



Saving One Life at a Time

**Acadiana Humane Mewsletter
Volume 4**



Director's Message

The rescue started AHS Pet Food Bank in January of 2007, delivering pet supplies and dog and cat food to people who needed help to keep their pets. We've always run on a shoestring budget, so the pet food and supplies we give away have always been donated to us from local businesses or individuals. Since then, we've given away between 800 to 5,000, sometimes more, pounds of pet food per year to animals in need.



As time went on, we noticed the same people helped by the Pet Food Bank also needed help as persons; they were doing without food or other necessities for themselves. AHS volunteers looked for ways to help feed the pet owners as well, quietly collecting donated canned goods and other food items and dropping them off with the pet food deliveries.

Most recipients of our pet food bank donations were unable to drive themselves to pet food banks that require pick-up. -Our focus at that time became those who didn't or couldn't drive. Now, as AHS's Pet Food Bank has grown, we also have the AHS Food Bank for people, giving additional meaning to our rescue's original motto, "Saving One Life at a Time".

Since then, the donations of human and pet food (among other things) kept gradually increasing without us even asking for more help. The more we gave away, the more was donated. Around 2019, we started delivering over half a ton per month of human food in addition to the increased pet food donations. During the pandemic our volunteers started doing COVID-19 drop-off deliveries to those sick and in quarantine, regardless of if they had pets

or not. Once one of our volunteers knew about the need, we added them to the deliveries that month. After their needs, surplus food deliveries and donations were then dropped off to area first responders.



Yet, all of this is a grassroots movement with no advertisement; just helping people. Our programs expanded by word of mouth as those that were helped in turn told someone they knew in need about us, resulting in the explosive growth of those we help.



We began having weekly, and sometimes daily, food donations and deliveries. This necessitated a need for donations of refrigerators and freezers. Small ones have been donated, even the broken ones that one of our volunteers could get working. We also ordered a 24 cubic foot chest freezer to allow us more time to make deliveries before the food spoiled. The same day the freezer arrived a massive donation of meats also arrived that were distributed throughout St. Landry and Lafayette Parishes and still resulted in completely filling the new freezer.

"Until they all have a home"



Over time, our volunteer base has increased, allowing us to deliver more food to more places. However, the needs for free food also increased and is greater than what the volunteers we have available to make deliveries can handle. Unfortunately, other organizations were not able to partner with us. Then, in January 2021, the Lafayette Community Fridge began and we started making quiet deliveries to their free fridge and pantry when there was surplus cooked and prepared foods. At this time, we also began leaving shelf-stable food donations at the Fightingville free pantry.



Sometimes, multiple restocks of the pantry and fridge happen; up to five (5) times per day. While at the Lafayette Community Fridge located at McMillan's Pub on Simcoe Street, we made a connection with the Director of Rosa's Angels. She would, and still does, meet us as we contact her to take food to give to the families that her organization helps.

We've also made a connection with volunteers from the Lafayette Community Fridge and started doing the Sunday Food Rescue run. It's always a pleasure to coordinate and work with their volunteers to get these food donations spread out among Lafayette, Fightingville, and

Abbeville. We're thankful to have them actively working with us to distribute the donated food items as well as to supply the organization with fresh fish, meat, and other foods as needed for their free prepared plate lunches.

How can you help with these free programs we offer? Acadiana Humane Society needs:

- gas cards for volunteers
- good storage containers of all sizes that seal well.
- insulated bags and ice chests
- donations of refrigerators and freezers and while we prefer working ones, we do have a volunteer that can do repairs
- donations of Ziplock bags of all sizes
- refills for our FoodSaver vacuum sealer
- volunteers willing to make deliveries on Sundays, and/or as needed, to people already on our Food Bank recipient list.

You can also volunteer with the Lafayette Community Fridge and/or Rosa's Angels.



Links:

[Lafayette Community Fridge](#)

[McMillan's Pub and Rosa's Angels](#)

[Fightingville Community Fridge](#)

[Abbeville Community Fridge](#)



Critter of the Quarter



Eddie is an energetic Dutch Shepherd mix, estimated to be about 10 months old. He enjoys playing outside so long as he has a human with him to keep him company, and when inside he enjoys snuggling. His favorite toy is a plush lamb chop, though he also really enjoys puzzle toys. Eddie would do best in a home with no cats or small dogs, because he can get a bit rambunctious and doesn't realize his own strength. He would especially enjoy a home where he'll often have at least one human around the house most of the time so he doesn't get lonely. Do you think your family would be a good fit for him? As Critter of the Quarter, all adoption fees for Eddie are a quarter off during this Mewsletter Quarter.

Update: prior to publication of this Mewsletter, Eddie was adopted! Many other wonderful critters still await their forever homes and would be delighted if you'd take a look at their profiles on our website.

Happy Tails



Noa is a husky mix who was rescued from St. Landry Animal Control when she was about a year old. She had been found wandering the streets and was very anxious and shy but seemed to make an instant connection with the AHS volunteer who fostered her. In fact, the connection was so strong that Noa's foster parent ultimately decided to adopt her and be her furrever parent. Since then, Noa has come out of her shell quite a lot, and while still a bit shy with strangers, she is a very happy and playful pup!



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

Guest contributor: Lafayette Veterinary Care Center



Think Before They Drink (more of a tip!)

