

# SNAP NEWS

*Dedicated to Ending  
Pet Overpopulation*

Summer 2009

## What is SNAP?

Spay/Neuter All Pets, Inc. is a 501 (c) non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to ending euthanasia of healthy, adoptable cats and dogs. We do this by:

- Providing transportation to low-cost spay/neuter facilities
- Providing financial help with the costs of pet sterilization for those who need assistance
- Educating the public about pet over-population
- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Cooperating with other entities to further the cause of humane animal care

## A Message From the President

When I think about what to say to all of our newsletter recipients-- our clients, donors, volunteers and friends -- the very first thought that comes to me is **THANK YOU**. It takes a huge effort from many sources to keep SNAP alive. Not only do we have a talented and hard-working group of volunteers who contribute their time and their ideas, but we have so many clients and friends who remember us each year with their generous donations.

Spay-neuter isn't the most "warm and fuzzy" kind of animal cause--that tag is usually reserved for the rescue groups who snatch abused and abandoned animals from the jaws of

## Save the Date

We're having a fundraiser and we hope you can come! Obrigado Restaurant in Louisa is generously hosting a fundraising dinner to benefit SNAP on Sunday, August 23, 2009. Seatings will be at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30 PM. This will be a fun-filled evening with a dog and cat theme, SNAP volunteers serving as wait-staff, some lovely items for door prizes and an auction.

Mark your calendars. This promises to be a great night out. If you care about animals and you support the work that SNAP is doing in the community, demonstrate that caring and support while enjoying a delicious meal and the camaraderie of friends or family in a lovely setting.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of dining at



this establishment, it is located at 109 W. Main Street in Louisa, directly across the street from the County Courthouse. Obrigado's delectable menu has received rave reviews from well beyond the boundaries of Louisa County.

We are counting on community merchants or other supporters to donate suitable items (tax-deductible, of course). If you are interested in offering such a donation, email us at [mail@snapva.org](mailto:mail@snapva.org),

or call and leave us a message at (540) 967-3573.

We at SNAP are proud of our 13 years of service to the community. Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers who care deeply about the welfare of animals, we have spayed/neutered over 5,000 cats and dogs to date. We depend entirely on grants, donations and fundraising activities such as this. So help us make "SNAP Night at Obrigado" a spectacular success.

hell and place them in loving permanent homes. What could be more heart-warming than that? We deal with the other side of "rescue," reducing the high numbers of abused and abandoned animals that find their way onto public roads and into county shelters to *begin* with. The work we do makes other's jobs easier-- especially those working in the pounds and shelters who suffer through the euthanasia of countless sweet and adoptable animals every week.

Most states in New England have actually enacted spay-neuter legislation which has virtually eliminated euthana-

sia in most areas, keeping the shelters from being full and thus allowing enough time for ALL the animals to find adoptive homes. Here, it is SNAP that must work to keep those shelters from filling up, by seeking out pet owners and encouraging them to spay and neuter. It is a hard job, but so rewarding when we see our shuttles loaded to capacity. It may not be a warm and fuzzy activity, but it is most definitely a noble one. And we couldn't do it without YOU, continuing to stand with us year after year. So, again, my head and heart is full of a great big THANK YOU to you all.

~ Julie Cottrell



Turbo-Rescued by a SNAP Volunteer

## Expecting? vs. What To Expect



The decision to have a pet spayed or neutered is, for some, a worrisome experience. Knowing what to expect may help to allay some of those concerns. Pets that are scheduled for surgery through SNAP receive excellent care from the veterinary staff at the Shenandoah Valley Spay & Neuter Clinic in Harrisonburg, VA. Here is what our clients can expect.

### BEFORE SURGERY

1. Your pet must receive no food after midnight before surgery. An exception is made for puppies and kittens who may be fed 1/4 of their regular meal the morning of surgery.
2. Water must be restricted to a small amount early in the morning.
3. Dogs must have a sturdy collar (not a choke collar) and be on a leash. Cats must be in a crate, preferably with newspaper on the bottom.
4. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. Otherwise, you will have to

pay to have the pet vaccinated at the clinic the day of surgery. Other optional vaccines and tests will be made available for additional fees.

5. Payment is due the morning of drop off.
6. Space on SNAP's transport van is limited and is reserved specifically for your pet. If you cannot keep your appointment, it is very important that you call ahead of time to cancel or reschedule.

