

# Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue

A 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for, and placing companion animals in homes. We educate the public on respect for all animal life including the importance of spaying and neutering to reduce the number of animals euthanized.

It's the dog days of summer! Have fun and keep your 4-legged best buddy safe with the following tips:

#### Heartworm, Fleas, and Ticks

Heartworm disease is transmitted to dogs from infected mosquitoes, and with Michigan's climate you can be sure of a bumper crop of skeeters every year! It is a serious and life-threatening disease which results in expensive and complicated treatment. Heartworm is easily preventable with a monthly tablet or chewable, and several other options new to the market. Please ask

your vet about the best option for you and your pet. Read more about heartworm disease on the web at www.heartwormsociety.org.

\*\* Please do not use DEET products on your pets\*\* Animals are extremely sensitive to this chemical and may develop neurological problems if applied directly to them.

Fleas and ticks cause a variety of problems in pets. Fleas feed on your pet's blood and that can result in skin irritation, allergic reactions, anemia, and rarely, death. Fleas can also carry tapeworms, which can infest your pet. If you see small rice-like particles around the dog's anus or in his feces, he probably has tapeworms. Your pooch will be miserable itching and scratching if infested with fleas, and they are tricky to remove from your home. Ticks carry diseases such as Lyme, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, so you don't want them feeding on your pet either. There are products on the market designed to keep your lovable dog flea and tick free. We use a topical solution for all of our foster dogs. Read more about these pesky pests at www.peteducation.com under dog articles. Remember, prevention is key!

-Your furry friends are depending on you-

Make a healthy snack that your favorite pooch will love! Frosty Paws Ice Cream Treats

32oz. Vanilla Yogurt, 1 mashed banana

2 T peanut butter, 2 T honey

Blend and freeze in ice cube trays or paper cups and serve to your best pal on a hot, summer afternoon!

What month has the highest rate of lost dogs? Turn to page 2 to find out!

#### The Heat is On!

- Paw Safety If it's sunny outdoors and the temperature is hot and you cannot step on the sidewalk with your bare feet comfortably, then your dog cannot walk on that sidewalk without pain. The hot asphalt can burn your pet's paws so he'd appreciate if you kept him at home on those days.
- Car Safety If you are going from home to a park for an outing with Fido, be sure that there are not stops along the way. It is not only dangerous to leave a dog in a parked car, it is AGAINST THE LAW. If the outside temp is even in the upper 60's, the temperature in your parked car will raise to dangerous levels in the first 10 minutes that it is parked. That is even with the windows cracked open and parked in the shade. Please don't take a chance leaving your dog in the car. It's just not worth the risk!
- Water Always carry water when you are taking your dog on a road trip of any kind. Portable, folding water dishes are inexpensive and allow your pal to intake a sufficient amount of water, preventing him from becoming dehydrated.
- Heat stroke Pay attention and know the signs of heat stroke. Dogs do not sweat like humans. They rely on panting to eliminate excessive body heat so watch for signs that your dog needs to medical attention. Some recognizable signs include glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, salivation, vomiting and a deep red or purple colored tongue. It is important to take steps to lower their body temperature while transporting them immediately to the nearest vet.

#### So, what month has the highest rate of lost dogs?



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Why? In a nutshell, fireworks and thunderstorms, family parties and vacation travel all contribute to the large number of dogs on the run in the summer months. But don't despair, there are things you can do to keep your pet safe and secure.

#1 TIP: Always keep the dog on a leash when outside your home or yard.

#2 TIP: Keep an eye on the exits in your home, particularly when you have guests over or have utility/construction workers at your home. A door or fence gate left ajar is an invitation to the great outdoors to your dog.

#4 TIP: Check your fence and tie-outs for any signs of wear and tear or needed repair.

#5 TIP: Your dog should always wear a collar that has current license, rabies, and ID tags attached. Ensure that the collar is a snug fit. You should be able to put two fingers between the dog and collar. A dog with a collar and tags is more likely to be approached by a good samaritan who will help get Fido back to his owners, if they think he has a home.

#6 TIP: Get your dog micro-chipped. If your dog slips out of his collar, he can still be identified. This is a permanent ID. All of the Waggin' Tails foster dogs are micro-chipped.

One smart "Cookie" always wears her collar and I.D. Tags



No one expects a dog to get lost but a little prevention can save a lot of anguish.

#### Full Bowls, Full Bellies Pet Food Program

Each day we receive many calls from people needing help placing unwanted animals. But what has changed over the last six months is the number of people needing to relinquish their beloved pets because they cannot afford to feed them. Michigan has fallen on hard times with the auto industry falling apart and our shelters and rescues are overburdened, running at capacity and beyond. What started out as an attempt at helping two rural shelters get the food they needed for their shelter dogs (Gladwin County Animal Control, Gladwin, MI and Osceola County Animal Control, Reed City, MI) became a pet food program designed to help keep pets in homes, preventing them from becoming yet another euthanasia statistic as an unwanted shelter animal.



One of our dedicated volunteers, Mary, has taken the lead on the Full Bowls, Full Bellies Pet Food program and we are proud at all she's accomplished so far. We offer assistance and secure donations of food and money, specifically to help people in our own community feed their pets. If you know of a dog (we feed kitties, too) whose owners have fallen on hard times and their pet(s) needs nourishment or would like to donate to this program, please call our main voicemail hotline at 248-788-7050 or send us an email at wtdr2008@yahoo.com. You can also drop by Whole Foods Market at 3135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor and leave some vittles in our new food bin located in the store.

