

the Animal Insider

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM ANIMAL OUTREACH, INC. • WINTER 2008



Those Wiley Coyotes!

By Kim Banks

Are coyotes on the prowl in Central Ohio?

"The coyote was this high..." the visitor says, raising his hand 3-4 feet off the ground, "And must have weighed as much as Buddy, my overweight Yellow Lab—and he weighs 90 lbs! It was a lot bigger than that," he continued, gesturing at a stuffed coyote in our office that has been brought back to life by a talented taxidermist.

After hearing these comments, I immediately go into education mode and recite the facts, "An adult coyote is typically 15-26 inches tall and weighs anywhere from 20-45 lbs..."

As a naturalist, I hear a lot of wildlife stories from park visitors. The example above is a typical conversation with a visitor who believed he spotted a coyote. Exaggerated physical description aside, it is an illustration of just one of the many misconceptions surrounding this mysterious animal.

Although it is present in all 88 counties of Ohio, the coyote is not native to our state. Originally a denizen of the Plains states, coyotes were first seen in Ohio in 1919. Their range began to expand as predators such as wolves were pushed out and forests were cut down for ranches and farmland. They prefer areas of mixed habitats and avoid large, dense unbroken forests. Ever adaptable to change, the coyote has thrived in all types of man-made environments, and has become plentiful in the state.

So, what does a coyote really look like? In size they are often compared to a medium size German shepherd or collie. The coyote's ears are pointed and stand erect, unlike the ears of domestic dogs that often droop. When running, coyotes carry their bushy, black-tipped tail below the level of their back. If close enough to observe, their eyes are yellow with large dark pupils. Trails left behind in snow or mud shift directions frequently if made by a domestic dog while a coyote's path is a straight line.

Many people believe that coyotes frequently hunt large prey such as white-tailed deer. This is untrue and though the coyote is an opportunistic feeder—eating whatever is available seasonally—rodents actually make up the largest portion of their diet. Surprisingly, garbage is not a significant part of the coyote's diet in urban environments. Other common food items include carrion, fruit, rabbits, birds, eggs, berries and nuts.

Protecting Your Pet

Where do our beloved pets fit into the coyote equation (and diet)? Knowing they are mostly rodent eaters tells us why a coyote will attack and/or kill an outdoor cat. The coyote (like any animal) is intolerant of another animal that is in direct competition for the same food. That includes fox as well as domestic and feral cats. This is unfortunate for the outdoor kitty, but studies show it may be beneficial for songbirds in urban areas due to an increase in nesting success. Fewer outdoor cats means more birds.

Coyote attacks on dogs are uncommon and occur mostly when the dogs are unsupervised.

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From the Editor:

Welcome to our winter issue! A lot is happening in the next three months, including the holidays—that is the good part. The bad part (depending on who you ask) is that winter's here.

I grew up in Ashtabula County, right on the lake, so winter in Columbus is mild compared to the lake effect snowstorms that hit northeastern Ohio. Although the snow is not nearly as severe in central Ohio, the cold still bothers me. Fortunately, I can always choose to stay inside, or bundle up when I go out. Unfortunately, many animals in our community do not have that luxury. In this issue we have included a helpful piece from the Humane Society of the United States on keeping your pet safe and comfortable this winter. The most important advice? Keep your pet indoors!

Now, the good part: The holidays are upon us! As you are thinking of gifts to give, and what you would like to receive, perhaps you have thought of adding a new animal companion to your home. The holiday season is a great time to give the gift of a new life and love to a homeless animal. The decision should not be taken lightly, however. Laura D'Aveta highlights some things to keep in mind as you consider bringing home your new companion.

Speaking of adopting and the holidays... Who wants to spend Valentine's Day alone? Plan to attend the 3rd Annual Adopt a Valentine event on Saturday, February 9, 2008. Animal Outreach is presenting this great event to highlight some of the wonderful animal companions available at area rescues and shelters. There are so many loving pets in our community just looking for a place to call home. Visit www.adoptavalentine.com for more information about participating rescues, vendors, and silent auction items.

We hope to see you there!



"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

~ Anatole France

Thank you for picking up the *Animal Insider*! We hope you find it interesting and informative. We would like to recognize the following individuals who have helped make this issue possible!