### AFTER SURGERY

1. Your pet must be confined indoors and kept calm for at least 10 days. There should be no running or vigorous play.
2. Water should be offered immediately and kept readily available during the period of recovery.
3. Your pet may not have an appetite for up to 24 hours after surgery. Offer 1/4 of his or her usual meal. If your pet keeps it down,

gradually increase it to a normal meal ration. Do not change your pet's diet at this time.

4. The surgical incision needs to be checked every day. Redness and swelling should be minimal. There should be no drainage. Dissolvable stitches and/or skin glue are used, so there is no need to remove them. Pets must not be allowed to lick or chew the incision. An "Elizabethan collar" can be purchased at a pet store if your pet insists on doing this.
5. Your pet may have a slight cough for a few days.
6. You will be provided with the phone number of the clinic and are encouraged to contact them directly if you have questions or concerns related to surgery.

To schedule a pet for surgery, contact SNAP at (540) 967-3573. SNAP is staffed with volunteers, so you will need to leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

A female cat can begin mating at 5-9 months old--a male cat, between 7-10 months. Female cats can have kittens every 4 months. A female dog can begin mating at 6-12 months old--a male dog as early as 5 months. Female dogs can have litters every 6 months.

*Why take a chance. Have your pet spayed or neutered sooner rather than later!*

## Kudos To Our Biggest Donors--We Couldn't Do It Without You

*"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."*

*Sir Winston Churchill*

All donations received by SNAP are deeply appreciated. However, we take special pleasure in recognizing our biggest donors, those who gave \$100 or more since publication of our last Newsletter. They are:

- Linda Anson
- Barton & Boyd
- Nancy & Terry Brown
- Nancy & Joseph Collins
- Selena Deike
- Barbara & Gill Engler
- Evelyn Fleming
- Nancy Garcia
- Valentina Garcia
- Nancy Harris
- Clare Howell

- Margaret & Alexander Leitner
- Darlene Kay Martin
- Edna Musser
- Jackie Niedermayer
- Cliff Pleasants
- Valerie Riddle
- Darlene Rivera
- Jerry & Faye Rosenthal
- Alta & David Schwartz
- Junya Shifflett
- Carolyn Acree
- Sharon Thomas
- Fay & George Tyler
- Liesa & Mike Wilburn
- Women's Club of Blue Ridge Shore



- Julia Murphy
- Laura Roberts
- Jean & Chuck Grutzius
- Susan & David Few
- Lee Wyckoff
- Michael & Gayla Horn
- Wal-Mart Distribution Center
- Alice Everard Charitable Trust

## Shop and Give Without Spending More...Websites Put Your Everyday Shopping to Work for SNAP

No doubt, you already buy all kinds of goods and services online: music, gifts, clothing, airline tickets, pet supplies, office supplies, flowers and more. Now the simple act of shopping can do more than you could imagine for SNAP.

SNAP has enrolled with Benevolink.com and IGive.com, two innovative programs that give you an easy way to support the elimination of euthanasia in Louisa County.

Through these shopping portals, you shop for the things you want and generate charitable giving to the causes of your choice. In

fact, you could generate \$100 or more in a year for SNAP by shopping through these websites.

To learn more and join, visit [www.Benevolink.com](http://www.Benevolink.com) and/or [www.IGive.com](http://www.IGive.com). When you join, remember to add "Spay Neuter All Pets Inc - SNAP" to your giving list.

Both programs offer free enrollment and require no commitment to purchase anything. As you shop with brand name retailers (including many that offer free shipping), you "earn" charitable dollars based on your spending. Benevolink has 200+ vendors, while IGive has a over 700.

Lest you be concerned, these are not fly-by-night organizations. IGive has been online since 1997 and, just last year, raised over \$384,114 in donations. Benevolink was founded in 2002 and will be adding "brick and mortar" retailers in several markets to allow consumers to increase their giving potential.

*"You could generate \$100 or more in a year for SNAP by shopping through these websites."*

## Portrait of a Feral

He has come to be known as "Boy George," first appearing in our lives as a gray-white streak moving like lightening from behind our barn, disappearing deep into the woods. For several months I would catch a glimpse of this feral cat from a distance as he watched me work in the barn. The slightest sound or least movement towards him would send him back into hiding. I knew he was sharing the dry cat food left out overnight for our domestic barn cats. I also knew that this tom cat was causing all sorts of trouble, as I would hear the awful sounds of cat fights in the middle of the night, not to mention his roaming the neighborhood in search of un-spayed female cats in heat!

