We'd love for you to see our work in action! Please join us for Omaha's largest dog-friendly event ...

Oct. 2, 2016 »
Noon to 4 p.m.

NHS Meadow »
8929 Fort St.

1-mile walk and competitive 5K

Dog painting, kids' scavenger hunt, photo booth and more!

Beer garden, BBQ and tacos

Proceeds help animals @ NHS

Details » **nehumanesociety.org/walk**

NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY
8929 Fort Street • Omaha, NE 68134

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How much do cats sleep? How fast can they run? Get the answers to these burning questions and more INSIDE.

The Heartbeat

SUMMER 2016

Welcome to the first issue of The Heartbeat—an occasional newsletter for friends of the Nebraska Humane Society. Behind every inspiring story is a supporter like you. You are the driving force—**the heartbeat**—of the life-saving activities at NHS. We hope you'll find this issue filled with educational information about programs, helpful hints and tips, events and news. We want this newsletter to be valuable for you, so please share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve. Send your thoughts to us at *nehsdevelopmentinfo@nehumanesociety.org*

INSIDE

CONNECT WITH US

Visit nehumanesociety.org

At the Nebraska Humane Society, we LOVE animals – a lot.

Founded in 1875, we are the fifth oldest humane society in the country and, today, one of the largest. As an open-entry shelter, we accept all animals that arrive at our door. We offer shelter to animals that have no place to call home and provide vital services to them and to the people who love them.

We are active advocates for animal welfare. We have lobbied to close puppy mills, to stop dog fighting, to insist on responsible pet owner guidelines and to enforce dangerous dog ordinances.

We provide animal medical services to animals in our care so when forever homes are found they can live long and healthy lives. To help ensure animals do not return to the shelter after adoption, we offer training classes and behavior modification programs, humane education programs and a free behavior helpline.

As a community partner, we also provide a pet food pantry for residents in economic distress, a low-cost spay and neuter center, a program named Animeals that delivers pet food to elderly pet owners who no longer have the freedom or ability to leave their homes, and Project Pet Safe for companion pets of domestic abuse victims. These programs help us fulfill our mission of protecting, saving and enriching the lives of animals in the communities we serve.

Our goal for every animal is the promise of a healthy and fulfilling life. We all love happy endings, and we couldn't provide them without community support. *Here's what we accomplished—together—in 2015:*

10,477

Dogs, cats, critters and horses found new adoptive homes

2,897

Animals were reunited with their owners

74,526

Number of hours logged by more than 550 volunteers

7,450

Students attended tours and community education events

NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY

1,132

Number of calls received by the FREE behavior helpline

A Life Saved

The Molly Project transforms lost souls into wonderful companions

At one time, some dogs with behavior problems were thought to be so damaged that they were considered unadoptable or untreatable. Many of these animals end up at the Nebraska Humane Society — and today we can help them.

The Molly Project takes in dogs of last hope. Whether abused or neglected and now fearful; slow to train because they are adolescent and rowdy; or reactive in the face of new people and sounds, the Molly Project works intensively with these lost souls, providing wonderful companion animals for people and families. The Molly Project gives them a second chance.

Life in a kennel, however comfortable, is stressful. Time in a shelter can cause any dog to deteriorate. An already at-risk dog undergoing behavioral modification must not only respond to training but also overcome the natural stress of shelter life — the kennels, the noise, the smells.

Just five years ago, few resources were available at NHS to help dogs with behavioral issues. In 2010, with the support of the Peter Kiewit Foundation, a pilot project originally named Special People, Special Dogs was started. Dogs placed in the program received an individualized training plan developed by NHS staff to modify problem behaviors. The goal was to transition animals through behavior modification and into an adoptive home.

NHS staff understands that fearful and unruly dogs need proper adoption counseling and dog training. Progress can be made. Proper socialization of these dogs is important, along with positive reinforcement when behavior milestones are achieved.

