



Issac

Delia

Dottie

Miss Lucky

Cassie



Above are a few of the animals available for adoption at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter.

**Cat Adoption Special at Chippewa County Animal Shelter - You can adopt any spay or neutered cat at the shelter for the donation of a bag of cat litter or cat food.**

#### A Message from the FOCAS President

I hope this newsletter finds your mind full of thoughts of spring. FOCAS is excited about 2008 but I would like to reflect for a moment on our highlights for 2007.

In 2007 FOCAS helped spay and neuter over 434 animals. We did this mainly through our financial assistance applications, the Mash Clinics, and CCAC Shelter adoption promotions. While we are very happy about this number, we realize that we still have a lot of work to do.

FOCAS once again has a newsletter. Our fall 2007 issue was our first in quite some time. Besides updating the community about what FOCAS has been doing, we also generated many donations for our county shelter. Keep up the good work!! The shelter always has great need. (See our shelter wish list in this newsletter). FOCAS now has a website also. It is a work in progress and does contain information about us and other sites that are helpful for animal welfare people. We will also be posting upcoming FOCAS events. If you haven't checked it out, go to [www.focasonline.org](http://www.focasonline.org).

On July 12, 2007, FOCAS hosted an MPAW (Michigan Partnership in Animal Welfare) UP regional meeting. There were over 25 individuals representing area animal groups in attendance. Besides a great guest speaker, everyone had an opportunity to exchange ideas and thoughts on animal welfare issues in MI.

As this spring approaches, FOCAS recognizes that it is a time of rebirth and renewal. In 2008 we once again have renewed dedication to solving the problem of unwanted pets in our community. We will continue our existing

spay/neuter programs but we will look for more ways to increase the number of animals helped.

For 2008 FOCAS has the Mash Clinic scheduled to return in April. We hope to have visits from mobile spay/neuter clinics several more times this year. We will also be holding our "Tour of Gardens" again this July. After the disappointment of having to cancel the "Tour" last year, we are working on a great line-up for this year. Look for more information in this newsletter and as July approaches.

In 2008, let us always keep in mind our mission statement – to promote animal welfare through eliminating euthanasia as a means of animal population control, to promote spaying and neutering, to encourage responsible pet ownership and to support caring animal groups. If we do this, we will make the world a better place starting right here and now in Chippewa County.

Deb Green - FOCAS President



#### **Kitty Cat Treats**

- \* 1/3 cup canned mackerel (drain and crumble)
- \* 1 cup bread crumbs – whole grain
- \* 1 beaten egg yolk
- \* 1 tbs vegetable oil

Combine all ingredients; mix well. Drop ¼ tsp dough 1 inch apart onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake 8 minutes at 350 F. Cool on a rack and store covered in the refrigerator.



## Featured Pets



**Taylor** is anxious to go exploring. He is a sweetie who appears that he would do best as your only cat. Taylor entered the shelter in Jan. 2007. He is a Domestic short haired/Tiger (mix). Taylor is an adult, neutered cat and is up to date on routine shots and house trained.



**Vera** has a very interesting appearance. She is approximately a 1 year old and has recently had a litter of pups. Vera wants very much to have a person to enjoy life with. She appears that she would be good with cats, other dogs, and children. Vera entered the shelter on 2/09/08. It is unknown whether she is housebroken. Vera is an Australian shepherd/husky mix.

## Myths & Facts about Spaying and Neutering

From the Humane Society of the United States

### **MYTH: My pet will get fat and lazy.**

**FACT:** The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.

### **MYTH: It's better to have one litter first.**

**FACT:** Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

### **MYTH: My children should experience the miracle of birth.**

**FACT:** Even if children are able to see a pet give birth—which is unlikely, since it usually occurs at night and in seclusion—the lesson they will really learn is that animals can be created and discarded as it suits adults. Instead, it should be explained to children that the real miracle is life and that preventing the birth of some pets can save the lives of others.

### **MYTH: But my pet is a purebred.**

**FACT:** So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed *and* purebred.

### **MYTH: I want my dog to be protective.**

**FACT:** Spaying or neutering does not affect a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

### **MYTH: I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.**

**FACT:** Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

### **MYTH: But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.**

**FACT:** A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Professional animal breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee they will get just what they want out of a particular litter. A pet owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, an entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

### **MYTH: It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.**

**FACT:** The cost of spaying or neutering depends on the sex, size, and age of the pet, your veterinarian's fees, and a number of other variables. But whatever the actual price, spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost—a relatively small cost when compared to all the benefits. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter and ensuring the health of the mother and litter; two months of pregnancy and another two months until the litter is weaned can add up to significant veterinary bills and food costs if complications develop. Most importantly, it's a very small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

### **MYTH: I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.**

**FACT:** You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.



### **Great News!**

Guardian Angels for Animals, a fundraising organization whose goal is to improve the lives of the animals at the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter, recently won a \$5,000 grant from Maddie's Fund. The grant money will move the group ahead substantially in their goal to upgrade the shelter's dog kennels and cat cages.

