



Adoption Center News

Sarge the Cat sports a new foot and new life

It was still winter and very cold when Dr. Lisa Espey of Mat-Su Animal Care and Regulation contacted us about a young adult, male, Tabby cat, that one of her enforcement officers had to remove from a leg-hold trap.

Animals with severe injuries can not be put out for adoption to the general public — they are either euthanized or a rescue organization is located that can coordinate the resources to bring the animal back to health.

Dr. Espey went the extra mile in this case because of the wonderful temperament of this handsome fellow. In spite of an injury that revealed the bones in his paw, he could still be handled and even purred when held.

Based on the excellent attitude of this cat, a decision was made to bring him to our Adoption Center.

Calls were made, and a local vet-

erinary clinic agreed to give a deep discount to repair his foot. Longtime volunteer Judy Levitt sponsored the balance of the surgery costs.

After six weeks of post-op in



a foster home, he was returned to the Adoption Center, where the staff immediately named him "Sarge" (because he was a tough guy who was as

soft as a marshmallow inside).

Months passed and despite being featured on the news, there were still no takers for the cat who had suffered so much pain. But that changed one day in July during an adoption clinic at Alaska Mill and Feed.

Rich Battensmith, a nice man with an easy presence, stopped by to see a different cat he had noticed online.

Sarge sat in his lap while we discussed that cat. But by the end of the discussion, Rich had come to enjoy how easy Sarge was to handle.

He was won over. And now Sarge has a new home with Rich and the other cat he first came to see.

We'd like to offer a special 'thank you' to Dr. Espey for seeing the wonderful soul of an animal that someone else treated with such carelessness.

Thanks Sydney-Jane

O'Malley Elementary School, sixth grader, Sydney-Jane Armstrong and her rescue dog Mac present Toni Diedrich from the Alaska S.P.C.A. with nearly \$500 that she raised during a recent school concert.

Sydney-Jane is an excellent animal advocate. She is also raising money for K-9 Vests to protect the canine officers who serve with the Anchorage Police Department.

If you are interested in making a donation for a vest go to starsystems@gci.net.

What a dynamic young person!



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Mission Statement

The Alaska SPCA's mission is to protect animals from cruelty, be an advocate for their moral and ethical treatment, provide them with shelter and care when in need, educate the public on responsible pet ownership, and provide the community with a low-cost spay/neuter program.

History

The Alaska SPCA was founded in 1966 with the belief that animals, as living creatures, are entitled to basic rights relating to their care, treatment and protection. As a result, the organization has been involved in helping to alleviate animal suffering throughout the state of Alaska.

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Notes

FROM THE MANAGER

We all know that first impressions are significant, and in spite of battling issues that come with very old buildings and limited resources, the small Adoption Center staff endlessly looks for new ways to house animals in cheerier, more stimulating surroundings.

This past summer the staff at the Adoption Center made time to plant flowers, continuously clean the grounds and raise money for shade-giving, rain sheltering outdoor canopies for the dogs and cats.

The Fat Cat Inn (right) was given a new roof (labor and supplies donated

by volunteers). The interior received repairs also, a new floor was installed and the walls were painted. A small landscaping project was done in the front of the building and a ramp was built to replace the two stairs that had previously been at the front door.

On a different topic, I want to remind everyone that the Alaska S.P.C.A. offers low-price micro-chipping (dogs \$30, cats \$20), which includes the registration fee. To learn more, visit www.avidmicrochip.com.



ASPCA's Cold-Weather Tips

Brrrr...it's cold outside!

This guide will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

1. Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.

2. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

3. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm — dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure

yours always wears ID tags.

4. Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

5. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk. Own a short-haired breed?

Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.

6. Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.



Tails FROM THE Frontlines

Scout's Eagle project brings new life to the Shelter

It was a good thing for the Adoption Center that staff member Kathy Minick answered the phone the day that Chase LaRose (at right with shelter dog Simon) called.

He said he was a Scout looking for a project in pursuit of his Eagle Scout badge and asked if we had any work he could do.

Well, Kathy didn't hold back. She let him know everything that needed to be done.

Within a few short weeks Chase and his helpers (below) were everywhere at the Center, painting and making repairs that were much needed in the

effort to keep our Center at its best.

Not only was Chase organized and reliable, he had to coordinate the donation of all of the supplies. And he came through like a champ.



