



Alaska Pet News



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to STOP's members and those who love dogs and cats!

As Thanksgiving season comes to a close, we have much to be thankful for.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter.



Our mission: ending pet overpopulation and the killing of healthy, adoptable pets at animal controls and humane societies.

Save lives by helping us STOP pet overpopulation!

STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.

December 2012

11-Year Anniversary

STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc. has been helping pay to spay and neuter dogs and cats in Alaska since 2001. Our director, Lori-Jo Oswald, Ph.D., founded the organization out of her home in Palmer.

We are an all-volunteer organization, and are dependent on donations to cover the \$8,000 yearly requests for spay/neuter assistance. Currently, we help spay and neuter from 800 to 1,200 pets each year; some years, when we've had more donations, we've been able to help over 3,000 dogs and cats get altered.

Veterinarians throughout the state accept our vouchers. We focus on communities outside Anchorage since Anchorage has two excellent programs: the Friends of Pets spay program and the Alaska SPCA Spay Clinic.



Donations can be mailed to us or made at our Web site:

www.alaskastop.org

And a special note to our members: Thank you for all your support these last 11 years! You have helped us save many lives.

Click Pick Give

January is almost here, and we just wanted to let you know that STOP is one of the charities on Click Pick Give. Last year we received over \$2,000 in donations (which is not as much as many nonprofits, but that was all without advertising!), which all went to spaying and neutering dogs and cats in Alaska. Please consider giving to STOP or another animal rescue organization when you Click Pick Give!



Why Spay & Neuter?

Millions of dogs and cats die needlessly in the United States every year because there are just too many of them for the homes out there. Spaying female and neutering male dogs and cats is the easiest solution to this problem. Do not let another good pet die just because there are too many. Spaying, quite simply, works. See our Web site for more information.



Join STOP Now or Donate Now – You Can Even Give a Christmas Present for Those Who Love Pets

Please help us continue our spay-neuter program by donating to STOP. For those who want to send a Christmas gift membership or donation, we will send out a card with your donation information to the person you designate.

\$35 Membership \$50 Family Other donation amount In memory of: _____

All donations are tax deductible. Membership is for 1 year. **Mail donation to STOP, c/o 3035 Madison Way, Anchorage, AK 99508**

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Gift Membership to: Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

From: _____ Message to include: _____

Thank You to Our Super Donors & Volunteers

So many have helped STOP save the lives of dogs and cats in Alaska over the last year, but a few especially stand out for their donations of time or money. We want to say a special thank you to these key donors this holiday:

- Bonnie Baize
- Carolyn Holbert
- Cindy Drake-Whitehead
- Gregory Drummond
- Linda Galloway*
- Lori-Jo Oswald



Our Team of Veterinarians...and how to join

Thank you, too, to our veterinarians statewide who have teamed up with us to end pet overpopulation in Alaska. The following veterinarians currently accept our vouchers (if you don't see your clinic's name here, just go to alaskastop.org and click on the Veterinarian's page to download a form and sign up):

1. All Creatures Veterinary Clinic (Mat-Su)
2. Animal House Veterinary Services (Fairbanks)
3. Aurora Animal Clinic (Fairbanks)
4. Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks)
5. Delta Veterinary Service (Delta)
6. Douglas Island Veterinary Service (Douglas)
7. Far Country Animal Hospital (Mat-Su)
8. Great & Small Animal Center (Kodiak)
9. Kenai Veterinary Hospital (Kenai)
10. Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital (Fairbanks)
11. North Pole Veterinary Hospital (North Pole)
12. North Star Animal Hospital (Mat-Su)
13. Palmer Veterinary Clinic (Mat-Su)
14. Raven Veterinary Services (North Pole)
15. Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic (Eagle River)
16. Seward Animal Clinic (Kenai)
17. Soldotna Animal Hospital (Kenai)
18. Twin Cities Veterinary Clinic (Kenai)
19. Valdez Veterinary Clinic (Valdez).

A Day at the Dog Park

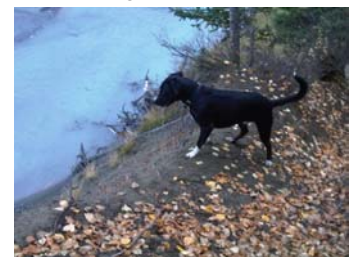
By Lori-Jo Oswald, STOP Director



One of my favorite places to be in Anchorage is at University Lake Dog Park. Every day, I try to take my rescued friends, such as sisters Chewie and Blue, pictured above, to one of the many dog parks in Anchorage. We most frequently visit University Lake, Connors Bog, and the South Dog Park. But University Lake is special.

First, you'll make many friends there, and see the same people on many days. Your dogs will get to socialize and play with anywhere from 10 to 50 dogs, depending on the time of day. In the summer, your dogs can swim (but be careful in the spring and fall, when the thin ice can create a serious hazard for pets and their people—Blue and Chewie fell through one April).

It is wonderful to see so many people love and care for their dogs the way those who walk them at the dog parks do. Over the years, volunteering for various humane societies, I have seen some terrible things when it comes to treatment of animals. I am still saddened when I see a dog that never gets to come inside and be part of the family, let alone go for walks. But at the dog parks, I see another kind of pet owner—the kind who should be considered heroes in my view. For many of them have not only rescued their dogs, but also take the time and care to let them walk and play, no matter what the temperature. I salute you!



I hope you all get to enjoy a walk in the dog park with your friends this holiday season! For me, nothing takes the sting out of the cold like watching happy dogs at play!