Molly Project dogs are placed in loving homes through an enhanced adoption program. This program pairs experienced dog owners with our adoption staff to find the best fit for both the family and the animal. Adopting a Molly dog requires a meeting with an adoption counselor and, if necessary, resident dog introductions.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, NHS surveyed a group of adopters from the Molly Project. ***This is what we learned:***

- ***97 percent of Molly Project dogs*** *remained in the home.*
- ***75 percent of Molly Project adopters*** *described their dog's behavior as well-mannered.*
- ***84 percent of Molly dogs*** *sleep in the bed with a family member or wherever they want. Molly dogs have clearly been rehabilitated as beloved family members.*
- ***81 percent of Molly Project adopters*** *were fully satisfied with the behavioral and temperament information they received about the dog at the time of adoption.*

In addition, NHS provides enhanced training support after adoption, easing the transition into the home. Adoptive families are offered this support, under the supervision of NHS trained professionals, to continue the training that started in the Molly Project — **reducing the likelihood of the animal returning to the shelter.**

A huge success, since 2010 more than **2,000 dogs** — previously considered unadoptable and untreatable — have found loving homes; ***every one of which is a life saved.***

Because of generous contributions from donors like you and the Peter Kiewit Foundation, more dogs are finding their forever homes — no matter how their lives began.

For more information on the Molly Project or to inquire about adopting one of these dogs, please email **diamonddogs@nehumanesociety.org.**

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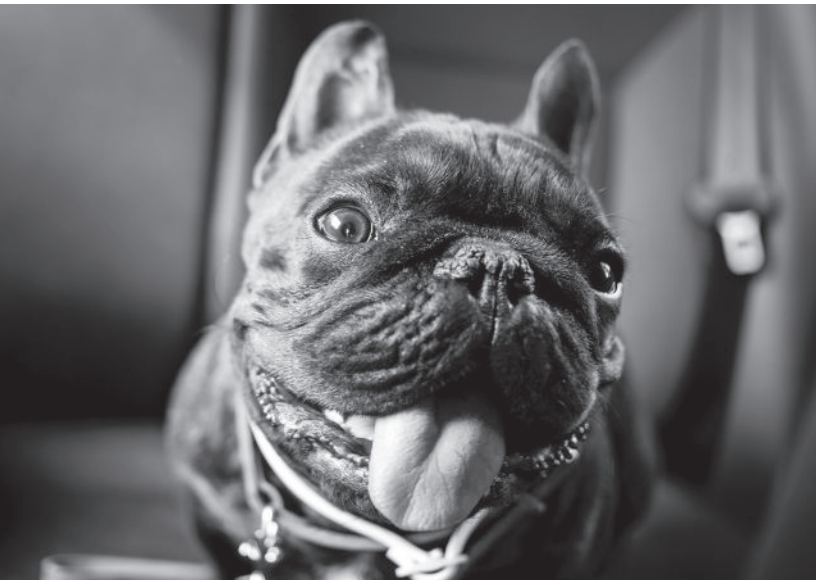
WITH YOUR CANINE



Summer is in full swing! Most likely you and your best four-legged friend have been hitting the road, cruising the highways, sunglasses on, wind in your hair. You may be planning a long road trip with several stops or just a cruise to the corner and back. Whatever your destination, NHS has some tips to help ensure a safe and comfortable journey for everyone.

Before you leave, make sure your pet is microchipped for identification and also wearing a collar with a tag imprinted with your name and contact information.

- Keep the dog's leash firmly in hand when loading and unloading the dog from the car. Animals can easily get loose while you are distracted during loading and unloading.
- If you are taking a longer trip, bring food, a water bowl, leash, and plastic bags for waste. Consider a crate in the back seat or rear of the hatchback secured with a harness.
- You probably do not want to hear this but … most experts recommend that for safety reasons, your dog should not ride in the front seat with you. Sudden stops and air bags are as dangerous for our furry friends as for small children.
- Okay, this one is hard … but recommendations are to NOT allow your dog to ride with his

PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND FOR PET OWNERS

Our pets are members of our families. They provide us with unconditional love, companionship and joy every day.