## Happy Tails - Ben goes from the streets of Detroit to Google





Our volunteer, Peggy, took one look at Ben and knew she had to help him. She has a soft spot for stray dogs, particularly from the streets of Detroit. Ben was no exception. Sadly, he came to Waggin' Tails

with an empty look in his eyes. We think he was just longing for special people to connect with and call his own. Thanks to Pete and Chelsea those sad eyes now sparkle! Ben's favorite pastime is watching the

squirrels out the window with pal, Stella, the cat, who is always found on the chair beside big Ben. This once unwanted fella used to roam the streets with nobody to to love him, but now he roams the halls at Google with his pet parents. We can't thank Peggy enough for bringing Ben into our group. He is truly one of the sweetest dogs we have ever encountered! Stories like Ben's makes what we do all worth it! Congrats Ben!





### **Volunteer** Spotlight

Karen is a valuable asset to Waggin' Tails. She has fostered dogs, never misses an adoption event where she pitches in wherever needed to help ensure things run smoothly, and she's just begun researching grants which will help Waggin' Tails fund some special projects. We can't thank her enough for putting her writing skills to work for us! She's a writer at heart and is currently working on a novel. We should also mention her great idea of selling (and designing) recyclable shopping totes at the Plymouth Green Street Fair this year. They were a big hit and sold out! Way to go, Karen!!

Karen has a big heart when it comes to the animals and she is owned by three rescue dogs, Alfred, Tonks and newly added Huck, plus a cat named Ciqula, who rules them all.

Thank you for your dedication to the animals, Karen!



Karen with Foster Dog, Jett, who found a great home not long ago!

Alfred and Tonks at the Reunion Picnic



#### Tips from the Trainer

by Judi Hales, Certified dog trainer and Waggin' Tails Volunteer

Judi – Please Help!

My dog will not come when I call her when it is time to leave the dog park. What can I do?





Working on the COME (recall) command is the most important thing you can teach your dog. It can save your dog's life. The key is to make yourself more wonderful and interesting than a squirrel, which is impossible. But, there are things you can do and work on to increase your chances that your dog will come when called.

Don't call your dog to you to end playtime, punish, cut their nails, etc. Never use COME with something negative. Your dog needs to learn that coming to you and being near you is the greatest thing in the world. In order to do this, find something the dog loves, be it a delicious treat or a favorite toy, and pair this with lots of praise.

Build a foundation by first starting with your dog on a leash, and lure with the treat and walk backward while saying COME. When the dog comes to you, give her the treat and praise her. If the dog does not come, gently pull the dog toward you with the leash. Remember to treat and praise, even if you have to do most of the work. The more you do this, the dog will learn to come on her own. Practice several times. When your dog has mastered this phase, move on to phase 2. Now, try calling your dog, still on a leash, while swiftly moving backward. This will tap into the dog's natural instinct to chase. The more animated you are, the more interesting you are to your dog. Remember that you are competing with squirrels! Reward and praise and give jackpots for exceptional responses. These are exercises you have to work on repeatedly, in different places and situations, over a long period of time to build a solid foundation.

Now take this to your back door or park. These are areas most people have a hard time calling their pets to them because it signifies the end of playtime. Stand by the back door, or near the gate to the park, and get your dogs attention. Practice the exercises without going in the house or leaving the park. The dog will learn that coming to you when you are in that position doesn't always mean the end of play. Apply the word COME as your dog is coming toward you. It is important not to say COME until you get to a point where you know your dog will come or else the word will become meaningless to your dog.

In the mean time, before the command is taught, you can try removing your dog by quietly and calmly approaching the dog, leash her and lead her out of the park. If your dog acts as if this is a game, ignore the behavior and try again when the dog calms down. Recall takes practice and patience. Keep at it! It is much too important to give up on. Don't forget - it can save your dog's life!

Special Thanks

Our organization simply could not exist without the kindness and generous support of the community. We'd like to thank the following businesses for their generosity, which allows us to help so many needy dogs.

A-Quality Vet Care, Livonia Breckenridge Veterinary, Novi Country Ridge Animal Clinic, Farmington Hills Griffith Veterinary, Whitmore Lake Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic, Milford Home Health Care for Pets, Whitmore Lake

All About Animals, Warren Meadowbrook Veterinary Clinic, Novi Parkway Veterinary Clinic, Canton Roose Animal Hospital, Plymouth Village Animal Clinic, Farmington **TALL OAKS KENNEL, Whitmore Lake** 

**GREKO PRINTING, Plymouth** 

My Dog's Groomer, Canton

Dean Gardner of Walk This Way Dog Training Dog's Bow Wow, Livonia

> PETCO, Canton **Adoption Events** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 12:30 - 4:30pm

in Livonia,

Busch's Market, Livonia and West Bloomfield

A special thanks to our friends at and their clients who gave so generously toward Davison's surgery.

Kobe

#### Ask us about Fostering!

These cuties are all looking for good homes.











\*\* Check out our upcoming events on our website \*\* and follow us on Twitter!

Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue **PO Box 438** Northville, MI 48167

Voicemail Hotline: 248-788-7050 Email: wtdr2008@yahoo.com

Website: www.WagginTailsDogRescue.org



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\$10 for a Collar & Leash \$25 for a Bag of Dog Food \$100 Spay or Neuter Other				
Please make checks payable to Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue. Or if you prefer, make a donation online via PayPal, on our website.  All donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated by all of us here at Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue. Thank you!				
If you'd like to be on	n our email mailing list please include your ac EMAIL ADDRESS:	_' '	s important to us. We do not share your info	٥.