One complaint: The City needs to be a better job providing parking areas, especially at University Lake, Russian Jack, and Far North Bicentennial Park (Muldoon & Tudor entrance).

10 Ways to Help STOP Save Dogs & Cats in Alaska

- Ask your company about matching funds. Some, such as BP, even match volunteer hours with cash donations!
- Donate online or by sending a check
- Make donation canisters, and ask at your favorite stores if they will let us put one on the counter! Check at your office as well.
- Ask your office if they can sponsor a fundraising day for STOP - perhaps a parking lot sale of used items, equipment, etc.
- Send articles and photos for our newsletter to spay@alaskastop.org.
- Ask your veterinarian to accept our vouchers. There is no cost to the veterinarian.
- Two of our members send frequent donations, sometimes even monthly! Consider adding STOP to your calendar to send a donation every month! We so appreciate this kindness!
- Do you (or does your company) have paper, stamps, or office equipment that might help us in our mission?
- Hold a garage sale, and donate the proceeds to STOP!



- Volunteer for our fundraising committee.

We welcome your ideas too!

Why You Should Spay and Neuter Your Pets – A Letter from an Anchorage 5th Grader

I think it is important to spay and neuter your pets because if pets overpopulate, some will have to go to the pound, which costs the taxpayers' money and kills innocent pets. A solution to this problem would be to have a spay clinic in the animal control center. People wouldn't mind paying for spaying because they are already paying taxes for killing the animals. Organizations like STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc. (STOP) might volunteer to run the spay clinic in the animal control center.

We do not want pets to be caged and killed because people do not spay and neuter. I'm sure this will be a great idea if you think about it. It is sad for pets to be euthanized. Please help save the lives of these good creatures. I think that humans and animals should be treated equally. Mankind has tried for many years to get rid of racism. We are doing the exact same thing with animals. What did they do wrong? If you are trying to find the answer to this question and you are not finding it, the reason is they didn't do anything wrong. I assure you there is no answer to this question.



Winston & Blue. Photo by Alaska Photography – Thank you, Dave Jensen!

Pet overpopulation is a problem everywhere, not just in Anchorage. It has spread in every place I have visited. I found four stranded puppies in Louisiana. Nobody wanted to take them, even though they were free. Those puppies would never have been left there if someone had spayed their pets. The animal control center near Farmville, Louisiana, put down over 75 dogs a day because the owners never spayed and neutered their pets. Four to seven million dogs and cats are being killed at animal controls in the U.S. every year. The number of animals being euthanized is decreasing because of spay clinics.

It is sad for pets to be euthanized. Please help save the lives of these good creatures.

My family has gotten all of cats and dogs and some of our other pets from animal control, humane societies, or on the streets. To help this problem, everybody has to work together to spay and neuter pets. My family has tried to do the best it can to spay and neuter pets. I hope you will spread the word and do the same.

by Winston, son of one of STOP's directors, who was in 5th grade when he wrote this (published the Anchorage Daily News)

Remember Animal Charities This Holiday – Even a Letter Will Do!

Often animal charities are overlooked by those donating. Personally, I have volunteered for humane societies for over 30 years, and often that work has involved fundraising. You would be surprised how many companies and grantee organizations, including well-known Alaska and national foundations, reject all animal charities. Or they give to what they consider popular “animal” related groups, such as zoos.

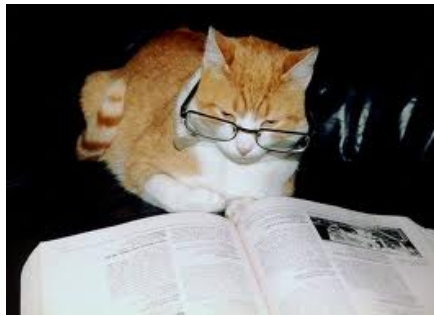


APlaceToLoveDogs.com

But some of the hardest-working (and in my view, underappreciated) people I have ever met are pet charity

volunteers. Animal rescue and spay/neuter groups receive little funding but need so much of your help. In Alaska, we are fortunate to have some excellent nonprofits working to help save the lives of dogs and cats, who, through no fault of their own, end up in shelters, animal controls, and pet rescues. Animal groups don't often receive the publicity, money, or accolades that other charities do, but I don't believe this is because their work is of less value.

Some of my personal favorite charities in Alaska are, of course, STOP, Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue, and Friends of Pets, but there are many more. The SPCA Spay Clinic provides a great service to Anchorage pets and pet owners. Two of my dogs came from Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue. The Alaska Horse Rescue is also one of my personal favorites. It seems that our state is filled with so many dedicated volunteers who do so much for so little positive feedback and appreciation. Well, we've been there, and we salute you all!



Find that charity that is special to you, and give - time or money, or even a letter of appreciation - if you can. Happy Holidays! -Lori-Jo



Him? No, he doesn't want a cookie. He says I can have two.

To Veterinarians

Participating in STOP is easy, and at no cost to you; we just pay a portion of spay/neuter costs for individual pet owners who apply for assistance through STOP. We send them a voucher (from \$20-\$50); you bill us monthly using our simple billing form. See the Veterinary tab at www.alaskastop.org to print and mail in a form.

Spay/Neuter Applications

If you need assistance to get your pet spayed or neutered, please visit our Web site at www.alaskastop.org and print the application; mail it in with a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you are in Anchorage, call the SPCA Spay Clinic (562-2999) or get a coupon from www.friendsofpets.org.

*Dedicated to
"Schatzy," my
treasure for over
14 years. So
much love and
friendship from a
dear abandoned
dog. I was lucky
to find you! -Lori-*



STOP the Overpopulation of Pets, Inc.

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