



CARE is a Non-Profit Organization
Specializing in the Rescue and Placement
of Homeless Dogs and Cats

WINTER
Newsletter 2001

EARLY SPAY AND NEUTER INFORMATION

The volunteers of CARE often receive bewildering gazes from our adopters when we inform that our animals are spayed and neutered at 8 weeks (unless otherwise medically indicated). "Isn't this too young?" Is our most frequent response. Because CARE's objective is to save as many healthy animals as possible, we strongly feel our need to play an active role in breaking the cycle of pet overpopulation.

On average, 13-14 million pets per year are euthanized in our nation's animal shelters. There are simply not enough homes to accommodate so many surplus animals. People working to decrease the problem of surplus dogs and cats in the United States pioneered the idea of early altering. While surgical sterilization remains the most effective means of population control, delaying this surgery long enough for sexual maturity defeats its purpose. Although most animal shelters and rescue groups advocate mandatory altering, many adopted animals are either never altered or are allowed to have "just one litter" before they are altered. It is this offspring that perpetuates pet overpopulation for if each of these babies is allowed to reproduce "just one time," the problem of overpopulation grows exponentially.

While it may seem that interest in early spay/neuter is a recent phenomenon, it has been practiced for over 25 years in North America. Early age altering refers to spays and neuters performed between the ages of 6 and 14 weeks. Altering pets between 5 and 7 months of age was established by tradition rather than for any specific medical reason. Years ago, waiting until an animal was older increased the safety of surgery. But with advances in anesthesia, the veterinary community no longer needs to delay surgery for this reason.

Over the years, the safety of early altering has been questioned, mainly by veterinarians who may be unfamiliar with the surgical and anesthetic techniques required for pediatric patients. These concerns have largely been laid to rest by many studies, and early altering is becoming more widespread and available while showing no significant differences in the physical or behavioral characteristics of puppies or kittens altered at 8 weeks. However, these young patients must be handled a bit differently before, during, and after surgery. The experiences of veterinarians with early altering is overwhelmingly positive including faster recuperation from anesthesia.

As a reputable rescue organization, CARE must do our part to curtail the serious problem of surplus animals. We have found that early altering before adoption is a safe and effective means of ensuring we do not add to the burden of unwanted pets.

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CARE's First Annual PET FOOD DRIVE

** Throughout the month of December, CARE is asking for wet/dry "Premium" brand foods for our foster animals - cats/dogs/kittens/puppies.

** Food drops for your donations are located at both locations of **Butchie's Pet Feed & Supply** (see ad on this page for locations and addresses), OR the CARE Adoption Center during pet fair hours (Fridays 7-9pm, Saturdays 10:30-2pm and Sundays, 12-4pm)

** Of course, your monetary donations to CARE are always welcome! Kindly make your check out to: CARE (Food Drive).

** For tax purposes, donation receipts will be available at all locations for your records.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.carepets.org

See photos and read profiles on our animals available for adoption. Our website is updated every week!

If you don't have internet access, you can always reach us the old fashioned way by leaving a message on either our

Dogline at 408-227-CARE (2273) or
Catline at 408-929-CATS (2287)

About this publication:

CARE's newsletter is published three times yearly and is distributed to CARE members, advertisers, sponsors and animal adopters in good standing.

If you wish to advertise in our newsletter, please email:
RRAning@aol.com or Mich2501@aol.com
for pricing information.

DID YOU KNOW?

What's the one way to decrease stress, get more exercise and reduce your risk of high blood pressure and heart disease?

Get a pet!

Studies show that patients with pets who have been hospitalized for coronary heart disease have significantly higher survival rates than non-pet guardians.

Animals play a key part in many people's lives. Ask any pet caretaker, and you'll get an ear-full about how animals provide support, camaraderie, and unconditional love. And for people who are ill, a pet may be there for support and companionship when no one else is there for them.

"In general, I highly encourage people to care for a pet if they can afford it and have the time to do so," says Dr. McCullough. "Studies have shown that pets can help improve overall health by providing comfort and support. Elderly people who care for pets have been reported to make fewer visits to their physician than do the elderly with no pets. Pets appear to help lower blood pressure and make people happier."

ANIMAL HEROES

(Used With Permission from Humane Education Network)

Amidst the horrors of September 11th, we turned to animals for a few bright spots that gave us comfort and reinforced our animal/human bonds.

A trapped Eduardo Rivera, a blind computer operator working on the 70th floor of the World Trade Center, ordered his Labrador guide dog Dorado to leave without him after the north tower was struck during the terrorist attack, but this devoted dog battled back through the flames to his guardian, Eduardo's side. Dorado then braved the growing panic to negotiate Eduardo down hundreds of stairs and through thousands of frightened people to reach the outside of the crumbling building.

