



Companion Animal Advocates Newsletter

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Who We Are

Companion Animal Advocates (CAA), is a non-profit, all volunteer organization based in Northern New Jersey. CAA is committed to keeping family pets from being surrendered to already crowded shelters because their owners can no longer care for them.

CAA is making a significant difference in the lives of so many people in our community - our own neighbors. We are proactively addressing day-to-day issues that every pet owner faces through the following initiatives:

- Pet Retention
- Low-Cost Spay & Neuter
- Adoption Advocacy
- Pet Safety

The people that make up the group have decades of collective experience in a variety of animal welfare areas. Most importantly, each volunteer has a passion for animals and the love and companionship they provide. That passion is key to the long-term success of CAA.

Operation Feed A Pet Update

Since April, we have delivered 4,772 lbs of pet food to those in need. That is 11,930 bowls of food. Thanks to all of you and the many members of our community, we are well on our way to our goal of 5,000 lbs of pet food for 2008! If you would like to help us realize this goal, please consider a contribution to this program. Together, we are making a difference. Bev, with the Center for Food Action, told us that, 'This program is a huge success. Our clients are so grateful for the pet food. They all walk out of the office with great big smiles on their faces.'



In addition to our partnership with the Center for Food Action ("CFA") in Mahwah, NJ for Operation Feed a Pet, CFA is also a low cost spay/neuter client! Sailor, the CFA mascot, was neutered through the "Stop Littering" Program through CAA!

Companion Animal Advocates continues to seek donations to be able to continue to provide this much needed program into 2009. We appreciate everyone's generous support!

Holiday Shopping in support of CAA

It's easy to make a difference just by shopping! At www.iGive.com, you can specify that you want to support Companion Animal Advocates, then click on the merchant you wish to order from and place your order. That merchant will contribute a percentage of your total order to Companion Animal Advocates through iGive.com. Likewise, you can shop through Good Shop at www.goodsearch.com (i.e. Amazon participates through Good Shop but not iGive).

Carnivale of the Dogs Update



Sincere thanks to those of you who attended our recent Carnivale of the Dogs. Despite some soggy weather, the dogs turned out in droves and much fun was had by all. Check out our website for photos from the day.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Operation Feed a Pet

We are supplying Purina Cat and Dog Chow to the Center for Food Action in order to provide pets with a healthy, consistent diet. You can download a \$4 coupon from Purina at <http://giveabowl.com/home.aspx?LI=1> and mail it to us. If you specify that you are supporting Companion Animal Advocates (CAA), Purina will send us an additional \$1 coupon.

You can also call Purina at 1-800-778-7462 and request two \$2 coupons for Purina products (Purina will accept a coupon request once every 4-6 weeks). Upon receipt of the coupons, please mail them to Companion Animal Advocates, Attn: Deb Guston, 55 Harristown Road, 2nd floor, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. These valuable coupons significantly help us further our contributions to the Feed A Pet program.

Home 2 Home

Encourage friends and family to sign up for the CAA newsletter so they can get emails on pets that need new homes.

Memorial Donations

In memory of HB
from Sara Wingerath and
Ian Schlanger

In memory of William "Bill" Martin
from The Forbes Family

Stop Littering: CAA's low cost spay/neuter program

Each year, millions of healthy cats and dogs are killed simply because there are not enough homes for them all. If all responsible pet owners spayed or neutered their pets, we could see an end to this practice in our lifetime.

In New Jersey, there is a state sponsored fund provided by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, called the Pet Overpopulation Control Fund. Eligible pet owners can have their pet spayed or neutered for as little as \$10. If your dog or cat was adopted from a shelter and it was not already spayed or neutered, you may be able to have your pet altered for as little as \$20. In an effort to help owners keep their animals healthy and keep unwanted kitten and puppies out of shelters (or worse, from being euthanized), CAA has created the "STOP LITTERING" program.

CAA has compiled pertinent information on its website at www.CompanionAnimalAdvocates.org to help owners find the most cost effective way to spay or neuter their pets. CAA will even assist by paying the \$10 spay/neuter charge for those pet owners who qualify for the state program.