As devoted caretakers of our animal companions, we worry about what might happen to them in the event we become seriously ill or unable to care for them. Here at the Nebraska Humane Society, all too often we see what happens when good planning is not done.

Paws for Life is a special program accessible to those who have demonstrated an interest in helping homeless animals by leaving a financial gift in their will or estate plan. The **Paws for Life** program allows you the peace of mind knowing that your animal will be well cared for, and it allows you to help homeless animals, too.

For more information about **Paws for Life** please visit our website or contact Kenley Sturdivant-Wilson at 402-905-3438 or by email at ksturdivant-wilson@nehumanesociety.org.

head outside the window! Road debris, insects and inhalation of cold air can irritate your pet and sometimes cause illness.

• Look into purchasing a seat belt harness and keep your dog in the back seat in a harness attached to a seat buckle.

• If you don't have a seat belt harness, use a short leash with a loop on the end. Adjust the back seat's middle seatbelt as tight as it will go. Slip the leash through the seatbelt and re-secure it.

The leash should be short enough to limit the dog to sitting up, lying down and turning around, but be sure to leave enough slack to make you buddy comfortable.

• If you are off-roading in your truck, leave your pet at home or in the cab inside. The bed of the pickup truck is NOT a safe place to transport pet.

• Never leave your animal alone in a parked vehicle. You know why!

• When it comes to cats, it is best to leave them at home, unless it is time for a trip to the veterinarian. There are always exceptions, but most cats get stressed by riding in cars, so when it is time for them to travel, they should ride in a sturdy carrier and if it has straps for the seatbelt to go through, use that to secure the carrier. Pheromone sprays and collars may help reduce anxiety.

References: ASPCA, Edmunds.com, and Subaru Drive Magazine

VACATION TIPS

By Dr. Laura Andersen, NHS Veterinarian

Your trip is just around the corner and your plans don't include bringing your pet along, here a few things to remember:

Make plans in advance. Schedules for good pet sitters and kennels fill up fast, especially during the summer months. The sooner you can reserve a spot, the better.

Keep your pet (and others) safe. Make sure your animal is up-to-date on vaccinations and boosters. For dogs, most kennels require proof of the Bordetella vaccination, the rabies vaccine and the DA2PP (distemper) vaccination. For cats, kennels require the FELV vaccination and typically the rabies vaccine. Viruses spread easily and rapidly in high-risk environments where there is a large concentration of animals such as pet boarding facilities, daycare businesses and even dog shows and busy dog parks.

Make a plan for emergencies. Prepare an emergency contact sheet and specify the types of decisions the caretaker can make and at what cost. Include: (1) Your contact information while you're traveling; (2) the name of your veterinary clinic; and (3) your veterinarian's phone number and address. Before you leave, be sure your caretaker is comfortable with whatever decision-making power you want to give to him or her.

– Dr. Laura Andersen attended Iowa State University for her undergraduate and professional education then completed a residency in shelter medicine at the University of Florida. Dr. Andersen has also studied Veterinary Public Health through the University of Minnesota and is a Masters candidate.

DID YOU KNOW? *Cats are the most popular pet in the United States: There are 88 million pet cats and 74 million dogs.*

• Cats make more than 100 different sounds, including meowing, purring, growling and hissing. Cats also communicate through body language, interaction, scent and biting.

• Cats sleep anywhere from 16 to 20 hours a day, typically. For very young or old cats, it's closer to 20, and newborns sleep almost 24/7. While cats spend at least two-thirds of their lives asleep, they're not "asleep" in quite the same way humans are. Cats are always alert, even when they're dozing.

• Female cats are typically right-pawed while male cats are typically left-pawed. Dogs' preferences also tend to split down gender lines.

• House cats can hit speeds of about 30 mph.

• Cats use their whiskers to detect if they can fit through a space.

Sources: Animal Planet, Live Science, LA Times, The Wall Street Journal