One of the dog buildings with indoor/outdoor runs was painted.

The Fat Cat Inn exterior and a section of the buildings where two different structures are linked together was given a fresh coat of paint. The boardwalk in this same area was completely rebuilt, making it much safer.

Thank you Chase for remembering the animals in your quest to become an Eagle Scout!

"FREE" pets aren't free

Think the adoption fees paid to rescue groups is too expensive? Consider what you'd pay for your "free" pet in order to receive the same benefits of adopting from a shelter or rescue:

Shelter or rescue group

Dogs and cats are appropriately:

- spayed or neutered
- micro-chipped
- vaccinated for rabies
- vaccinated for distemper/parvo
- vaccinated for feline distemper
- given a municipal animal license

Total cost: \$90-150 (average)

Free animal in the paper

Costs vary by species, size and age:

- spay or neuter - \$150
- micro-chipping - \$60
- rabies vaccination - \$18
- distemper/parvo vaccination - \$22
- feline distemper vaccination - \$20
- municipal animal license - \$15

Total cost: \$285 (average)



The Angel Tree

Love animals? Want to help? You can! Donate an item from the Animal Angel Tree to a needy cat or dog in our community. It's simple. Select an item from the "Wish List," purchase it and then drop it off in the Gift Box. The Tree is located inside Alaska Mill and Feed, 1501 E. 1st Ave. in Anchorage.

Animal Shelter Ribbons



The Alaska SPCA has joined the ongoing "National Animal Shelter Awareness Ribbon Campaign" to both show support for all animal shelters and rescue groups and also to raise the public's awareness of how many animals are euthanized each year.

Wearing this ribbon will generate curiosity to keep this issue in the public eye and provides an opportunity for you to educate others about animal rescue issues including pet over-population, the importance of spay/neuter, adoption vs. pet-stores, and most of all how they can get involved: volunteer, donate, educate, spay/neuter, rescue, foster, adopt.

We are also offering the white, blue or orange "rescue" ribbon magnets for your car for a \$7 donation. They are available at our spay/neuter clinic.



Alaska Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
549 W. Int'l Airport Road, Suite B2
Anchorage, AK 99518

Address Service Requested

CALENDAR

- **Ongoing pet adoptions**

Call 344-3622 for dates and times to find a new best friend (or two!)

- **Valentine's Day – 2/14**

Free critter kisses at the Adoption Center

- **Spay Day USA – 2/28**

Help us spread the spay/neuter message

- **St. Patrick's Day – 3/17**

Adopt a new friend and bring the "Luck o' the Irish" to a dog or cat who needs a home

- **Pet Adoptathon – 4/29 & 4/30**

Join us in this national adoption event

Prevent Pet Poisoning

Many common household items can be fatal to your pets.

PLANTS: Oleander, yew, azalea, lillies, sago palm, and castor bean can all be toxic. Please visit www.asPCA.org/toxicplants for a full list.

DRUGS: These are lethal to pets, even in small doses: pain killers, cold medicines, antidepressants, minoxidil, vitamins and diet pills.

Cats who ingest Acetaminophen (Tylenol®), Ibuprofen (Advil® & Motrin®) or aspirin most often die.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS: Antifreeze, ice melting products, rat and mouse bait, fabric softener sheets, mothballs, and Be sure to store all of these types of products in a safe place and

consider replacing them with ones that say "not toxic to pets" on the label.

HUMAN FOODS: Alcoholic beverages, avocado, chocolate (all forms), coffee (all forms), fatty foods, macadamia nuts, moldy or spoiled foods, onions and onion powder, raisins and grapes, salt, yeast dough, garlic and products sweetened with xylitol.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS: Christmas tree water, ribbons or tinsel (can become lodged in the intestines), batteries, liquid potpourri, and glass ornaments.

More information is available for free on the American SPCA's Animal Poison Control Center website: www.asPCA.org/poisonsafe.

OUR Wish List

CATS:

- **Inexpensive non-clumping cat litter**
(Such as Johnny Cat, Special Kitty or Tidy Cat, which can be purchased at Alaska Mill & Feed, Costco or Wal-Mart).
- **Cat stands or trees**
- **Cardboard scratchers**

DOGS:

- **Blankets no larger than 4'x5'**
(Perfect ones are available at Costco)

Agency Wide:

- **Printing costs**
(for this newsletter)
- **Office supplies**
- **Cash donations**