### **MASH Clinic to be back in Sault Sainte Marie**

The Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital (MASH) will be in Sault Saint Marie again on April 14 and 15 to spay and neuter cats. Dr. Bullerdick, D.V.M. brings the clinic to this area regularly to sterilize cats at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter as well as cats from other animal welfare organizations. The unit sets up at the animal shelter on Mackinac Trail.

Low income families may also be eligible to have their cats sterilized at this clinic. Contact Debbie Green at 440-6770 for an application.

One of FOCAS's goals is to have every shelter cat sterilized before it is adopted. This is extremely difficult because local animal veterinary clinics are so busy; it is sometimes weeks or even months before an appointment can be made for a pet to be sterilized. The MASH clinic has helped greatly in this regard.

### **GARDEN TOUR IS BACK!**

**We're pleased to be offering the Tour of Gardens again ... July 12 from noon until 4 pm ... and to be showing off new gardens as well as one old favorite.**

**Anyone who attended our first tour will remember Bill and Janice Frye's shade garden on Mackinac Trail. Two of their gardens have been completely re-done and an Asian-inspired garden with sitting pavilion and pond has been added.**

**Also we'll be featuring Jeff Stefanski's garden in Sault Ste. Marie. Jeff is a new city commissioner and also a professional landscaper, who's worked on many of the best gardens in our area.**

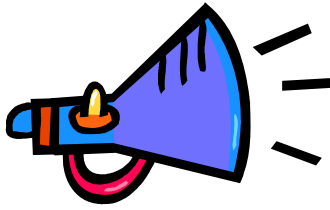
**On Five Mile Road, Kim Stevens will be showing off the effort she's put into her garden as well as neighbor's gardens on both sides of her own. This group of three are planted on a south-facing slope backed by lovely woods.**

**We may have one or two others, but for now, that's the line-up. This is a major fund-raiser for FOCAS. As always, all of our proceeds go toward spaying and neutering pets in Chippewa County. We also help other local animal organizations and individuals with worthy projects that benefit the welfare of animals.**

**Tickets will go on sale later this spring. We hope you'll support our cause and enjoy the beautiful results of the work done by our community gardeners.**

**Leslie Askwith - Tour of Gardens Coordinator**





### **Our Board of Directors**

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### **FOCAS Facts**

FOCAS meetings are generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Call any member of the board for meeting time and place.

FOCAS encourages you to visit the Chippewa County Animal Shelter at 3660 S. Mackinaw Trail, Sault Sainte Marie, MI. 906-632-2519.

If you're interested in volunteer opportunities or adopting a pet, contact Best of Friends 906-635-1973, PAWS 906-632-8875 or 906-632-2287, Guardian Angels for Animals 906-248-2341 or the Chippewa County Animal Shelter 906-632-2519.

FOCAS provides financial assistance for income-eligible people for spaying and neutering companion animals.

*Don't forget about heartworm season!!*

### **Benefits of Adopting Animal Companions**

Besides the obvious benefits of saving an animal's life and being rewarded with a loving companion, there are numerous other benefits associated with providing a good home to an animal in need. For example, the cost of adopting an animal from a shelter is inexpensive compared to buying one from a breeder or pet store and you are helping, and not contributing to, the overpopulation problem. Usually shelter animals are up to date on vaccinations and depending on their age, often already spay or neutered.

There are also many benefits with adopting mature dogs and cats. This includes avoiding the demanding stages of raising a puppy or kitten. As well, adopting older animals means that you will have a good idea of the animal's temperament and you will know her size, hair coat etc. Mature animals are often house-trained (although some mistakes may occur when he or she is first introduced to your home) and may even have some basic training. Adopted animals can be good company for other companion animals – provided the animals get along.



### **Reasons to brush your dog's teeth:**

Dogs get loose and abscess teeth, cavities, and bad breath from poor dental hygiene just like humans.

Studies show that almost all dogs that have bad breath have periodontal disease, a result of plaque build up.

Periodontal disease, if left untreated can cause bacteria infection. This infection can go into the bloodstream and spread to your dog's organs such as heart, liver, kidney.



