



Saving One Life at a Time

**Acadiana Humane Mewsletter
Volume 2**



Director's Message

As a year, 2021 was very challenging for our rescue. Volunteers worked hard despite these challenges. COVID-19 still has in-person adoption and fundraising events on hold. Instead, most of our fundraising has been through the internet, while adoptable animals have been promoted online and applications processed via email.

While we have still had adoptions, there have been far fewer than during pre-COVID times. Being mostly online has greatly reduced our ability to fundraise. The reduced funding has hampered our ability to provide immediate basic veterinary care to spay, neuter, vaccinate, and get rescue animals ready for adoption.

Another challenge in 2021 has been transportation for our volunteers to get the rescue animals taken to the vet, to their approved adoptive homes, and to handle the day-to-day animal rescue work. The Toyota that was donated years ago is no longer able to provide us reliable transportation. Thankfully, someone donated a Kia with low mileage. While the van is helping with much-needed transportation of animals as well as picking up and distributing over 100,000 pounds of donations of food and other items through our food bank programs this year, it continues to have mechanical issues that temporarily halt progress.

Despite these challenges, 2021 has been a good year for our animal rescue. We've had some long-term, older foster cats adopted into wonderful homes. We've been able to take in some new rescues, and many of those have also been adopted. We still have six (6) kittens that need veterinary care so they can be adopted, and several older cats that need to see a vet. However, we are moving in the right direction.

Thank you to the volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to continue our mission of saving one life at a time. Thank you to the veterinarians who allow us to bring our rescues to you for emergencies and regular veterinary care. Thank you to those who donate monthly, or as often as you can; also to those who've donated once or twice.

Thank you for being a valued member of our rescue team whether it's as a volunteer, foster, donor, sponsor, veterinarian, or adopter! With everyone's help and support we can and will continue to move forward into a wonderful new year in 2022!





Critter of the Quarter

Hup came to Acadiana Humane Society back in the fall of 2019 as a very small kitten found underneath a vehicle. It took volunteers several hours of patiently laying on the ground to finally coax the tiny, scared Hup from his hiding spot. Once he knew he was safe, though, Hup immediately took to being with his rescuers.

Part of why Hup was so scared upon coming into the rescue was he had been being harassed by a large dog in the area that didn't like cats. Since then, Hup has become such a confident and comfortable boy that he loves the two large dogs in his foster home!

Really, Hup has come to love everyone, even all the other cats in his foster home, too. As Hup is such an active boy who loves spending time with humans and other pets, he would likely do great in a house with other pets for him to play with.



When Hup isn't protecting the house from toy mice and crinkle toys, he loves a good cuddle. He enjoys lounging with his favorite human and watching television in the evenings to unwind after a long workday of thwarting the local feather teaser from invading the house.

Once you spend a little more time with Hup, you'll likely notice that he's not quite like other cats. He has very special front feet! While it's not like the most common reason a cat might have special feet, from afar it does look similar. Hup actually has fewer toes than most cats. This doesn't make anything hard for him, and if you ask him, he might even say that the lack of weight from all those toes is why he can run faster than the other cats! The only thing you need to know about his special little feet and toe beans is that he needs to keep his nails trimmed regularly to keep them from growing into his pads. He doesn't seem to mind going to the vet for his regularly scheduled pedicures. Well, he'll actually say he doesn't like the crate, but he enjoys the experience once he's at the vet and they're giving him extra attention.

Overall, Hup is a sweetheart. He's been looking for his furrever home since he first became fully vetted, but as of yet he's not had interest from anyone to adopt him. He would make a loving addition to any home. There's no one he's met that he hasn't come to love (not counting that one dog, but he was a bully. So Hup says he doesn't count). So Hup asks that if anything in his story and bio have piqued your interest that you inquire about bringing him into your family. Because he and his special toes will forever leave the most loving pawprints on your heart.

As the Critter of the Quarter his adoption fee is 25 percent off, meaning it's only \$75 to adopt him after filling out our pre-screening application and going through our review process.