Eduardo, 42, said, "I knew I couldn't run down the stairs through all the obstacles and thought it was not fair that we should both die in that hell. I thought I was lost forever as the noise and the heat were terrifying but I had to give Dorado the chance to escape. But he was prepared to die to save my life."

Shylo, a Rhinelander Wisconsin therapy dog, spent nine days in New York City comforting emergency care relief workers digging through the World Trade Center rubble as well as with victims' family members.

"It's unbelievable the difference a dog can make. It's amazing what they can do," said Shylo's guardian and caretaker, Arleen Ravanelli. The 2-year old Siberian Husky was called to duty by the non-profit group, *Therapy Dogs International*. Ravanelli said that rescue and recovery workers need to talk about what has happened and "sometimes it's easier to talk to a dog."

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

*“GUS”, a dear Cocker Spaniel
much missed by
Mr & Mrs. Robert Avery, Livermore*



IN HONOR OF:
*“Ellen Dimond”
a dedicated advocate for
the animals*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT KITTENS & CATS.....

Q. I’m raising a kitten that has very labored breathing. What could be wrong with him?

A visit to your veterinarian is definitely in order as soon as possible since pneumonia may be a possibility. Pneumonia is a virus that can be passed to other kittens as well, so it’s important to isolate if you have more than one kitten. Pneumonia is quite serious for a kitten and can be difficult to diagnosed if not caught in its early stages of development. Often, by the time this virus is diagnosed, it’s usually in a more advanced stage. However, if caught early enough, pneumonia can be successfully treated.

Q. My cat has suddenly stopped using his litter box. Now what?

The first and always best course of action is to take him to your vet to rule out anything physical, like a urinary tract infection (UTI). If an infection is ruled out, then you can attribute this new cat behavior as “acting out.” They can’t talk, so it’s up to us to engage in investigative detective work when cat behavior is a problem. The only way a cat knows how to communicate and get our attention is through behavior (and he did get your attention, didn’t he)? Has something in or around your home changed? A new routine? Is someone visiting? Is there a new pet in the house? Are you keeping your cat’s litter box clean? Have you removed or relocated your cat’s favorite chair or resting area? Is a neighborhood cat coming to the door to tease? There can be any number of reasons, all of them important to your cat. No matter how insignificant it may seem to you, it’s worth checking out.

If this is a youngster with this problem, you may attribute the behavior to simply “not catching on” to the use of the litter box. First, confine the kitten to a very small room (or crate) until he learns the litter box purpose. If he still misses the point, it may take you to pick up his “little treasure” and place them both into the litter box. Remarkably, this simple technique has worked for many. Go figure...

YES! I would like to support your Dog Adoption Program!

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YOUR PET'S HEALTH PAGE

PREVENTING HOLIDAY HAZARDS



Holiday season adornments are attractive to all creatures. The ornaments, foods, gifts, wrappings, ribbons, lights, and plants are all curiosities for pets. Pets will investigate new items by sniffing, tossing, chasing, and finally by having a taste. A few precautions will help you and your pet.

- * The number one problem seen by veterinarians this time of year is stomach or intestinal disturbances caused by pets eating the holiday feast or other novelties.
- * Also keep in mind while cooking that pets may not know about hot stoves or to stay out from underfoot. Keep pets away so they don't get burned or get hot foods spilled on them.
- * Be sure leftovers and wrappers are properly disposed of. Keep pets on their usual diet. Treats formulated similarly to the pet's regular diet are healthy and safe.
- * Several decorative plants are poisonous. Mistletoe and Holly can cause stomach upset with vomiting and diarrhea. Poinsettias, like the leaves of most any plant, can also cause stomach upset.
- * Be sure Christmas trees are secured so that pets cannot pull them over. Omit preservatives from the tree-stand water and cover it so pets don't drink it. Don't spray snow on the tree unless it is labeled for pet consumption. Angel hair is spun glass and is irritating to both the inside and outside of your pet. Even glass ornaments and ornament hooks have been chewed and swallowed. Low-hanging ornaments are a real temptation, as are tinsel and electric lights. Decorative lights and electrical wiring can cause shock or burns when chewed. Remember to unplug holiday lights when pets are unattended.
- * Holidays have lots of activity going on. Be sure doors are not left open as guests come and go. Also, watch that guests don't leave interesting objects, such as chocolate, ribbons, stocking stuffers, or other illicit treats, within your pet's reach. Sometimes it's best to put your pet in a separate area, both to relieve the pet of the stress of new people and to prevent accidents.
- * Don't leave wrapped gifts under the tree with an unsupervised pet; the wrapping, ribbon and enclosed gift are probably not compatible with your pet's digestive system. Ask Santa to put gifts out of your pet's reach so your pet won't beat you to them on Christmas morning.
- * When choosing a gift for your pet, consider the pet as an individual. Cats enjoy lightweight toys they can bat around, catnip toys, scratching posts and kitty perches. Dogs like balls, chew toys, and things they can carry around. However, beware of toys with parts, such as bells, buttons, string, yarn, or squeaky parts, that can be detached and swallowed.
- * If your pet does get sick, consult your veterinarian before giving any medications. Many of the over-the-counter drugs, such as Tylenol, are toxic for animals even though they are safe for us. Don't wait to see if your pet gets better. If your pet is acting sick, consult your veterinarian.



