carbohydrates, and should never be given vegetables of any kind. For the occasional treat, ferrets enjoy raisins and melon, but these should be given only in moderation. There are also supplements available, ferretone and ferretvite, which can be used for hairball control.

The domestic ferret should be housed in-doors. They cannot stand extreme temperatures. Generally, ferrets do well in multi-level wire cages. Cages should have plenty of bedding, food and water. Food and water dispensers should be fastened to the cage, as ferrets will flip them. The



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WHY IS THIS DOG DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS?

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that you're all ready for that commitment and I assure you it's a real commitment for the next 5, 10 or 15 years—for better or worse, in health and illness, until death do you part. Remember that the kids will go off to college, your health may fail, you may move to a bigger or smaller home, grandma may move in with you. Do you *all* see this dog as sharing that world with you? If the answer is yes, the time has come to move back to the front office to complete the paperwork, write the check (and please be generous) and take your new family member out to the car.

This is really the beginning, rather than the end of this story. I'll save the rest for another time. Let me just remind you that you should take your new family member to a veterinarian within the next day or so for a preliminary checkup and to identify any problems that would justify a return *before you get attached to your dog. ENJOY!*

—Herb Skovronek

SAVE THE DATE

July 19, 2007

Annual Bowling Party
at Boonton Lanes

See www.pass4pets.org
for more details.



FUNdraising!

We have a lot of fundraisers scheduled for 2007! Should be another great year. Please contact Camille Oakie (Camille@att.net or call 973-402-7387 and leave a message in box 3) to volunteer or for more information on any of the events on our calendar.

What's Needed

Please refer to our newly designed How to Help page on our website (www.pass4pets.org). It lists everything you want to know about what you can do to help PASS help homeless pets! New volunteers always welcome!

FUNDRAISING—THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR ANIMALS

Since 2003, PASS has enriched the lives of many animals in Morris County, and we have each of you to thank for your ongoing support. Without PASS and our members and volunteers, these animals could have fared a worse fate, but today we can feel proud that many of them are part of loving families and living a rewarding life. As a non-profit organization, PASS relies on its members and volunteers to donate their time, and sometimes a little bit of their wallet to help us achieve our mission. It is extremely rewarding to give, and know that our contribution is making a positive difference.

One large source of income that PASS relies on is our fundraisers that we schedule each month. These events are critical to our existence because our member fees do not cover the expenses required to take care of the animals we assist. Our members need to help us in any way they can! We are often busy with work, children and of course, our social life, and most members feel they have little time to offer us to help on fundraising. However, please try to find the time to join us in helping us make our fundraisers a success. The animals will appreciate your efforts and isn't that why we are PASS members?

Upcoming events to participate and or volunteer for:

(Visit our website at www.pass4pets.org for more info)

July—Bowling

August—Shop for a Cause

September—Can Shake

October—Tricky Tray

November—Joe Corbis

December—Holiday Mailing

Hope to see you there!

Camille A. Oakie

RECYCLE FOR PETS

Hosted by Joan Bowling

- We are collecting used cell phones and toner cartridges (inkjet or laser) for the purpose of helping homeless animals in our community and surrounding neighborhoods.
- PASS will receive money for each cell phone or cartridge donated.
- Your donation will help protect the environment, while your unwanted cell phones and inkjet or laser cartridges will be recycled or refurbished and reused.
- Donations may be tax deductible.

We're very excited about this program. "This recycling program not only benefits PASS, but assists in preserving the environment and bringing communications to people who could not otherwise afford it."

All cell phones (sorry, no accessories) and toner cartridges are accepted. Please donate at the following locations:

East Hanover—Super Tans

58 Route 10 West (across from Novartis)

Fairfield—United Business

Systems

302 Route 46 East (ask for Renata)

Ledgewood—Super Tans

410 Route 10 West (across from Pizza Hut)

Lake Hopatcong—Super Tans

725 Route 15 North/South (same complex as McDonalds).

Madison—Pace Personnel

207 Main Street (across from Whole Foods)

Parsippany—United Stor-All

169 Littleton Road



AN INTRODUCTION TO FERRETS

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preferred bedding is hammocks, sleep sacks, and old sweatshirts. The bedding should be changed and washed every week, as fur and oils accumulate on them, and will contribute to odor.

Ferrets can be litter trained, and the cage should contain several litter boxes. When a ferret has to make his business, he will back up in a corner, and lift his tail. Any corner will do. You should never use clay, pine or scooping litter. Clay will clog up in their rear, as they do 'scootch' after they poop. Clumping litter will make this even worse. Pine litter will adversely affect their respiratory systems. Recommended litter is unscented, recycled newspaper litter, or hard wood stove pellets.

