



Saving One Life at a Time

Acadiana Humane Mewsletter

Volume 5



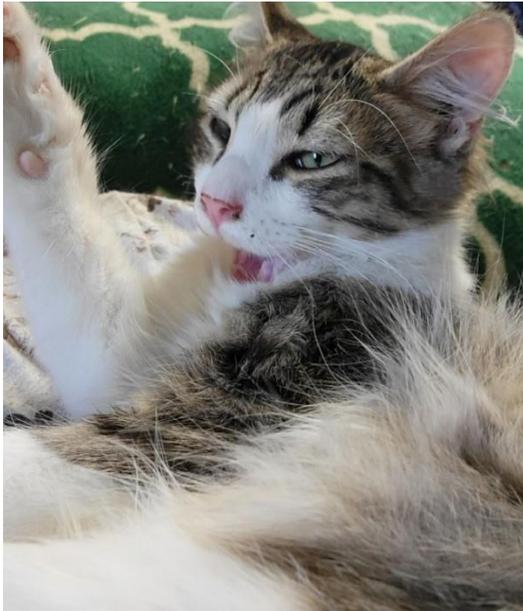
Editor's Message

Rescue work isn't easy. It is hard work. It is demanding of time, energy, money, and all other resources. It is heart-breaking as often as it is heart-warming. It is unpredictable; you never know what will come through the door or what will happen next. From carnivorous bunnies to surprise litters of kittens and abandoned animals of every stripe and spot, animal rescues see it all. I just wish to say to everyone who works in animal rescue, the fosters and other caregivers especially: you are AMAZING. You have taken on a most ponderous task and refused to give up. You are unfathomably strong.





Critter of the Quarter



Jacque is a sweet and energetic longhair kitten who is almost a year old. He loves to play and is very curious, always wanting to know what everyone is up to so he can join in if there's any fun to be had! He's good at keeping himself—and those watching him- entertained, but he really enjoys when people actively play with him with toys. He would do well in a home where there's someone home more often than not, because he's very sociable and affectionate, and he would enjoy having another cat sibling or two as playmates. Would your family like to welcome this lovable kitty into your home?

If you would like to adopt Jacques within the next quarter, his adoption fee will be 25% off!

Happy Tail



Charlie is a sweet, affectionate ragdoll mix who was rescued from St. Landry Parish Animal Control after being erroneously called in as a feral. After his first attempted furever home didn't work out, Charlie was returned to AHS to wait. It didn't take long before his new parents met him at Petco and instantly fell in love. Charlie has been at his furever home for four and a half years now. He is the biggest cuddle-bug ever, and his parents are so happy they found him! Charlie was very shy and afraid at first and had to be gently coaxed out into the open from underneath his dad's desk. It would take much time and patience to bring him fully out of his shell, but now he is the wonderful feline he was all along beneath the shyness and fear.



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.





The Catbox

In the dark of night, a car stops by the side of the road. A box is left, or perhaps simply upended. The car drives away, leaving unwanted animals, likely a litter of kittens or puppies, to fend for themselves. These babies have been dumped.

Dumping, especially of kittens, is sadly common. Often they are simply left in the middle of nowhere or by the side of the road, where they too often meet a grisly end. Sometimes the dumpers leave them where they think they will either be found by kind humans and cared for, or they would be taken in by an existing colony of ferals.

This is literally dumping one's responsibilities off on someone else. Even people who would want to help defenseless, innocent animals may not be able to, which leaves the animal/s still homeless and the kind people likely in distress. Even rescue organizations, unfortunately, cannot always take every animal, for all sorts of reasons, from compatibility with animals already in their care to availability of volunteers to financial constraints, etc. This breaks the heart of every rescuer, and contributes to compassion fatigue and even burnout.

Feral colonies are not kind. They are very particular about welcoming new members and often attack "outsiders." Aside from unfriendly ferals, there are unkind humans, dangerous objects and substances, indifferent natural elements, parasites/diseases, and hungry predators like coyotes and hawks for dumped animals to contend with. Survival rates of dumped pets, especially dumped kittens and puppies, are abysmally low.