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CARE 's 2001 Family Dog Walk: Another Doggone Success!

On the morning of October 14th, CARE held our 4th annual Canine Family Dog Walk at the Campbell Park & Par Course in Campbell. This year's early morning Dog Walk attracted over 80 participants along with their families and canine friends in support of CARE's lifesaving work. It was a colorful site as participants, wearing this year's vivid, purple CARE Dog Walk T-shirts, stood alongside their companion animals under a multicolored rainbow balloon banner arch waiting for the 2 mile walk to begin. Upon returning, participants shared lively stories while enjoying scrumptious breakfast treats, hot coffee and refreshing juices, and all present pooches were given "breakfast bone treats" too! The morning ended with a Halloween-appropriate (and very entertaining) "Best Trick & Costume Contest" where contestants and their canines competed for exceptional gift certificates from our sponsors.

**** This year's contest winners for Best Trick were:**

First Place: Sandy Woods and "Mocha", Second Place: Jenny Banathy and "Che", Third Place: Cheryl Lee and "Ben" Honorable mentions....Eric Sorenson and "Laswell", Athena Chapela and "Xena"

**** For Best Costume :**

First Place: Andrew Jones and "Max", Second Place: Laura Jones and "Lillie", Janice Bergh and "Mandy" (Janice adopted Mandy as a CARE "special needs" dog). Honorable mentions....Steve Riddle and "Dakota"

CARE gratefully acknowledges the generosity of this year's Dog Walk sponsors who graciously donated their support and services to help make this our most successful fundraiser to date!

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*SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PET SPA FOR PROVIDING NAIL TRIMMING TOO!!***

CARE also gratefully acknowledges **Linda Goldston**, staff writer of the San Jose Mercury News, **Julie Davis Berry**, editor of the Almaden and Campbell Times Community Newspapers and **George Sampson**, assistant news director of KLIV, KRTY and KARA radio for providing local media coverage to promote this year's Dog Walk.



We hope to see all of you again next year!! Thank you all for your support!

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WE'RE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION!!!

Consider adding another "member" to your family! We receive rescued cats, kittens, dogs and puppies each week in need of adoption. Our website is updated regularly to show you all the newcomers. The right pet may be there waiting for you!

Check out our website at: www.carepets.org

"SOPHIE"



Sophie and her siblings were living under a middle school class room with no one to take care of them. In February, Sophie was brought under CARE's umbrella of love. She was very frightened and did not

trust humans. She was quite a handful, but Sophie quickly learned what cuddling meant and boy does she love it. She loves being indoors and snuggling with mommy in bed. She is around 10 months old, has had all her shots and is spayed.

Sophie needs someone who is very patient and kind; a home that will give her the time to adjust. She needs someone who will not get upset at her when she forgets how good the cuddling feels and looks at you as if to say, "Who are you again?" - someone who will not give up on her but will celebrate when she gets over the hump. She is a beautiful, loving kitten who only wants to be loved and praised. She is a very special little girl with a huge heart and lots of kisses to go around!! If you are willing to open up your heart please email Debbie at debbie_sunnyone@yahoo.com.



This is *"SPOT"!!*

Spot is a 1 1/2 year old male Sharpei/Cattledog or Sharpei/Pointer mix. Spot was raised by a family with a mother and two children. The family had to move in with one of the daughters because the mother was diagnosed with an illness and could no longer take care of herself. Unfortunately, Spot was unable to come. Spot is a character in his own right. He is looking for another family to give him love and affection as he will do the same and then some. Spot would make a great running partner for someone or a companion to another dog. He has also been around cats and is crate trained. For information please call 408-403-3682 or email rraning@aol.com

Meet "JOEY"



JOEY is a 3 yr old female cattledog. She's been in this particular foster home for approximately 4 months. Joey was adopted out as a puppy and her owner had to move

and was unable to keep her. So she was returned to CARE and is anxiously awaiting a permanent home. She is NOT the typical cattledog. She's calm and VERY affectionate and is a very funny girl. She has a cute little dance. Joey would love nothing more than to sit with you, take walks and be your best friend. She loves people! Joey would do best in a home with no young children and would love to be the only dog (dog dominant, NOT dog aggressive). She has no bad habits, is housebroken and weighs only 35-40 lbs. For more info call Leann at 408-231-3388.