Kate Cushen
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If you would like to invest in the *Animal Insider*, complete the contribution form on the back cover and designate your gift to the *Animal Insider*. All supporters will have their names listed in the issue(s) they sponsor! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and organizations.

Call (614) 523-9244 or email Jill.Herbst@Animal-Outreach.org for more information.

the
Animal Insider

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The next issue of the *Animal Insider* will be published March 2008.

Event listings may be submitted by email to Calendar@Animal-Outreach.org or online at www.Animal-Outreach.org

The mission of Animal Outreach is to help end pet overpopulation by encouraging responsible pet ownership; promoting spay/neuter programs; and uniting the efforts of rescue groups, animal control agencies, traditional shelters, veterinarians and other concerned individuals.

Our programs focus on raising public awareness of pet overpopulation and encouraging the spaying and neutering of pets.

Animal Outreach also operates a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) which helps cover the cost of spay and neuter surgeries for those who are unable to afford it.

Animal Outreach is an all volunteer 501(c)3 organization. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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For example, a coyote may jump a fence and attack a dog left alone in a yard. Although small leashed animals have been attacked, this is also very rare. The likelihood of a medium or larger dog being affected by coyote increases during mating or breeding season (January-May) when coyotes are the most territorial.

What can be done to protect your pet? If you are a cat owner, keep your cat indoors at all times. Keep all pets inside at night and don't leave any pet food or water outside. A coyote that is used to being fed (even unintentionally) is more likely to become a nuisance animal if it associates food with homes or people. Pick up and securely dispose of trash. Even though coyote are not eating the trash itself, it may attract rodents. Bird feeders may increase the likelihood of attracting a coyote as well.

There has been much concern about coyote on the part of pet owners, however, it is likely that you are living in harmony with a coyote right this minute. Its nocturnal feeding habits and elusive, clever nature allow it to move among us unseen doing no harm and providing rodent and roadkill removal services for free! Take steps to protect your pet but appreciate the coyote's tenacity and the touch of wildness its presence brings to our technological world.

Kim Banks is a naturalist with the Preservation Parks system in Delaware, Ohio. She can be reached by phone at 740-595-3275 or by email at kbanks@preservationparks.com.

ASK Greg & Bobb



I have a 4 year old Golden Retriever named Reilly, and when I am not paying attention to him he puts his paws on me. I tell him NO and take his paw off me. I also try to block it before he puts it on me and tell him NO PAW. Nothing seems to work. He does this to everyone who is not petting him. Why does he do this? And how can I correct this? I have heard that it is a form of disrespect; is this really true?

—Stephanie V., Columbus

Greg: Well, I'm not sure "Heavy-Handed Reilly" is really disrespecting you. He may just be trying to keep you in place... sorta like a dog that will sit on your foot when you give a "sit" command. A dog who sits on your foot in that instance is telling you, "OK, I'll sit but you're not going anywhere, either."

Bobb: We've seen plenty of dogs disrespecting owners—and it is usually a lot noisier, and sometimes painful! A dog that barks back at us when being corrected is disrespectful. Or a dog who mouths us is being disrespectful.

I think Reilly is seeking attention. And, even though you aren't letting him paw you, he really is getting attention. A correction such as "no" is still attention.

Greg: It's not the attention he seeks but it is a way for him to be the boss. We instruct our clients to ignore attention-seeking behavior. It's an example of a subordinate (Reilly) telling the pack leader what to do.

You should ignore his request, or simply get up and walk away. When he quits, you can call him to you and then YOU initiate any play or patting.

Bobb: This is an example of passive dominance. We tell our clients to initiate all play, pats, treats and feeding. When Reilly initiates, he is taking leadership. Don't look into his eyes when he is requesting attention. When he disengages (leaves you alone), call him to you and then pat him.

Greg: To be perfectly clear... We're not saying that you should ignore him. Rather, you should initiate all the fun things to reinforce the idea that you're the leader.

Bobb: And one more thing... your guests aren't going to be successful ignoring him. After all, who can resist a cute dog? You can help him be less of a pest by calling him to you and having him stay with you.