I began setting (humane) traps and, after several attempts, caught him using canned mackerel as bait. With SNAP's help, he was neutered and vaccinated. The tip of his left ear was clipped--a routine practice used to identify him as a sterilized feral cat. Then, upon his release, he again disappeared.

Several weeks after his surgery he reemerged from hiding and again began watching me in the

barn and watching our house. Day by day, inch by inch, ever so slowly over three years, this cat has come to trust one human and to live in relative peace with his fellow barn cats. Now, Boy George is never far from our back door. He is my nearly constant outdoor companion, following along as I do chores, seeking attention at every opportunity. With loud purring and alternating paws kneading the ground as I rub his head and scratch his back, Boy George is one of the most affectionate cats I've ever known.

This amazing transformation from fearful wild animal to loving feline companion has not been without difficulties and even occasional moments of regret on my part. For many months he bullied and intimidated our other barn cats, upsetting their comfortable routines. He often makes doing simple barn chores a hazard, as he weaves in and out under my feet and walks in front of the horses and me, craving attention at every step. He is a strong, muscular beast! I frequently put him in a crate in order to get my work done without falling over him. He also went through a stage of aggressively grabbing my leg as I walked away, digging in with his claws. I



Boy George

still see that wild look in his eyes from time to time, and he is just now starting to allow my husband, Harold, to come near before he runs.

Many people have a feral tale to tell, each one as individual as the main character in the story. Boy George's tale is still evolving, as he travels a comfortable path somewhere between the 4-legged and 2-

legged worlds. Although I occasionally see signs of his former feral self, I wouldn't be surprised if, in years to come, he will be found sleeping in front of our wood stove on chilly winter nights.

~ Mary Humphries

## In Memory Of/ In Honor Of

Tasha by Donna Ballou

Leo by Nancy Campbell

Tammy by Frances Davis

Blue Boy by Cindra Clark

Baxter by Patsy Lee Landy

Janice Stegall-Seibert by Chris & Sarah Swanlund

Kat Kinkade by Sara Elder

Tiffany by Robert Krasowski

Sandy By Carolyn Acree

Creeker, Sundance, Millie, & Matso by Nancy & Terry Brown

Lynn Greer & Bob Smith by Nancy & Joseph Collins

Kat Kinkade by Darlene Kay Martin

Dean by Edna Musser

Heidi-Ho by Jackie Niedermayer

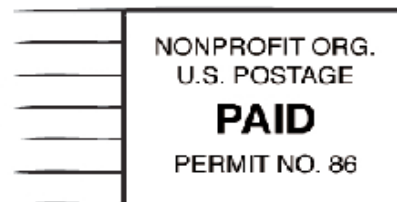
Cecelia Cox by Valerie Riddle

Lulu & Molly by Julia Murphy

Irish Squire & Roxy by Susan & David Few

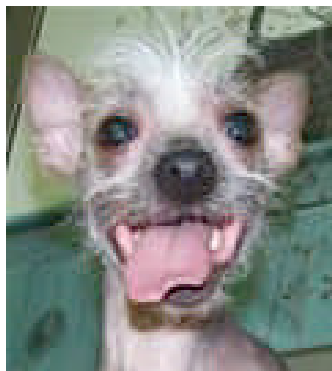


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Return Service Requested

## Is Your Pet a Star?



SNAP is accepting photographs of your pet in preparation for our 2010 calendar. Please submit your digital photographs via email to Colleen at [louisacatnapper@yahoo.com](mailto:louisacatnapper@yahoo.com). Be sure to include your name, telephone number, and a brief summary of what makes your pet so special.

Our 2009 calendar, our first-ever effort to showcase the dogs and cats of Louisa County, was a great success. Many of you are enjoying turning the page as each month passes and maybe even smiling at the image of a familiar pet from the home

of a family you know. Last year's cover was dedicated to Rebecca Burlage's very handsome English Bulldog, "Diesel," who is the only dog of his breed licensed as a service dog in the United States.

Our 2010 calendar promises to be every bit as delightful as last year's. We are striving to make it available later this year in time for Christmas gift giving. Of course, this is another critical element of SNAP's annual fundraising strategy.

Keep an eye out this fall when we begin publicizing

availability of the 2010 SNAP Calendar. We will also post information on our website.

Meanwhile, if you have a business or know of someone who does, we will be looking for sponsors willing to help offset the costs of publication. It's a great way to get widespread exposure for your business at a very nominal cost. If interested, send an email or call us--information above.