Come summertime, "community" water bowls abound outside of pet-friendly businesses and dog parks. These readily available water sources can be a great idea to keep out-and-about dogs hydrated and cool. However, if a sick dog drinks from one and it's not cleaned properly, communal water bowls can actually increase your dog's risk of illness. Help your pup beat the heat and stay safe and healthy at the same time by always bringing their own water supply or a bowl that you can fill yourself.



Pool Safety for Pets

Cooling off in the pool is a great way to escape the summer heat! Here are some things to consider for pool safety with your pet:

- Prevent poolside heatstroke by providing your pet with access to shade, freshwater, and a cool place to lie down at all times.

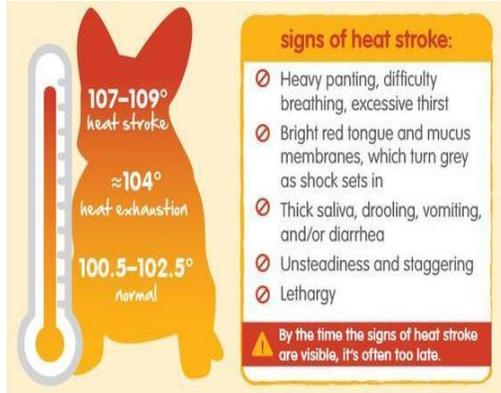
- Check ground surfaces. If it's too hot for you to walk barefoot, it's too hot for their paw pads.
- Don't assume your pet knows how to swim! Slowly introduce them to the water and NEVER throw a pet into a pool.
- Cats are naturally good swimmers, but most won't swim voluntarily.
- Never let your pet swim alone.
- Provide a ramp to give your pet a quick and easy way out of the pool.
- Don't let your pet drink pool water. Chlorine and other pool chemicals can make your pet sick.
- Wash the pool chemicals off your pet with fresh water once they are finished swimming.
- Clean and dry their ears with soft cotton balls to prevent infection. *Dogs with floppy ears are the most likely to get ear infections.
- If you're concerned about your pet's health or swimming skills, try a plastic kiddie pool for a great way to help your pet play and cool down in summer.

Heat stroke signs and what to do...

Summer is upon us, and the outside temperatures continue to rise. One of the greatest heat-related threats to pets is time in the car. Simply stated, just DO NOT leave your pet unattended in a parked car in the summertime. It's dangerous and illegal. If you must leave your pet, make sure the car A/C is running. Cracking windows is insufficient for air circulation.



Prevention from overheating is key! As pets become overheated, their symptoms progress rapidly (within minutes) and are as follows:



Please keep in mind, dogs and cats are equally susceptible to overheating as neither sweat to cool their bodies. The highest-risk groups are short/ flat-snouted pets, young puppies and kittens, and senior pets (over 7-8 years old for dogs and over 10 for cats).

If you notice your pet displaying any of these symptoms, get them to a cool place immediately — preferably somewhere with a fan or air conditioning. Offer your pet fresh water and use a cool towel/ rag to rub them and call your veterinarian right away.

The Catbox

Late spring and early summer comes with not only dangers from heat, but another challenge for all of us involved in animal rescue and homing: kitten season. This is the time of year most cats will be the most inclined to have kittens, and they can start doing so at only six months old, sometimes as early as four months! They can also have multiple litters each year, with an average litter size of three to six kittens. That's a lot of kittens each year! And, sadly, many rescues and shelters become overwhelmed trying to save them all.

Life on the streets is dangerous for cats. They face heat stroke, parasites and illnesses, toxic substances, starvation, fights with other animals, risk of being run over by cars, cruelty from cruel humans, and many other dangers. Many of these kittens don't live to see adulthood—one year of age.

There are measures that can be taken to prevent this. Spay and neuter your kitties as soon as they are old/big enough—you vet can determine the correct age/size for your cat. There are several local vets who will perform spays/neuters for minimal prices, and some who will reduce prices occasionally each year. Be extra careful to not let an unaltered cat out—they WILL go find another cat to make kittens with (and may not make it home).

TNR (trap, neuter, release) is another option for feral cats who cannot safely be placed as housecats. The animals are humanely captured, spayed/neutered, often have their ears notched for identification purposes, and released back to their colonies. This allows them to live out their lives without increasing the population of at-risk animals.

Kitten season is hard and heart-breaking for all of us at vet's offices, shelters, rescues, and all others working for animal welfare. Please spay and neuter and keep your kitties safe at home. And please— be kind to the cats on the streets.



Fluffy Stuff

Love Nips

Your feline friend is in your lap. You are petting them, stroking them, and they are purring. There is no indicator it will happen, no movement in the tail or body, and then it happens. You are bitten, gently.

Yes, your loving fur baby will occasionally bite you because they've had enough, or they get overstimulated. But in those instances, you'll see movement in their body or tail that is their non-verbal warning. If you missed it, you missed it. But love nips, those are a different story.

A love nip is just what it sounds like. "I love you.....nom." It's a pretty gentle little bite, doesn't break the skin, and has just a little bit of pressure. It's sweet and endearing, even if it startles you and makes you check their tail movement and body language to make sure it's not something more. What other cute things does your pet do to show you love and affection?



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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- ❖ Donation made in loving memory of Tobie W. Davis by Brenda and Bill Wallace



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Silver Sponsors:

Bronze Sponsors:

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