

# The PAW PRINT

PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY, INC.

P. O. Box 16664 • Raytown, MO 64133 • 816-252-2680

www.PAWS-inc.org



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Providing Animal Welfare Through Low-cost Neutering and Education

September 2008

## BEST CHOICE UPDATE



From January 1 through August, there have been 117 people who sent in Best Choice labels. We have received \$420 plus a \$30 bonus for a total of \$450.

For those who are new to saving Best Choice (BC) barcodes for us, we only need the barcode (see above sample), not the entire label. This will save you postage by reducing the weight and bulkiness of your package.

Barcodes are prohibited from milk, cigarettes and soda cans.

We continue to receive a great amount of BC from our loyal members.

Send a little or a lot, each barcode is worth three cents to us and it truly does help PAWS continue the neuter/spay program.

## PAWS ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 11

The PAWS annual meeting and election of officers will be held Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the Trails West Library on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Independence, Mo, at 2 pm. All offices are available.

If you would like to be considered for an office, please contact VP Connie Mayta at [paws.vp@paws-inc.org](mailto:paws.vp@paws-inc.org) or leave a message in mail box 2 by October 4<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2008 PAWS RAFFLE A RECORD SUCCESS!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in our annual raffle.

Whether you bought tickets or donated prizes, this year's raffle donations came to \$1,854 which is a record amount compared to the last few years.

PAWS cannot express how much we appreciate your donations year after year. It's because of you, our loyal supporters that we are able to continue **our mission to eliminate pet overpopulation through neuter and spay.**



PAWS President Jeri Wilson draws the grand prize winner.

Congratulations also go to **Michaelle Polk** for selling 236 raffle tickets. For her hard work, Michaelle received a gift card donated specifically for that purpose from an anonymous supporter.

When all the names were drawn we'd given away 38 prizes. A complete list of the prizes and winners can be viewed on our website at [www.paws-inc.org](http://www.paws-inc.org).

And PAWS would like to thank those who attended the drawing and delivered the prizes that couldn't be mailed.

PAWS would also like to thank the companies and individuals that donated prizes, but didn't get recognition in our last newsletter.

Thank you to the **Anderson Restaurant Group** for their donation of a \$20 gift certificate, **Buster's Finest Custom Candles** for the donation of six wood wick candles, **Dick's Clothing and Sporting Goods** for the donation of a \$25 gift certificate, **Summit Pet Care** in Lee's Summit for their donation of a very nice basket of goodies, and an anonymous supporter who donated several gift baskets as well as an oil change at Metro Ford. Again thanks to all of you!

PAWS appreciates each and every one who participated in our 2008 raffle. See you next year!

The lucky winner of our **Grand Prize** of a One Night Stay in a Deluxe Guestroom at the Kansas City Marriott, including breakfast for two at Lilly's Restaurant, was awarded to **Kathy Murphy.**

The winner of our **First Prize** of a Friday or Saturday night stay in a deluxe room at the Doubletree Hotel was awarded to **Janet Congdon.**

Congratulations to Kathy and Janet!

### UPCOMING EVENT



#### CITY THEATRE PLAY

Mark your calendars to see the thriller "I'll be back before Midnight" performed by City Theatre in Independence, on producer's night, Thursday October 30, 2008.

Producers Dave and Connie Mayta will once again use ticket sales as a fund raiser for PAWS and ABF.

The play opens as Jan, who's recovering from a nervous disorder, and her husband rent a remote cabin from an odd farmer who tells gruesome ghost tales.

When the husband's lustful sister arrives, frightening events transpire.

What happens to the fragile wife as bodies appear and disappear gives this classic thriller its horrifying impact.

*"Wonderfully spooky ... somewhere between an Agatha Christie mystery and a Hitchcock thriller. Peter Colley sends up the haunted house bit with both witty and maudlin dialogue, and at the next moment interrupts the audience's laughter with a heart thumping scare ... A really good ghost story."*

- Toronto Globe and Mail.

To request more information about reserving a seat, leave a message in mail box 2 for Connie or e-mail pawsinc@comcast.net.

Reservation forms will be mailed in September.

#### The PAW PRINT

Published 3-4 times a year to report our activities and promote the benefits of neutering and proper pet care.

##### OFFICERS

- President ..... JERI WILSON
- Vice President ..... CONNIE MAYTA
- Treasurer ..... DAVE MAYTA
- Recording/Corresponding Secretary ..... SHELLY TRUE
- Program Director ..... JUDY FIELDS
- Editors ..... SHELLY TRUE & CONNIE MAYTA
- DTP ..... ARIANA REEDER

### PAWS ABOUT TOWN

A TROPICAL EVENING with PETS 'N' ALL THAT JAZZ was another successful adventure.