Greg Schneider and Bobb Frecker are dog behavioral therapists and central Ohio area representatives for BarkBusters Home Dog Training. Greg is a regular contributor to the Animal Insider and has been featured on NBC's Channel 4 in Columbus.

For more information on dog behavior issues, call (877) 500-BARK or visit www.barkbusters.com

3rd Annual
Adopt A Valentine
Pet Adoption Benefit

Looking for a special Valentine companion?
Come out and see some of the many loving dogs and cats that are available for adoption from a variety of area rescues and shelters.

Already have that special Valentine?
That's okay! You can still support these wonderful animals by entering our raffle and silent auction that will help raise funds for our featured rescues/shelters.

When?
Saturday February 9th, 2008, 1-5 p.m.

Where?
The Doggy Den
1910 Memory Lane Columbus OH 43209
(just off I-70 & Alum Creek)

More Info?
Visit www.animal-outreach.org or
www.adoptavalentine.com

Animal Outreach is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



Spotlight on: *West Wind Stables Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation*

By Carla D'Errico

Mike and Suzie Holycross are entrepreneurs of an extraordinary venture: West Wind Stables Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc. West Wind Stables is a private, non-profit horse rescue for all breeds, not just retired racehorses. The Holycrosses' primary goal is to prevent horses from being sent or auctioned to slaughterhouses. Currently, West Wind has over 100 horses ranging from workhorses to donkeys to even a \$25,000 racehorse.

Suzie and Mike had been involved with wildlife rehabilitation for two years when they decided to start West Wind in 2003. "Both Mike and I love the challenge of working with large animals," said Suzie. "Despite their size and sometimes having been neglected or mistreated in the past, they can become very trusting of people again." The stables are currently located on a 166 acre farm in Bellfontaine, Ohio, that the Holycrosses purchased in 2006.

Operating a horse rescue comes with a number of challenges, and for Suzie and Mike that included learning the different characteristics of each breed. "There is a big difference in the amount of time and money it takes to care for a Mustang, compared to a Thoroughbred," said Suzie. "Some breeds are very low maintenance in daily care and feed requirements, others require a much higher degree of feed and supplements, or might need extra steps to keep them in good health, such as being blanketed in the winter."

Another challenge is one that is inherent in almost all rescue work... time. Caring for the horses is a full time job, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Holycrosses rarely have the opportunity to take a vacation, or even spend a single night away from home. Suzie summed it up well when she said, "Running a rescue isn't a hobby, it's a lifestyle."

The rewards of the work far outnumber the challenges. When asked about a success story, Suzie highlighted a 3-year-old Thoroughbred named Cassidy:

"We bought him at a local auction. The lady who brought him had bought him out of a 'kill pen' at another sale for \$50. He had been heading for slaughter. He was thin, and had abscesses in both front hooves. He couldn't walk well, and rather hopped short distances. It took an entire year of soaking his hooves and packing the abscesses until the hooves grew out

well enough that he could walk and be ridden. He ended up filling out and growing into a large, very nice young horse. He's now living as a spoiled pet who rides trails and gets the attention he deserves."



Cassidy, a \$50 Thoroughbred destined for slaughter found new life as a beloved pet, after being saved by West Wind Stables

It is the stories like Cassidy's that make West Wind so special. These life changing, and life saving, events give Suzie and Mike Holycross the motivation to continue their good work. "Despite the financial and physical demands, we both feel very fortunate when we can take an animal from a poor situation, help it recover and find it a new home with a family who will care for and appreciate it properly," affirms Suzie.

West Wind appreciates the help of those willing to support their cause. Spreading the word of what West Wind is doing and the variety of breeds and quality of their horses is the most helpful way because it has a great multiplying effect. For more information on how you can help, or to view adoptable horses, visit www.WestWindHorseRescue.com.

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Knox County Humane Society Bingo! Every Thursday/Sunday
 Thursday: Doors at 5 p.m., Bingo at 7
 Sunday: Door at 2 p.m., Bingo at 4
 AmVets, 206 West Ohio Ave. in Mount
 Vernon. Call (740) 392-2287 for details.

