



Companion Animal Advocates Newsletter

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Who We Are

Companion Animal Advocates (CAA) is a nonprofit, 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. This experience and passion are the key to the long-term success of CAA.

Year-End Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As Companion Animal Advocates' second year as a non-profit organization draws to a close, we reflect on what this year has meant to the people and pets that we serve.

- * Our Operation Feed-A-Pet program has delivered more than 24,000 lbs. of pet food to those in need through our partnership with the Center for Food Action.
- * Our Home2Home program has allowed us to facilitate the adoptions of over a dozen pets, allowing us to help pets find a forever family without the stress of a shelter environment.
- * Our Stop Littering program has assisted many families get their pets spayed and neutered by providing low-cost surgical options, affording their pets a healthier life while helping to end the country's pet overpopulation crisis.

We wish to thank everyone who has supported the CAA mission and helped many families in need. The families we have assisted have expressed heartfelt appreciation - and we want to thank you for making that possible.

With your continued support, we are looking forward to expanding our programs in the coming year:

- * We will reach out and feed more hungry pets, helping their families by alleviating a small but real financial burden.
- * We will be expanding our Stop Littering program by creating more affordable options for those in financial need. In the past year, we have heard from many families. We have listened to their pleas and we have created a program that will provide them with assistance.
- * We would like to get more exposure for the pets looking for new homes to place them quickly and help other pets needing a new family. *(continued on page 3)*

Carnivale of the Dogs



*Lina and Toto
Queens of the Carnivale*

Congratulations to Lina and Toto, the Queens of this year's Carnivale of the Dogs. Through their owner's efforts, they raised more than \$2,500 for CAA. Special thanks to Oklahoma and Tralfaz (and their humans of course) for coming in close behind. Because of our wonderful supporters, more than \$10,000 was raised for CAA. Simply amazing! In addition, over 400 lbs. of pet food was collected for hungry pets in our area.

Please pass this newsletter along to a friend when you finish reading it. Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Operation Feed-A-Pet

We supply Purina Cat and Dog Chow to the Center for Food Action in order to provide pets with a healthy and consistent diet.

Please call Purina at 1-800-778-7462 and request coupons for Purina products (Purina will accept a coupon request once every 4-6 weeks).

Send your coupons to:
Companion Animal Advocates
55 Harristown Road, 2nd floor
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

These valuable coupons significantly help us further our contributions to the Feed-A-Pet program.

Collect Coupons for FREE Pet Food
If you should come across any coupons for **FREE** pet food or treats, please send them to CAA at the above address.

Home2Home

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

Post flyers of Home2Home pets in your community.

For more information please contact Sara@CompanionAnimalAdvocates.org

Food Drives

Conduct a family and friends food drive. Send e-mails to your family and friends and ask them each to donate a 15-20 lb. bag of Purina dog or cat chow to help an underserved family feed their pet.

Once you collect the food, contact Ellen@CompanionAnimalAdvocates.org to arrange for drop off of the food.

SAVE THE DATE

Canine's on the Catwalk

Saturday, February 27th at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Oakland

In Memory / In Honor

In Honor of Bridget Carrigan

NJ HAS MADE IT EASY FOR YOU TO HELP FUND THE "CAT AND DOG SPAY/NEUTER FUND"



Companion Animal Advocates applauds the NJ State Legislature for making it easier for NJ residents to support NJ's low cost spaying and neutering program. On June 25, 2009, Bill No. A2513(1) was unanimously passed creating the "Cat and Dog Spay/Neuter Fund" in the Department of Treasury. This bill allows NJ residents to indicate right on their tax return, that they want to contribute to the "Cat and Dog Spay/Neuter Fund." You

have the option to attribute a portion of your tax refund (if you are getting a refund) or to donate by including a contribution with your tax return. All funds deposited in the "Cat and Dog Spay/Neuter Fund" will be provided to the Animal Population Control Fund in the Department of Health and Senior Services, which funds a low cost spaying and neutering program.

Please take the opportunity, when you are completing your tax forms, to donate to this worthwhile cause. This is one important step toward affordable spay/neutering and the profound impact that this action will have on lowering the unnecessary euthanizing that is happening on a daily basis in our State.

Judge Awards Splitting Couple Joint Possession of Pet Pug

A New Jersey judge held recently that a former couple must share possession of a six-year-old, pedigreed pug they bought for \$1,500 when they were engaged and living together. The ruling, which directs the couple to spend alternating, five-week stretches with the dog, is the aftermath of a groundbreaking appellate decision last March that pets have a subjective value that transcends their monetary costs.

Tax Relief for Pet Care?

Everyone knows you can take a tax exemption for your children. And you're probably aware that you can lower your taxable income by deducting certain expenses, such as your mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and qualified business expenses. But did you know that soon you may be able to deduct pet care expenses?



Currently under consideration by Congress is H.R. 3501, the Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years, or HAPPY Act. The Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a deduction of up to \$3,500 for veterinary and other pet care expenses for qualified pets, defined as "legally owned, domesticated, live animals." Most routine pet care expenses would be covered, however, the cost of purchasing a pet would not.