Please visit our website to find more information on Companion Animal Advocates' "STOP LITTERING" program. If you have any questions, or would like to assist CAA in our mission to end the pet overpopulation epidemic through spaying and neutering, please do not hesitate to contact us.

LEGAL COLUMN

New Jersey Law Punishes Cruelty to Animals by Debra E. Guston, Esq.

After the horrors of the Michael Vick story were revealed, many people questioned whether their states had laws against such cruel treatment of animals. New Jersey Statute 4:22-17 makes some acts of cruelty to animals a disorderly persons offense - the highest non-felony crime in New Jersey and some acts can be charged as felonies. Here is the pertinent text of the law concerning disorderly persons offenses:

A person who shall:

- (1) Overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork, deprive of necessary sustenance, abuse, or needlessly kill a living animal or creature;
- (2) Cause or procure, by any direct or indirect means, including but not limited to through the use of another living animal or creature, any such acts to be done; or
- (3) Inflict unnecessary cruelty upon a living animal or creature, by any direct or indirect means, including but not limited to through the use of another living animal or creature; or unnecessarily fail to provide a living animal or creature of which the person has charge

Successful Home2Home Program Adoptions!

Companion Animal Advocates congratulates each new family!



either as an owner or otherwise with proper food, drink, shelter or protection from the weather ; or leave it unattended in a vehicle under inhumane conditions adverse to the health or welfare of the living animal or creature -

Shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense, and notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:43-3 to the contrary, for every such offense shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000, or be imprisoned for a term of not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Recently, a municipal court found that a woman with 38 cats in her home, many of whom had either Feline Leukemia or upper respiratory illnesses was guilty under this law for allowing the healthy cats to be exposed to serious and potentially life threatening illnesses. She was also charged under the law for keeping the cats without proper food, water and shelter.

Under another portion of this law, a person can be found guilty of a felony of they purposely, knowingly, or recklessly:

- (1) Torment, torture, maim, hang, poison, unnecessarily or cruelly beat, or needlessly mutilate a living animal or creature; or
- (2) Cause or procure, by any direct or indirect means, including but not limited to through the use of another living animal or creature, any such acts to be done-

Shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. If the animal or creature is cruelly killed or dies as a result of a violation of this subsection, or the person has a prior conviction for a violation of this subsection, the person shall be guilty of a crime of the third degree.

Violators of this portion of the law face jail time, extensive fines, and probation. Additionally, on top of sentencing imposed under guidelines for all third and fourth degree crimes, violators are required to perform community service with either the SPCA or some other organization whose purpose is to prevent cruelty to animals, hopefully assisting in rehabilitating the offender.

The law also requires that juveniles who have been found to be delinquent in response to an act of animal cruelty are required to attend mental health treatment, as the state recognizes that a propensity for animal cruelty can often be a prelude to further acts of cruelty against animals and people.

If you believe someone in your community is hoarding animals or has been cruel to a pet or feral animal, please contact your police department and the county SPCA. In Bergen County, New Jersey, the phone number is (201) 573-8900, 24 hours a day.

Debra E. Guston is the Vice President and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Companion Animal Advocates. She is an attorney with offices in Glen Rock, NJ.

This article is not intended to provide legal advice. Please see an attorney for proper advice concerning criminal violations and defense.

'Never Homeless, Never Hungry, Always Loved'

We hope you will continue to support Companion Animal Advocates. Feel free to contact us anytime.

All our best,

Patricia, Melissa D., Deb, Ellen, Melissa S., Linda, Joe, Anne, Nancy, Helga, Christine and Sara

Companion Animal Advocates

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR



Pet Sitting by KAREN

- *Daily Walks
- *Food and Water
- *Experienced Veterinary Assistant
- *References Available
- *10 Years Experience
- *Daily or Overnight in Your Home
- *Edgewater, NJ area

Contact Karen Alderisio at (201) 218-1219 or email her karenalderisio@yahoo.com

To find out more information about how to sponsor the next Companion Animal Advocates Newsletter, please contact sara@companionanimaladvocates.org.