December

1 Ho! Ho! Happenings

Upper Arlington, Gahanna & Dublin
 Have your pet pose with jolly St.
 Nick at area Pet People locations.
 Pet People Upper Arlington (2830
 Fishing Rd), Gahanna (1341
 Stoneridge Dr), & Dublin (6415
 Perimeter Dr), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Visit www.caahs-pets.org for info

Texas Hold 'Em Festival

This event Benefits the Knox
 County Humane Society, & begins
 at noon. For more info, contact
pokercharity@aol.com or visit
www.knoxcountyhumane.org

2 Mingle with our Mutts, 12 p.m. to

2 p.m., Franklin County Dog Shelter
 1731 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus.
 Meet hundreds of dogs & puppies,
 cats & kittens, too!
www.minglewithourmutts.org

Ho! Ho! Happenings

Upper Arlington, Gahanna & Dublin
 Pet People locations for pictures
 with Santa! www.caahs-pets.org

8 Ho! Ho! Happenings

Upper Arlington, Gahanna & Dublin
 Pet People locations for pictures
 with Santa! www.caahs-pets.org

9 Ho! Ho! Happenings

Upper Arlington, Gahanna & Dublin
 Pet People locations for pictures
 with Santa! www.caahs-pets.org

Mingle with our Mutts, 12 p.m. to

2 p.m., Bark Til Dark Dog Park
 1277 Hills-Miller Rd. Delaware
www.minglewithourmutts.org

Santa Pictures, have your dogs pic-

ture taken with Santa! 1 p.m. to
 4 p.m., Three Dog Bakery, 1219
 Polaris Parkway. Sponsored by
 Cause For Paws Rescue. For info,
www.CauseForPawsRescue.com

15 CHA Cookie Walk, 11 to 2 p.m. at

the Shelter, 3765 Corporate Dr. in

Columbus. Pick up holiday treats,
 CHA & pet-related presents for the
 whole family! For more info, visit
www.chaanimalshelter.org

Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, By
 appointment only. Call (614) 777-
 7387 ext. 298. Sponsored by The
 Capital Area Humane Society

Santa Pictures, have your dogs pic-
 ture taken with Santa! 1 p.m. to
 4 p.m., Three Dog Bakery, 1219
 Polaris Parkway. Sponsored by
 Cause For Paws Rescue. For info,
www.CauseForPawsRescue.com

Calendar of Events

December through
 February 2008

16 Mingle with our Mutts, 12 p.m. to

2 p.m., Franklin County Dog Shelter
 1731 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus.
 Meet hundreds of dogs & puppies,
 cats & kittens, too!
www.minglewithourmutts.org

Santa Pictures, have your dogs pic-

ture taken with Santa! 1 p.m. to
 4 p.m., Three Dog Bakery, 1219
 Polaris Parkway. Sponsored by
 Cause For Paws Rescue. For info,
www.CauseForPawsRescue.com

16 Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (Cats)

Cozy Cat Cottage, 62 Village
 Pointe Dr., Powell. Males \$35,
 Females \$45. Register and pay in
 advance: (614) 336-8510

January

January is Adopt a Rescued

Bird Month! Did you know
petfinder.com has listings for
 adoptable birds in your area?
 Check 'em out! Cheep! Cheep!

Dog License Renewals, Don't forget
 to renew your dog licenses this month!
 Contact your county's auditor or visit our
 website for more information:
www.animal-outreach.org

February

February is Adopt a Rescued Rabbit

Month! Petfinder.com has cute and
 cuddly rabbits for adoption in your area.

February is Prevent A Litter Month!

Sponsored by the Humane Society of the
 United States. www.hsus.org

9 3rd Annual Adopt A Valentine

Pet adoption benefit featuring local
 animal rescues, vendors & a
 silent auction! All proceeds benefit
 attending rescues. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 The Doggy Den, 1910 Memory Lane
 in Columbus. Presented by Animal
 Outreach. For more info, visit
www.adoptavalentine.com

14 Valentine's Day!

Take a few minutes to enjoy all of
 your loved ones, big and small!

15 CHA Animal Shelter Paws to Party

Join Citizen's For Humane Action
 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at
 Graystone Wine Cellar for their 3rd
 Annual Wine Tasting and Silent
 Auction to benefit our animals. For
 info, www.chaanimalshelter.org

28 Spay Day USA, Spay Day USA is

the Doris Day Animal Foundation's
 national campaign to save the lives
 of homeless animals through the
 spay or neuter of our pets and feral
 cats. Since Spay Day USA's incep-
 tion in 1995, event participants
 have spayed or neutered over one
 million cats, dogs and other ani-
 mals! Visit www.ddaf.org for info.

