



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from FOCAS!

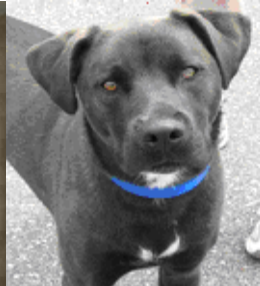
Teddy



Elmer



Tyson



Jack



Noodles



Molly



Please give us a forever home this holiday season. You can find us at Chippewa County Animal Shelter.

A Message from the FOCAS President

Another year is coming to a close. It has been quite a year too. The economy has been the main issue and the animal welfare organizations have felt the impact.

This year as always FOCAS has strived to make an impact on the number of homeless and abandoned pets through our Spay/Neuter Program. We had a great number of pets pass through our written application program with the local veterinarians, the MASH (mobile animal sterilization hospital) Clinic that was in the Sault twice this year, and the MSU Veterinary School Clinic held in August. The total number of animals this year that FOCAS help spay or neuter was over 570. What a successful year!

But having said that, I continue to receive dozens of calls every month from people who need financial help if they are to spay/neuter their pets. FOCAS will continue to work towards our goal and mission to prevent the overpopulation of unwanted pets in Chippewa County.

FOCAS had many other activities and projects this past year. As always, we continued to help the Chippewa County Animal Control Shelter through spaying and neutering and any other way that promotes the adoption of the animals in their care. FOCAS once again held the "Tour of Gardens" this year. This was our 7th Tour and it was a great success.

I continue to be positive and hopeful that the pet overpopulation problem can be fixed. Statistics are now saying that we are making a difference in this country with

the number of unwanted dogs but that cat overpopulation is still a very serious problem. We must continue to work even harder in the tough times we are now facing.

Please consider helping in any way you can. We and other animal welfare groups need your help now more than ever. Volunteer at the shelter. Be sure to spay or neuter your pets and encourage others to do the same. Donate to animal welfare groups such as FOCAS who are working hard to help animals. Also please consider a new option this year. On your 2008 income tax form, taxpayers will be allowed to either designate a portion of their state income tax refund or make a voluntary donation to a new interest-bearing Companion Animal Welfare Fund in the State Treasury. This fund will make monetary grants to animal welfare groups in our state for implementing innovative animal sterilization and adoption programs. It would be an easy way to make a small (or large!) donation to a fund that will help reduce the number of unwanted and homeless pets in Michigan. If everyone was willing to donate, this could be a great opportunity to make a real difference.

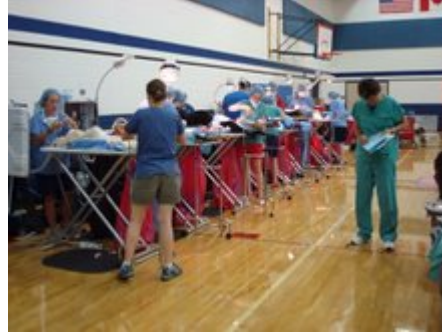
My wish for everyone in this fast approaching New Year is peace and goodwill towards man and animal. To quote our new president-elect, "Yes we can!" We **can** change things for animals. We **can** make a difference!

Deb Green
President of FOCAS

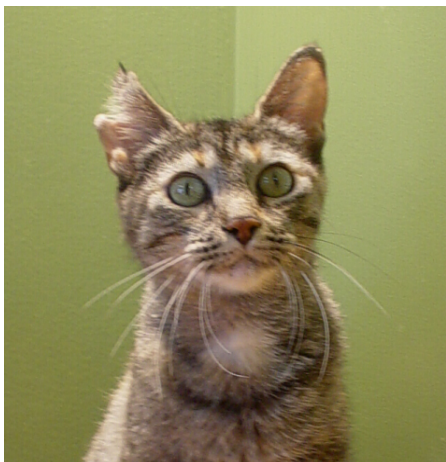




Below are pictures from the August MSU spay and neuter clinic held at Sault Middle School. Over a three day period, 236 animals were altered. A big "Thank You" goes out to the Sault Middle School, Dr. Valerie Chadwick and her team of vet students without whom this would not have been possible.