Happy Tails



Tony is a sweet and talkative ginger tabby who found a loving furrever home after he was found as a kitten in Girard Park. He is an early riser who does his best to not wake his adoptive dad, so he makes sure to meow very quietly until he's certain that his dad is awake enough to want to hold a conversation with him.

Tony has a little anxiety about being alone for very long, so he appreciates that his dad is always happy to have him near him or sitting on his lap. His dad loves him so much that he still occasionally gives updates to Tony's former foster family and shares stories about his most recent antics.

How Can you Adopt?

Adopt, don't shop.

Adoption saves lives and results in the happiest pets on the planet. They know what you've saved them from.

Our 501(c)(3) non-profit rescue organization is the perfect place to adopt from. Simply go to our website at:

acadianahumane.org/catblogger/

Download the pre-screening application, fill it out, and wait for us to process the application. Once your application is approved we move to a formal policy-review process and you eventually meet the newest member of your family.

Every adoption literally saves a life (maybe more) and we'd be happy to help you take that journey.



In-fur-mational and Educational

The holidays are here! Time for family and celebrations! Good food, pretty decorations, and lots of guests. For many, pets are part of the family, too, and we want to include them in the merry-making. HOWEVER, not all of humans' holiday trappings are safe for our fur babies. Indeed, many can be hazardous or even life-threatening. Many of our holiday traditions can also cause them a great deal of stress, which can cause some of them to become ill or develop other problems.

Food is a common holiday hazard for pets. While grandma's turkey may be delicious, her casserole mouth-watering, and her desserts divine, it is best not to share them with Fido or Fluffy. Some of the very things that make these foods delicious for us make them toxic for our pets because their bodies are simply not designed to handle them. Onions, salt, garlic, and many other seasonings can cause illness and organ failures.

- The turkey itself can cause pancreatitis.
- That New Year's champagne may be delightful for you but could send your pet into a coma or worse.
- Those Valentine's chocolates are full of theobromine and would make your pet very sick and can be fatal.

Though we think of bones as suitable treats for dogs, many can splinter and cause injuries to the mouth, throat, and digestive tract, which can be fatal. If you wish to include your fur baby in the holiday feast, ask your veterinarian for recommendations for foods that are safe to give them. Or simply give them appropriate pet treats and avoid giving them human food altogether, to be very safe.

Decorations pose other threats. Many holiday plants are poisonous, some fatally so. Mistletoe, poinsettias, pine and fir trees, lilies, Christmas cactus, and amaryllis are just a few of these. It is best to keep holiday plants out of

pets' reach to avoid tragedy. Or perhaps use faux plants. Tinsel and shiny ribbon are eye-catching and wiggly and may be ingested in the process of play. This can lead to choking and suffocating as well as intestinal blockages and other digestive problems.

Breakable ornaments and knick-knacks pose the same problems of broken glass, both external and (should they be ingested) internal injuries. Wires and cords may look chewable to pets, but this can have dire consequences like electrocution. Keep wires and cords out of pets' reach and unplugged when they will not be supervised. Tree water can be toxic, whether from bacteria or long-life additives. Essential oils and other fragranting agents can also be toxic.



While humans may acclimate to the holiday bustle, it can take a serious toll on our pets. Lots of unusual activity, lots of people (often strangers to them), unusual sights, sounds, and smells, changes to their home; none of which they understand the purpose of. This can cause your pet considerable stress and trigger stress-based responses. This doesn't only manifest as behavioral problems; some pets may become physically ill, particularly cats.

**In-fur-mational and Educational Cont.**

Having a safe, comforting space for them can help. Talking with guests beforehand about how to interact with your pets can also help, as well as not forcing your pet to interact at all if they aren't comfortable. Also remind them to keep bags closed and guard belongings from curious critters, or even have a special place for these safe from your pets.

This is a time to tune into your pets' unique needs and make appropriate arrangements. Fireworks are often a point of contention; the noise, smells, and bright flashes of light are all "dangerous" in your pet's mind. Fireworks can also be toxic if a curious pet should ingest them. A safe, comforting space away from open windows can help, as does playing soft music and going about your usual activities which acts as a signal to them that all is actually ok.