The HAPPY Act was written based on research supplied by the American Pet Products Association's National Pet Owners Survey. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) introduced the bill on 31 July, 2009, and it currently awaits action by the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council is giving their full backing, and stated, "Providing pet owners the opportunity to deduct pet care expenses is an important step toward ensuring that pet owners provide adequate veterinary and other necessary pet care. It encourages responsible pet ownership and will hopefully reduce the abandonment of pets by people struggling as a result of the economic downturn."

If you would like to track the status of this bill, or any other bill, as well as contact your Representative, check out: <http://www.house.gov/>.

CANINE INFLUENZA by Dr. Kathleen Hefner, M.S., D.V.M.



Most of you are aware of the international concern over the Swine Flu which threatens a world-wide pandemic. Fortunately a vaccine is on the way to help humans deal with this disease. In the wake of swine flu another flu virus has emerged that gives us considerable concern for the health of our canine family members. Canine Influenza has emerged as a significant threat to our dogs when the virus mutated from horses and started affecting dogs.

Unfortunately, all dogs that are exposed to the virus will become infected. Fortunately, most of the exposed dogs will experience only a mild form of the disease (i.e. coughing, sneezing, etc.). Other dogs will develop severe illness characterized by the onset of pneumonia. Not to be an alarmist, but according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 5-8% of dogs infected with the virus will die while 80% of exposed dogs will suffer only minor symptoms and others will show no signs at all.

A new vaccine has been developed to combat this new canine flu virus. Like the human H1N1 vaccine, the Canine Influenza Vaccine is given the 1st time in a series of two and thereafter needs only to be boosted annually. It is important that you consider vaccinating your beloved companion given the highly contagious nature of this virus. Talk with your vet - discuss your dog's life style; Does he/she go to: kennels, groomers, doggie day care? Will he/she be traveling with your family over the holidays? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, the vaccine should be seriously considered to protect your pet from exposure.

Kathleen Hefner, M.S., D.V.M.
Animal Hospital of Saddle River
171 E Saddle River Road
Saddle River, New Jersey 07458
Phone: 201-236-2963

Year-End Message from the Board of Trustees (from page 1)

As Board members and volunteers, we have been humbled by the display of gratitude that our clients have shown. We know how important our pets are to all of us - regardless of personal finances. Again, thank you - the CAA supporter - for giving us the honor and privilege of providing this assistance.

Companion Animal Advocates knows that its efforts keep pets with their families and we know that this matters to you as well. As you count your blessings this holiday season, please consider a donation for those pets and their families, who are not quite as lucky as your own. You can also help CAA by purchasing your holiday gifts through iGive.com. Every little bit helps.

Sincere thanks to all of our friends in the community who have made all of this possible.

Happy Holidays!

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

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'Never Homeless, Never Hungry, Always Loved'

Dear Friends,

Please help us save on printing and postage costs by printing your own newsletter. Send an e-mail to Newsletter@CompanionAnimalAdvocates.org with your First and Last Name, City and State. We will then remove you from our hardcopy mailing list and send you an electronic copy of our bi-monthly newsletter along with a link to a printable version.

We hope you will continue to support Companion Animal Advocates. Please 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*

To find out how to sponsor an upcoming Companion Animal Advocates Newsletter, contact Sara@CompanionAnimalAdvocates.org

COMPANION ANIMAL ADVOCATES - WHAT WE DO

Our pets are members of our family. But sometimes a family has to think about giving up their pets because they are moving, have an allergic child in the family, or simply because they can no longer afford to feed the pet.

If a family has to give up their pet, what can they do? Find a new home for the pet OR give it to a shelter and hope they can find a good home for the pet.

- ◆ Companion Animal Advocates helps people in need keep their pets in their family by providing food to help the pet stay healthy and to reduce the family's cost of keeping a pet.
- ◆ Companion Animal Advocates helps people who are eligible for low cost spay/neuter through the State of NJ get this done for the health of their pet and to reduce pet overpopulation.
- ◆ If there is no way to help the family keep their pet, Companion Animal Advocates works with the family to help them find a new home for their pet. Helping the owner find a new home for their pet helps reduce the number of homeless pets in the shelter and is less upsetting to the pet.

If a lot of people help a little, together we can all help a lot!!



HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please send us a donation to help us carry on our work.

Mail this DONATION FORM along with your CHECK to:

Companion Animal Advocates, 55 Harristown Rd, 2nd Floor, Glen Rock NJ 07452

Help "home" a Home2Home pet: 3 pets (\$150) 1 pet (\$50) Other \$ _____

Feed-A-Pet for: 12 months (\$144) 6 months (\$72) 1 month (\$12) Other \$ _____

Spay or Neuter: 6 pets (\$60) 3 pets (\$30) 1 pet (\$10) Other \$ _____

OR

General Donation: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____

DONOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Check here if we may send your donation acknowledgement via e-mail to save on postage.

In Memory Of In Honor Of _____

Please provide name and address for In Memory / In Honor acknowledgement on a separate sheet of paper.

12/09