Featured Pets



Vienna has a tattered ear we presume from a life outdoors, but her personality is so sweet that her frayed ear just becomes one more endearing quality. She has so much love to share that this Spring while caring for her own litter of 5 she helped us foster the kittens of three young mothers whose milk supply was inadequate to complete raising their own. As a previously unspayed female cat living outdoors she has probably had many litters through the years, but has recently been altered so that she can retire from raising families. Do you have a place in your home and heart for her? Vienna entered the shelter on 6/05/08.

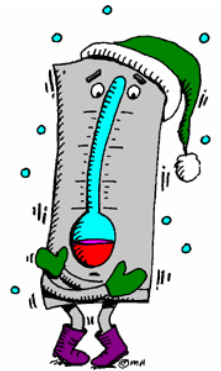
Nadia entered the shelter on 8/28/08. She is approximately a year old. Nadia is a very sweet dog who is still full of puppy energy. She appears to do well with other dogs and cats. It is unknown if she is housebroken but has already been spayed. Nadia would make a great family pet!




















Winter Pet Care Guidelines

Our companion animals depend on us for their safety, health, and comfort during the winter. Below are several cold weather tips to help protect your pets this winter.



-  Don't leave dogs and cats outdoors especially when the temperature drops.
-  Make sure your pet always wear an ID tag.
-  Keep in mind that wind chill can threaten a pet's life.
-  If your dog is an outdoor dog, he / she needs a dry, draft-free doghouse with bedding for protection from the elements. It should be raised a few inches above the ground.
-  Short-coated dogs may be more comfortable wearing a sweater while outdoors.
-  Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter since this takes away warmth.
-  If you bath your pets in cold weather, be sure to dry him or her before taking them outside.
-  Before starting the car, be sure to bang on the car hood in case an animal has crawled up under the hood.
-  Never leave your pets in a car during cold weather. Cars can act like a refrigerator, holding in the cold and animals can freeze to death.
-  If left in a car with the engine running, pets (especially dogs) can hit the automatic window button with their paw. They may then jump out of the window which can result in your pet getting lost or injured.
-  Since keeping warm depletes energy, give your pet more food in the winter if they spend a lot of time outdoors.
-  Frequently check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls since your pet's tongue can stick to the cold metal.
-  Wipe your pet's feet, legs, and stomach with a damp towel when they come in from outside. Ice melt chemicals and salt can irritate their feet and mouths. Also, paw pads may bleed from encrusted snow and ice.
-  Puppies are especially sensitive to cold and it may be harder to housebreak them in the winter. You may opt to paper-train inside.
-  Antifreeze and coolant are deadly poisons with a sweet taste. Clean up any spills and store these products out of reach. Use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol which is less poisonous than ethylene glycol.

If you would like more detailed information regarding winter pet care please go to

http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/protect_your_pet_from_winters_woes.html or

http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_coldweathertips



Some People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pet

Below is a list the top 10 foods per the ASPCA to avoid giving your animal companion, and possible results from ingestion. These foods have substances in them that can make our pets sick and could also be lethal. For more detailed information go to the ASPCA website at http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_peoplefoodtoavoid. If your pet eats any of these items, note the amount ingested and contact **your veterinarian** or **the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435** immediately.

1. Chocolate, Coffee, Caffeine

Diarrhea, vomiting, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and possible death.

2. Alcohol

Vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and possible death.

3. Avocado

Vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. Avocado can be deadly to birds and rodents. Congestion, breathing difficulty and fluid accumulation around the heart can occur.

4. Macadamia Nuts

Depression, weakness, vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia in dogs. Signs usually appear within 12 hours of ingestion.

5. Grapes & Raisins

Kidney failure. With pets who already have certain health problems, signs may be more dramatic.

6. Yeast Dough

Stomach or intestine rupture. Yeast dough can rise and gas can collect in your pet's digestive system. This can cause severe pain. Pets may have small bits of bread as treats since the risk decreases once the dough is cooked and the yeast has fully risen.

7. Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs and Bones

Salmonella and E. coli can exist in raw meat and raw eggs and can be harmful to pets. Feeding your domestic pet raw bones can be very dangerous. Choking and damage to the digestive tract can occur. Raw eggs have an enzyme which can decrease the absorption of the B vitamin biotin (important for skin and coat).