This year, guests, encouraged to wear their island duds were greeted by two lovely young women and given flower leis, adding to the festive mood.



The Pick-A-Paw Table had 75 gift certificates available, a new record. New (and popular) this year was the Siamese Auction table. The **Birds of Love** show offered by Yvonne Patterson was fun and educational. **Animals Best Friends** and PAWS shared a profit of \$6,298.

#### THE HARTFORD

Many thanks to **The Hartford Insurance Company** for adopting PAWS as one of their charities again this year and presenting us with a check for \$500.00.

Once again we thank Amie Livingston Smith for encouraging us to submit our request. This comes at a great time since our vet bills have been higher than anticipated. PAWS appreciates being chosen for this donation.

The Kansas City Area  
  
**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS**

Entertainment 2009 Coupon Books are here and are \$20 each, with PAWS receiving \$4 from each sale. There are lots of great 50% and buy one, get one free coupons as well as great bargain coupons.

If you would like to purchase one or more, please leave a message in mail box 2 for Connie or email paws.vp@paws-inc.org.

**Hurry, you don't want to be without one!**

#### CARING FROM AFAR

By Betty Baumgartner

I don't remember the exact day that it happened, but it was an occasion when I came upon an animal in need. A hungry puppy... that day when I took time to go to the store to buy dog food, return and hand out a much needed meal. I decided right then in my mind and my heart that I would never turn my back on an animal in need. I was never going to think "someone else will help it" and walk away again. I can't always help in a big way, but even a full belly can really make someone feel better, even if it is only for a little while. Or a drink of much needed water, or a blanket to help keep warm on a freezing day. *I also figured out that "good intentions" are no better than doing nothing.* That is when I decided I was going to try to make a difference, albeit a small one. I have always loved animals and have always had them in my life—mainly cats. Some people even call me a bleeding heart. But that is a moniker that makes me proud. I currently own 8 cats and one spoiled Rottweiler who are all rescues—three of them are "Mexican" cats that I found since I came to Mexico. They are all the light of my life.

I have rescued many animals in my lifetime, and managed a feral cat colony in my backyard. That is how I met "PAWS". I had been taking many of my kittens to the vet, who conveniently was located a half a block from my house. He often gave me a break on the price for spays or neuters as he knew what my mission was. He offered information about PAWS, and I contacted them about help with my situation. I am not a poor person, but even the cost was becoming hard for my budget. I don't have an exact number of cases that PAWS helped me with, but it was considerable. So I

(Continued at top of page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

became a volunteer and helped when I could with fund raisers and best choice labels. I won the annual prizes for most labels a couple of years, thanks to my sister and all my friends from the Ford plant in Claycomo who helped collect them for the cause.

Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast over 2 years ago and all I could think about was who is going to help the animals? That is when my sister saw an article in the paper where Wayside Waifs was taking donations for transport to the animals in need. So I put my people resources—my sister and my friends and co-workers at the Ford plant—to work on giving help to the animals through monetary, food and material donations. I had only a week or so to do this before the transport truck was to leave for Louisiana. Spending my breaks and lunches I was lucky enough to collect over \$800.00 in cash and donations. When my sister and I delivered the donations to Wayside, I was amazed at the generosity of so many people—through time and labor—that they were so willing to give.

Because all my friends and co-workers know what I am all about when it comes to animals, I have been often called the “cat woman”. Feeding them to rescuing them made me the person that everyone always comes to when they have a cat question or a problem with their pet. I have learned a lot over the years from first hand experience—and The Animal Planet, on occasion.

I was able to retire about a year and a half ago. My goal was to sell my house in Missouri and move the Baja Mexico. I was lucky enough to see that dream come true. So I loaded up my truck and trailer and my sister and I headed down the Baja. I live in a small little house in a small little Mexican town on the beach right north of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Its name is La Ribera. There are about 100 or so “gringos” living here, most of whom own some kind of pet. Up until recently, the closest medical attention for our beloved “mascotas” was about 45 minutes away. Then two very generous people stepped forward and donated land and helped construct a brand new small animal clinic in a town north of here called Los Barillos. It is small, but very efficient. It is staffed right now 3 days a week with 3 Mexican vets from San Jose del Cabo, and 6 full time volunteers who take turns on different days doing the administrative duties, helping with clients and doing hands-on work in the surgery room and recovery. I am one of those

volunteers. This place has really given me a sense of worth as far as working with the animals is concerned. I am a member of a local rescue group called “Amigos de Animales” (Friends of Animals). We have fund raisers and events to help raise money to offer financial help to the local Mexican families with pets who could not otherwise afford sterilizations and much needed medical care for their animals. My fellow volunteer, Berta and I also canvass the town to give out free vaccinations and wormings.