*We want to know about your events! Visit
www.Animal-Outreach.org/Ohio.html to sub-
 mit yours! Be sure to include the date, time,
 location and other relevant details!*

Columbus Top Dogs (Shure Pets) proudly supports the Animal Insider

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Mary O'Connor-Shaver #462, Amy J. Miller #484,
 Lisa Uhrick #501 (Ohio Pug Rescue), Connie Cordrey #782,
 Danielle Wilson #565 (Petworth of Ohio), Susan McDowell #824,
 Kelly Santarelli #687 (Lucky Bones), Corrie Roush #851,
 Jacqueline Gordon #1037, Heather Blazer #1155,
 Pam Johnson #1189, Jaime Urban #1190, Nancy Morris #1302,
 Christina Smith #1485, Kelly Snider #1565, Virginia Grossen #1666,
 Chip Rako #1961, Danielle Stewart #1996



Home for the Holidays

By Laura D'Aveta

As the holidays approach, many people—myself included—find themselves longing for some extra warmth to fight off the mid-Ohio chill. Whether you picture someone curling up at your feet in front of the fire, sleeping next to your head (or sometimes on it!) at night, or just a cute furry face peering out of their cage when you open the door, there are many factors to consider before adopting a new member for your family.

Analyze Your Circumstances

It is easy to gloss over the details when your heart is in the right place; after all, when you bring home a new pet from a shelter, you are giving that animal a home, rather than leaving it to spend however many days/weeks/months in a cage with minimal attention. But those details are crucial to knowing whether or not you will be able to give that animal the home it needs—and deserves. While the statistics are not tracked, many shelters have noted an increase in population during January through March, which they attribute to pets that were unwanted gifts or poorly planned adoptions. A well-planned adoption of a pet is a wonderful, generous act—for both you and the animal!

Time

Some pets require a much greater commitment of time than others. You may consider yourself a dog person and cringe at the thought of a cat, but if you and your spouse both work full-time and have familial obligations in the evenings or weekends, your lifestyle may be better suited for a friend of the feline persuasion. Remember that cats, while they might demand less from their owner than a dog, still crave attention and socialization; consider adopting two cats rather than one so they have each other for company while you are away.

If you are a student who is carrying a full-time course load and working one (or two or three!) jobs to fend off the credit card people, a puppy who requires being walked every 2-3 hours while being house trained is probably a poor choice. Do your research; if your pet is going to require more time than you can afford, consider a different pet, or consider waiting until your schedule has more flexibility. Regardless of the amount of time you are able to invest, adopting a pet will yield a return—that animal's love and devotion—that is immeasurable.



Space

I live in a small apartment in a less than ideal section of town. While I would love to have a Great Dane or Mastiff to protect me, scare off strangers, and ride to work to cut back on parking costs, I know that such a dog would be unable to turn around in my living room, and would cross what passes as my backyard in less than three strides. I would feel safer, but Goliath (what else could you name him?!) would be miserable.



Take into account not only the size of your yard, but also the size of your home. Will your pet, if it is so inclined, have room to find privacy? Can you only spare the space for a hamster cage? If this is the case, tailor your pet choice to suit the size of your dwelling. The Capital Area Humane Society has hamsters, gerbils, rabbits and birds available for adoption. All creatures great and small can make your heart glow when you find them anxiously awaiting your return.

Finances

This can be one of the biggest surprises to a new pet owner. Even though you may avoid some of the high costs of pet stores or breeders by adopting, there are still many costs related to a new pet. Supplies, from cages to food to toys to grooming products, etc., must be procured. Animals require annual veterinary exams, and many vets recommend professional grooming every 12 weeks. Dogs need flea treatments and heartworm medicine. Cats need dental cleanings that often require general anesthesia. Pets should be spayed or neutered as early as possible. And these are all costs associated with a healthy pet. Veterinary bills can add up quickly—the insurance industry has even begun offering pet insurance to offset these expenses. If you don't have a lot of extra cash, or have other financial responsibilities that would trump pet care, consider a pet that will fit your budget.