"Patsy Princess"

Patsy Princess was a stray female cat who had a litter in someone's garage. Patsy-Princess is just that - a princess. Recently, she spent some time at Petco. One of our volunteers, noting that Patsy is a very active cat, decided to try walking Patsy around the store on a leash. Patsy loved it! She would walk up and down the aisles, rubbing all of the items on the lower shelves, testing the dog beds and cat trees, and checking out the bags of food and cat litter. Her favorite part of the store is the fish section - she loves sitting in front of the fish tanks and pressing her nose against the glass. Patsy is very sweet, talkative, and outgoing - she would probably rule the roost of her new home. For information please email Laurie at lferris@lsil.com

Dobie Gillis Update!

Dobie was initially featured in our CARE Winter 2000 Newsletter. Since then, we have received several inquiries asking how Dobie is doing. We thought a one-year update should make our "Dobie Gillis Watchers" satisfied!



"DOBE" (aka Dobie)

Dear CARE,
Nine weeks ago I came to live with my new person, Ann, in Cupertino. I was so nervous about this, I had to run and hide once I arrived. Fortunately, Ann has many "nooks and crannies" for me to do this! In the house I could

hide under the piano, and in the yard I found her son's old car to crawl under. Ann had quite a time getting me out from under the car, but she finally found a way to barricade it off for my safety.

During my first week in my new home, I wouldn't go near the steps to go upstairs, so Ann slept on the downstairs couch to keep me company while I slept on my special bed at the foot of this couch. Slowly, both Ann and I became acquainted—in baby steps.

I was allowed to explore the yard on my own after Ann showed me around on my lead the first few times. When it was time to go in the house, I ran the perimeter of the yard 10 times while my new mom stood watching me from the center of the yard. When I became tired, I went to my safe place where Ann would come get me. It took me several days to start eating regularly, so I lost some weight. But not to worry, it's almost all back on now!

To help me through my transition into a new home, Ann would come outside with me every morning for an hour to keep me company. It was so comforting to see her sit on the deck watching and talking to me while I wrestled on my pile of pine needles or ran around the yard! After a week, my bed was finally transferred upstairs and I let Ann lay down next to me, but I had to be dragged downstairs every morning for about 5 weeks! Now, I go up and down on my own with no problem. One of my favorite times is when I'm in bed in the evening and Ann sits down next to me. We play together and I put my head in her lap to let her pet me. Three days ago, I even went across the room to where she was sitting and let her pet me.

Dobie continued.....

During the first 5 weeks both Ann and I wondered if we had made the right decision about belonging to each other, but with her gentle patience, I eventually became used to Ann and she to me. I know I've found a wonderful new home...I think I'll stay here forever!

Thanks for all your good thoughts & wishes!


Love,
DobieGillis(Dobe)

A Note From Ann:

Having Dobe is quite an adventure in patience! The important thing I have learned is to celebrate the smallest progress and make sure each small gain is lasting before trying the next one. Dobe now comes into the house when called, if I'm standing in the right place when I call him. He does let me pet him when we are inside, but not yet when we are out, unless he's on the lead. He's still afraid of strangers and my sons, but is becoming more tolerant of them.

"Cat Prayer"

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray this cushy life to keep.
I pray for toys that look like mice,
And sofa cushions, soft and nice.
I pray for gourmet kitty snacks,
And someone nice to scratch my back,
For windowsills all warm and bright,
For shadows to explore at night.
I pray I'll always stay real cool
And keep the secret feline rule
To NEVER tell a human that
The world is really ruled by CATS!



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END OF THE YEAR THANKS



** All business and individuals who have been so generous with their kind donations and support.

** Our wonderfully supportive veterinarians.

** Individuals and families who have opened their hearts and homes to a C.A.R.E. animal.
Thank you for helping us save so many lives!

** To the loving pets who have touched us with joy and wonder while adding to the quality of our lives in so many ways.
May the world be a more compassionate and gentle place for you to live in the coming year.

**AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU TO our tireless volunteers, behind the scenes helpers and foster homes that put in countless hours to make C.A.R.E. a success. We could not do it without you! Volunteers are very special to us at CARE. Without them, we couldn't do the life-saving work needed in our community. It cost volunteers nothing but their your time and in this busy world, that's a commodity that's difficult to find. There are always many opportunities open to any and all who are willing to open their hearts to our rescued animals. Our volunteers are special in their tireless devotion to the animals in our care and behind the scenes. Thank you for your willingness to help in so many ways—fostering, helping at adoption fairs, adoption counseling, handling and transporting animals, fundraising, collecting donated supplies, blankets and food—the list is endless!

Well known anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Thank you, CARE volunteers. You make the world a better place...



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*"If we learn to be compassionate
towards other forms of life, we may
learn to become compassionate to our
own species."
—Farley Mowat*