Every ferret has a different personality, and will require patience and training. Positive reinforcement is recommended. You should never thump a ferret on the nose or pull its tail. They will need litter training, and will need to be trained not to bite. Ferrets play with their teeth, so biting is natural for them. Extreme patience and understanding is required when teaching a ferret not to bite.

Ferrets will sleep for up to 20 hours a day. Contrary to popular belief, they are not nocturnal. Ferrets are flexible, and easily adapt to your schedule. They need at least 4 hours of playtime each day. You need to be careful in your toy selection for them. Ferrets will ingest anything they can, including latex and soft rubber, which will result in intestinal blockages, resulting in emergency surgery or death. Ferrets love long tubes, such as dryer hose, to run through. They enjoy tennis balls, hard rubber toys, balls, appropriate squeaky toys, and getting into trouble.

Ferrets average life span is 5 to 10 years, and they do require regular veterinary care. On an annual basis, they need vaccinations against canine distemper and rabies. You can also expect that they will need surgery for one or more of the following illnesses in their lifetime: cancer of the adrenal glands, cancer of the pancreas, and surgery for removal of blockages. These can all be quite expensive. Ferrets do need to have their ears cleaned and their nails clipped on a regular basis. Flea treatment is also recommended during the season. One drop of top spot per pound of ferret will allow you to treat up to 10 ferrets with one kitten dose.

Before you buy that cute little guy from a pet store, you should do some research first. There are many books available about ferret care, and many web sites that can be visited. We recommend *Ferrets for Dummies* and visiting the ferret central website at www.ferretcentral.org. Before you buy, consider visiting a local ferret shelter first. You can meet with the shelter operator, who can give you more information on their care. The ferret shelters in our area are usually full to capacity, but maybe they would not be if people would take the time to learn before they buy.

You should also find out about the regulations for ferret ownership in your area. New Jersey requires an exotic animal permit to own ferret. Ferrets are illegal in New York City. Be sure you are in the clear before you bring that little guy home.

—Tracy Colangelo

DECLAWING PAMPLETS

These are great educational handouts for cat parents. It clearly states that declawed cats will have health issues and cost their owners money later on in life.

Think Twice Before You Declaw by Steve Dale (www.petworldradio.net)
<http://stevedalepetworld.com/images/stories/declawing.pdf>

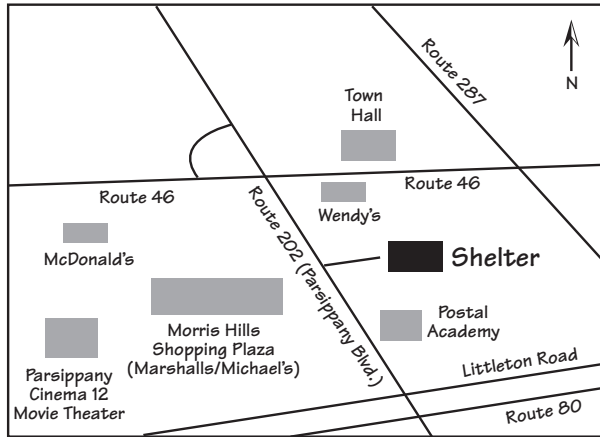
Why Cats Need Their Claws by Gary Loewenthal
<http://www.wholecatjournal.com/articles/claws.pdf>

How to Trim a Cat's Claws by HSUS *Animal Sheltering* magazine
http://www.animalsheltering.org/resource_library/magazine_articles/may_jun_1998/asmMJ98_howto.pdf



PET ADOPTIONS

Please stop by the Parsippany Animal Shelter to visit with all the homeless pets up for adoption. The shelter is located at 1069 Parsippany Boulevard in Parsippany, near the Morris Hills Shopping Center. The shelter is open to the public Monday through Friday from 3 pm to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm. You can also make an appointment by calling the shelter at 973-263-7083. You can also “visit” the shelter at www.petfinder.org then to “shelter & rescue groups.” Search in New Jersey and scroll down to “Parsippany Animal



Control & Animal Shelter.” If you have any additional questions, any of the Animal Control Officers would be happy to help you.

PASS is not part of the Parsippany Animal Shelter which is controlled and operated by the Township of Parsippany Troy Hills.



CONTACT US

We'd love to know what you think! Comments, questions or suggestions regarding our newsletter can be sent to PASS, PO Box 5077, Parsippany, NJ 07054 to the attention of Patty Wallenburg, email typewriting@earthlink.net or leave a message at 973-402-PETS and we'll be sure to contact you. And don't forget to PASS It Along!



P.O. Box 5077  Parsippany, NJ 07054