This winter, as you prepare for the holidays and gatherings with family and friends, you may find yourself longing for a little extra companionship. Maybe you volunteer your time at a shelter and there's that one special dog that seems to be speaking just to you. Perhaps your heart aches every time PetsMart has an adoption event and you walk away empty-handed while all those pairs of eyes follow you out the door. Before you make the decision to expand your family, consider that no pet can survive on love alone. Research the different types of pets available, analyze the amount of time, space and money needed, and then choose the pet for which you will be able to create a safe, healthy, well-supplied—and, of course, loving—home.

Homeward Bound: Adoptable Animals

Franklin County Dog Shelter

Where Best Friends Meet

Visit us to see dogs of all ages, shapes, sizes and breeds, including many pure breeds. All dogs are spayed or neutered, microchipped and fully vaccinated prior to adoption. More than 300 dogs and puppies available for adoption daily.

Franklin County Dog Shelter

1731 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43207

Phone (614) 462-4360

www.franklincountydogs.com

The shelter is open seven days a week for your convenience:

Monday-Friday: 11a.m. - 7p.m. Saturday/Sunday: 9a.m. - 5p.m.

Champ

Champ is a multi-talented fellow! He knows sit, shake, down and come. He knows all of these commands through sign language! Champ is deaf and is looking for a home willing to be patient and teach him more sign language. He's great on a leash and good with older children. He's also very motivated by food. Won't you consider opening up your heart and home to this special boy?



Ward: 1 / R13, Breed: Mixed, Age: 5 yrs, Weight: 80 lbs.
Sex: Male, ID: 70503012

Baby Girl

Baby Girl is a super sweet doggie who wants someone to love her, hug her, kiss her, clean her ears, and let her have lots of time to explore outside. She has been blind for a while due to a snake bite on the nose, but she's a good sport about it and loves to zip around! Baby Girl is in foster care, please email Erin to meet her! ekfrost@franklincountyohio.gov



Breed: Labrador Retriever Mix, Age: 6 yrs, Weight: 46 lbs.
Sex: Female, ID: 999999999



Belle

Belle is a wonderfully sweet girl! She is the total package, too. Housebroken, crate-trained, knows basic commands, is good on her leash, loves people, and is good with other dogs and cats! Belle is in foster care, please email Erin to meet her! ekfrost@franklincountyohio.gov

Breed: Australian Shepherd Mix, Age: 5 yrs, Weight: 31lbs.,
Sex: Female, ID: 70917057

Cat Welfare Association is dedicated to the care of and education about cats and kittens. Our pledge is to cherish, nurture and provide veterinary care for homeless, abused, injured and abandoned felines. We strive to find each cat an appropriate, safe and loving home, allowing those not placed to live their lives in the care and comfort of our shelter.



Cat Welfare Association

We are open every day of the week from 11:00 - 3:30
(Closed the first Wednesday of each month)

741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214

(614)268-6096

www.catwelfareohio.com

Iris

Iris is an enchanting white cat who is destined to provide a lucky family with true love and fidelity. This sweetheart is about one year of age; she is all white and may not be capable of hearing. If not, she is highly attuned to the vibrations around her. Whether or not she can hear, she certainly has earned a higher degree in purring skills! Adopt Iris if you're looking for more love in your life!



Margherita

Margherita is a beautiful girl who is probably about 3 years old. She is very talkative and longs for a forever home where she can relax and enjoy the exclusivity of not having to compete with 200 roommates for your affections and attentions.

Jessie

"I dream of Jessie with the bright green eyes!" Jessie is a nifty young lady approaching her first birthday. She is friendly and would love to light up a family's life with her brilliant green eyes. She is a bit shy at first, but give her a few moments and she'll show you lots of love.



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(614) 336-8510

www.cozycatcottage.com



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Protect Your Pet From Winter's Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

☼ Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.

☼ No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large

enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or

straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.



☼ Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely

check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

☼ Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

☼ The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.

☼ Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

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Support the work of Animal Outreach!

Prevention is the key in the fight against pet overpopulation! With your support we can reduce the number of homeless pets by encouraging responsible pet ownership.

I want to have an impact on the lives of animals. Please accept my contribution:

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other: _____



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