Anxiety vests can benefit some pets while others may even need medications to make it through fireworks or the holiday season in general, something that needs to be discussed with your veterinarian. Your veterinarian should be able to help with any questions about how to get your pet through the holidays.

The holidays can be hazardous for our pets. None of us mean to expose our furbabies to hazards. Sometimes exposure is simply unintentional; sometimes our pets' own curiosity exposes them (exploring new things, digging through trash, etc.) Should an emergency arise, call your veterinarian or the Poison Control Center immediately; having the numbers readily available would help greatly. Being aware of holiday hazards, our pets' habits, and each pet's unique needs can help prevent disaster and let us all have a safer, happier holiday.

Works cited

12 Dangerous Holiday Pet Hazards and How to Keep Your Pet Safe. Medvetforpets.com. MedVet. 16 Dec. 2019. Web. 6 Dec. 2021.

Fireworks and Your Pet: Tips for Staying Safe. Aspca.org. ASPCA. 3 July 2019. Web. 6 Dec. 2021

Winter Holiday Pet Safety. Avma.Org. American Veterinary Medical Association. n.d. Web. 7 Dec. 2021.



Mewsings

Despite their aloof nature and reputation, cats are actually fairly social animals, with their own distinct ways of showing their affection and communicating with their human families, several of which many people don't recognize.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes your cat will stare directly at you, then slowly blink once? That's the feline equivalent of blowing a kiss. Similarly, if they wrap their tail around you while standing or sitting next to you, that's because they want to give you a hug.



A cat walking around with their tail straight up in the air is happy, and if that tail starts quivering when they spot you, it means your cat is very excited to see you. Chances are, if you spot that tail quiver, they'll head your way for attention. If the tip of their tail flips over to look like a question mark, that means that they're curious about something; probably about why you aren't paying more attention to them!

Cats communicate with body language more often than vocally, so chances are you can start to pick up on what they want to say if you pay attention to the ways they move for long enough. And yes, that "lashing" tail means you've got a less than happy kitty.

The Catbox

It's that time of year again. Family, friends, love, and gifts abound. Sometimes we think that a great gift would be a new family member; a pet to cuddle and love. This can be a wonderful experience if the pet has been planned, researched, and prepared for. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. Parents buy their child a puppy as a surprise, significant others try to solidify a bond with an adorable kitten.

This can cause problems. Pets and their people need to suit one another both in personality and lifestyle, and only they can determine that. Sometimes budding romances wither and crumble, which can leave the pet without a home because neither party wants the reminder. Pets are not objects; they are living creatures with unique personalities and needs who can live up to two (2) decades. Having a pet should be a conscious choice after plenty of thought, consideration, and research.





Catnip Corner

There are always new gadgets coming out for us to buy our pets, just like the slew of ever fancier toys that come out for kids, and sometimes it feels like we just have to get it for them.

Because it would be absolutely adorable when they play with it!

Plus, maybe this will be their new favorite toy, so we would be doing them a disservice by keeping it from them, wouldn't we? We want to give them all the nice things in the world and so we buy them the shiny new toy.

But what happens when the toy doesn't actually appeal to them?



You think they've run off into the other room with the fancy new toy, because you can hear them running around playing... but then they come back out carrying an empty toilet paper roll you swear you threw away (and you probably did).

And that fancy new toy? Well, if you've got pups, probably stuffed under their bed. If you have cats? Chances are they've buried it in the litter box. Either way, they're out here playing with what's technically trash, while the expensive new toy is hidden away forever. This is something that we might lament at first, since we failed to get them a toy they love. But they do seem to love that piece of what we consider trash...

And you know what they say: One man's trash is a pet's treasure. Or something like that.

A big thank you to our sponsors who donated this quarter. Without your continued support the rescue cannot achieve its goal of saving the lives of pets who deserve good and loving homes.

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For more information on how to become a sponsor, email us at ahspets@gmail.com or ahsfundraisers@gmail.com