8. Xylitol

This is a sweetener used in products such as candy, gum, toothpaste and baked goods. Xylitol can cause insulin release in most animals, which leads to hypoglycemia/lowered sugar levels. The result is vomiting, loss of coordination, lethargy, seizures. Within a few days, elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can occur.

9. Onions, Garlic, Chives

Irritation of the gastrointestinal system and red blood cell damage. Dogs are at risk if a large enough amount is eaten but cats are even more susceptible. An occasional small amount, such as what might be found in treats or pet foods normally will not be an issue but it is recommended not to give your pets large quantities.

10. Milk

Occasionally milk and milk based products can cause digestive upset or diarrhea. Pets do not have significant amounts of lactase which is the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk.



**Chippewa County Animal
Control Shelter
Christmas Wish List
3660 S Mackinac Trail
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
906-632-2519**



Please help us to provide quality care to our community's unwanted animals by remembering the shelter this Christmas. We would greatly appreciate any donations from the following list. You may drop off items at the shelter at the above address **M - F** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pine or Cedar Shavings

Dog food (dry only please)

Cat food (canned and dry)

A home to call my own

Kitty litter (non-scoopable please)

Kitty litter scoopers

Litter pans, large (not covered ones)

Bleach

Laundry Soap

Kids to play with

Treats (soft ones)

Extra large raw hides

A child to sleep with

Cat and dog shampoo (regular, not flea)

Cat and dog nail clippers

Large Outside Kennels, AKC Pro 5x10
(Tractor Supply)

Radio (we love music)

A family to call my own

Nylon leashes 6 ft. long (round or flat)

Dog collars (not chain)

Cotton balls

Q-tips

Krunda Dog Beds (see online at
Chippewapetfinder.com)

Gift Certificates are available from the following businesses to offset medical care and food and supplies for our animals.

Chippewa Animal Clinic
Sault Animal Hospital
Wal-Mart
Tractor Supply

Town and Country Groomers
Shear Magic Groomers
Eagle Eye Grooming

Thank you for your kindness!



Christmas Veggie Dog Bones

- 3 cups minced parsley
- 1/4 cup carrots, chopped very fine
- 1/4 cup shredded mozzarella or parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 3/4 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons bran
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 to 1 cup of water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, and lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Mix together parsley, carrots, cheese, and oil, add all the dry ingredients. Gradually add 1/2 cup of water, mixing well. If needed add a little more water to make a moist but not wet dough. Knead for one minute.

Roll dough out to 1/2 inch thickness. Using Christmas cookie cutters, cut out the shapes and transfer them to the baking sheet. Gather the scraps and re-roll and cut.

Bake for 20-30 minutes until biscuits have browned and hardened slightly. (They will harden more as they cool.) Speed cooling by placing them on wire racks. Store in airtight tin.

Christmas Cat Cakes

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup soybean flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon Canola / Sunflower oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt

Mix dry ingredients, then add water and honey. Mix and let the dough rest in a warm place for 15 minutes.

Mix in oil and allow to sit another 1/2 hour.

Take walnut size portions of dough and flatten into small cakes. Bake in oven at 400 degrees for 1/2 hour. Store in an airtight container.

Our Board of Directors

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kmg_14@hotmail.com

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Stephanie Aho, Board Member
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Dave Aho, Board Member
dave.r.aho@gmail.com

FOCAS Facts

FOCAS meetings are bi-monthly. All are welcome to attend. Contact 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.



Donation/Volunteer Form for 2008-2009

FOCAS is a non-profit organization. Your tax deductible donations are used directly to help the animals of the Eastern UP.
Please join us and support FOCAS so we may continue to help animals in need.

- I would like information on becoming a FOCAS volunteer
- 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 _____

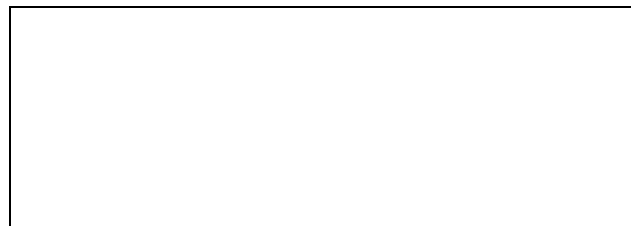
Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Please make check payable to FOCAS
and mail to:

**FOCAS
PO BOX 626
Sault Sainte 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.