This enables us to meet the public and put the word out about spaying and neutering. We schedule the animals for sterilization

and transport to the clinic. A lot of the times the language barrier makes it a little tough, but I am learning Spanish and most of the local people are extremely friendly and understand that we are making a big effort to help them, so between all of us we manage to communicate just fine. It is a lot of fun, as their English is as bad as our Spanish. Sometimes it can be frustrating though, because

some of the local people don't understand the importance of spay-neuter, but that is part of the challenge. About once a year we have what we call “clinics” where our vets and volunteers come together on a designated day to do free spays and neuters here in town on a walk-in basis. I have been a part of the last

two, and between 40 and 80 animals were done in one day. We are planning another one in two weeks, with the help of the vets from the United States who come through every so often and offer their talents for free. Amigos de Animales pays for the medicines and collateral costs. La Ribera is a small town, but there is an over abundance of animals—especially dogs. Cats are a rarity, unless kept inside, as they usually become victim to very hungry if not starving dogs. The cat and dog situation is in a dismal state all over Mexico (the world). I am so glad to know that now there is help out there through the clinic and the dedicated volunteers. It is a slow and difficult process, but I firmly believe that what I am doing is making a difference and you have to start somewhere. A lot of the cases are heartbreaking, from starving animals to sick animals. I find myself drawn to the cats of La Ribera. They

(Continued on back page)



Left to right: Dr. Jorge Bravo, Dr René DeLa Garza D., and Betty Baumgartner. Not pictured: Dr. Gabriel Silva Zepeda.



**CARING FROM AFAR** by Betty Baumgartner

(Continued from page 3)

are my soft spot. I like to keep track of the ones that I have helped, not only for the sake of the cat, but for the new friendships that I have kindled with the owners. It is hard to understand why they don't make a better effort to take care of their animals, until I stop to think that they are having a tough time caring for themselves and their families. But all the people that I have worked with are so very grateful for the effort that our group makes to help them. I have discovered that Mexicans are an extremely kind and grateful people. They are truly hardy people who have managed to make what appears to be a contented life with so little. We (Americans) could all take a page from their book. Life here is so simple and stress free.

The Mexicans here in our town have come to not only know us better, but to depend on us when their animals are in need. It is good public relations for us "gringos" who not only want to live here, but want to fit in and make a contribution. We have become the "dog ladies"—the ones to go to for help.

Our task ahead of us remains a long one, but we all remain dedicated and optimistic. Every dog and cat we sterilize makes us just a little bit closer to our goal—no more unwanted or homeless animals in our beautiful little town by the sea. And I am going to keep my promise to myself and never turn my back on an animal in need.

**MEMORIALS**

*Contributions in memory of a person or pet friend are welcome as memorials.*

♥ In loving memory of my wife, **PAM**.  
— Kent Vogel

♥ In memory of my dad **BILL MILLER**, my brother-in-law, **GENE GENNETTEN**, my husband, **BILL MANION**, my horse, **CHEYENNE** and my dog, **MARTHA STEWART**.  
— June Manion

♥ In memory of my sweetheart, **DEBBIE**.  
— Doug Sharitz

♥ In memory of **VALERIE THOMAS**, a conscientious and dedicated volunteer for **PAWS** for 4 years. She was always ready to go the extra mile to help. Valerie won the "most Best Choice Bar Codes sent in" in 2005 and had accumulated 985 UPC's this year! We miss you.  
— Your friends at PAWS

♥ In memory of **DORA WOOD**, who passed away April 3, 2008. She was an advocate for spaying and neutering. She loved animals. She used **PAWS** several times to help with the cost of spaying and neutering pets in her surrounding neighborhood.  
— From her friends & family

♥ In memory of **RUTH HARKEY** (mother of Connie Mayta).  
— Lynda Modlinski

♥ I miss you **SPOOKER**. Gone but never forgotten.  
— All my love, Dorian

♥ In memory of "**THE LOVELY LOUISE**" who passed away April 2, 2008. She was lovingly cared for by Susan Whiteaker.  
— Audri Peterson

♥ In memory of **MR. LITTLE**, mom & dad's cat. Deeply loved & missed.  
— Terre & John

♥ In memory of **ZUMER**, our Kitty-Man from the Humane Society.  
— Sheila Downey

♥ In memory of my **EMMA JEAN**, who passed away May 27, Memorial Day, 2002. There will always be an Emma Jean sized hole in my heart. It is still a gaping hole where it has been broken, but is slowly being filled by memories of how much Emma Jean taught me and how much she was loved.  
— Susan Whiteaker

♥ In memory of my four "Dynasty" cats who have gone to heaven: **KRYSTAL, ALEXIS, AMANDA & DOMINIQUE**. We sure miss them.  
— Anita Whittington



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P.O. BOX 16664  
RAYTOWN, MO 64133