**Dental care tips and brushing your dog's teeth:**

Try to get your dog used to your putting your fingers in his mouth at first so he will be more comfortable during brushings.

Do not use human toothpaste as dogs do not spit it out and it is not edible. He most likely will swallow it.

There are edible toothpastes for dogs that come in many flavors. It's good to find one that he likes and he will be more likely to cooperate with tooth brushing.

Have the correct supplies to get the job done. You will need a toothbrush and toothpaste. Make sure that you position yourself so you can comfortably get to your dog's teeth.

You should start with the upper back teeth as this is the area a dog is most likely to develop problems.

If he moves around a lot, have someone help you.

Lift your dog's upper lips and start brushing in a circular motion much like you would do your own. It is important to brush where the teeth meet the gum line.

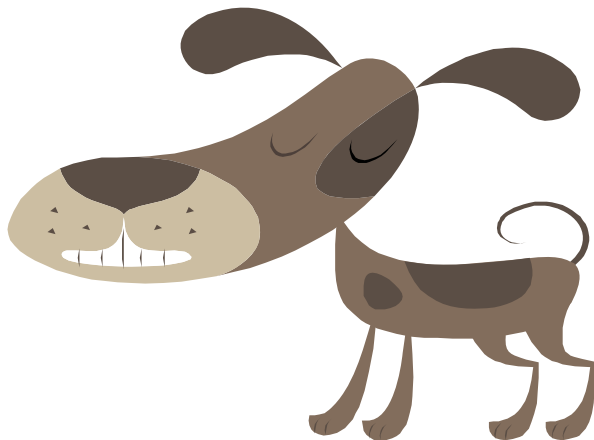
When you are finished with the top teeth, brush the bottom teeth.

Brush your dog's teeth a minimum of 2 times a week.

Feeding dry dog food or hard dog biscuits daily will help prevent infections, gum diseases, and periodontal disease, but this is not a substitute for tooth brushing.

Keep in mind that if your dog has a significant amount of tarter build up they will need to be cleaned by a veterinarian. Normally this is done with anesthesia.

The dog's teeth should be examined by a veterinarian during his checkup.



**Chippewa County Animal Shelter Needs:**

- ✓ Volunteers
- ✓ Foster Homes – for spring and fall kittens, and for pregnant cats and dogs
- ✓ Small and large cat litter pans for in the cages – no covers or edge guards
- ✓ Large cat litter scoops
- ✓ Clay cat litter
- ✓ Purina Kitten Chow
- ✓ Special Kitty Canned Cat Food: 4 packs of 5.5 oz cans (Ocean Whitefish, Super Supper, Mixed Grill, and Beef and Liver) –these are pate' style. No gravy and cuts or slices style cat foods brands.
- ✓ Whiskas Cat Food Pouches
- ✓ Cat/Kitten Shampoo – the deodorizing kind (please none with flea treatment)
- ✓ Adjustable buckle dog collars
- ✓ Heavy duty dog leashes
- ✓ Magic Eraser Cleaning Sponge
- ✓ Please no canned dog food or dog toys
- ✓ Cat cages - 42" L x 28 W x 31" H - \$89
- ✓ Kennels - the shelter is currently trying to replace our worn-out chain link kennels with 5 x 10 welded steel ones. Tractor supply is graciously discounting the normally priced \$289 kennels to \$220 for the shelter. If someone would like to purchase a kennel it could be done by writing a check for \$220 to Guardian Angels for Animals (or GAA) and drop it off at the shelter.

↓ *Attention! Attention! Important Phone Number* ↓

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**

**1-888-426-4435**

**24 Hours a day, 7 days a week!**



**Donation/Membership Form for 2008**

FOCAS is a non-profit organization

Your tax deductible donations are used directly to help the animals of the Eastern UP.

**Please join and support FOCAS so we may continue to help animals in need.**

I would like information on becoming a member of FOCAS

I would like to donate to the FOCAS spay/neuter program  
\_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$30 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \$ \_\_\_Other

I would like to donate to the FOCAS animal medical emergency fund  
\_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$30 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \$ \_\_\_Other

I would like to donate to FOCAS in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$30 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \$ \_\_\_Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to FOCAS and mail to: **FOCAS**

**P.O. Box 626**

**Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783-0626**

Friends of Caring Animal Shelters  
P.O. Box 626  
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783-0626



***Please consider volunteering at the Chippewa County Animal Shelter. Whether you can dedicate an hour a week, a morning a week, whatever time you can spare they could use.***