Once an animal comes into someone's care, that person is responsible for that animal. Dumping them or any unwanted babies they have is irresponsible and cruel. If things don't work out between the home's residents and the new animal, there are organizations such as rescues and shelters that will help rehome them if at all they can. Veterinarians and pet supply stores sometimes help one connect with a suitable organization. If that animal having babies is not in the plans, it is best for the animal to be spayed or neutered.

Careful research, patience, and planning could prevent much animal dumping. If one isn't completely certain that one wants and can care for a particular animal for that animal's life span, it would be better to forego bringing them home.





Informational and Educational

Many of us enjoy the companionship of a pet such as a dog or cat. They are cuddly and affectionate, providing a non-judgmental sort of love that can be tricky to find elsewhere. But, where did our beloved companions come from?

Domestication of animals began over 10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent. Though all our pets have descended from wild ancestors, they share few if any traits with those ancestors or the wild descendants thereof. Domestication is the result of selectively breeding animals for desirable traits, such as pleasant temperament. Over time, this selective breeding creates a population that is genetically different from the original.

Dogs were domesticated first from local wild dogs, most notably the wolf in North America. They first assisted hunters, then became guards as humans created permanent settlements. This was made possible largely through the domestication of plants and hoof stock, which allowed them to provide their own food, medicine, etc. Animals such as horses also provided a means of transportation as well as labor. Dogs were bred for a variety of tendencies towards particular skill sets as well as physical traits, becoming a widely varied and useful companion to mankind.



With a settlements's storehouses of foodstuffs came rodents seeking easy meals. With an abundance of rodents came wild cats seeking

easy meals. Cats were, therefore, domesticated later than dogs, and some scientists believe they may have domesticated themselves! It is believed that all cats share a common ancestor— *Felis sylvestris*, a wild cat of North Africa and Southwest Asia. As time went on, humans learned the value of feline-rendered pest control, and cats began adapting to live alongside humans. Over time, humans began breeding cats for traits suitable for companions. Their pest-control skills were still highly valued, and companionability meant that they could be more easily taken aboard ships and other transport, spreading them all around the world and eventually resulting in the many breeds of house cats we know today.



Domestication has not always been kind to the animals it is bestowed upon. Some suffer genetic problems, such as golden retrievers' predisposition to cancer, caused by extreme lack of diversity in the gene pool. Others suffer from having been bred for such extreme physical traits that they have difficulties with basic functions. Pugs and Persians who have trouble breathing due to their extremely "smushed-in" faces are prime examples of this. Some breeders are taking steps to amend such problems by breeding for healthier traits.

Cats and dogs have both had many roles in many cultures, from hunters and guards to pest

"Until they all have a home"



control and companionship. Today, they serve in ever-broadening fields, such as therapy, service, and military. The course of human history was greatly altered by the domestication of many animals, including our dear dogs and cats. Over time, they have gone from being simply working or useful animals to being beloved companions.



Works Cited

“Domestication Origins.” *Resource Library*.
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/domestication-origins>. National Geographic. n.d. Web. 28 Dec. 2022.

Science Reference Section, Library of Congress.
“How did cats become domesticated?”
Everyday Mysteries.
<https://www.loc.gov/everyday-mysteries/zoology/item/how-did-cats-become-domesticated/>. Library of Congress. 19 Nov. 2019. Web. 28 Dec. 2022.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica.
Domestication.
<https://www.britannica.com/science/domestication>. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 4 Dec. 2022. Web. 28 Dec. 2022.



Fluffy Stuff

We love to see the rescue animals get a home, but sometimes, they rescue us in the process. Studies show that pets are great for our mental and emotional health (though at times they make us worry!) Having the unconditional, non-judgmental love of an animal has been shown to lower blood pressure and regulate heart rate, which helps prevent events like strokes and heart attacks. Of course their love alleviates loneliness and helps conditions like depression and anxiety. Having a pet is not only a delight; it's good for you!



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.

Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:

- ❖ Cedric H. – Adopted Luther

Silver Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$20 or more for the quarter]

Bronze Sponsors:

[Person(s) or businesses that donated \$10 or more for the quarter]

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