



Waggin' Tails

NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANESOCIETY OF MASON COUNTY

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Setting New Year's Resolutions for You and Your Pets

Don't forget your pets when setting your New Year's resolutions. By planning ahead you plan for success. Here are the HSMC's top 7 suggestions to include this coming calendar year.



1. Health Checkups and Vaccinations – The importance of yearly health exams cannot be under stated. These yearly exams give your veterinarian the opportunity to regularly monitor for health changes and make necessary recommendations for disease prevention. Keeping your pet current on vaccinations is extremely important is the prevention of disease transmission. Remember in most counties Rabies vaccinations are required by Law.
2. Parasite Prevention- Parasites prevention is important to the health of your pets. Fleas and ticks are common external parasites which can be prevented and controlled with regular treatment protocols. Always talk to your veterinarian before using any over the counter product labeled for the control of external parasites. Heartworms and other internal parasites such as round worms, hook worms, or tape worms can be detected with simple blood tests or stool sample examinations at your local veterinary clinic. Your veterinarian can then prescribe correct treatment medications and recommend a parasite prevention plan.
3. Proper Nutrition- What you feed your pet has a direct effect on their health. Many times pet owners do not realize the differences in various brand of dog and cat foods. Feeding your pet the correct food and in proper proportions will truly help to keep your pet well. Become a label reader. Learn about the various ingredients in your pet's food and consult your veterinarian for brand recommendations. There are many healthy, premium grade pet foods now available over the counter at your local pet stores and many pet stores offer samples for you to try before you buy.
4. Dental Care- Proper dental care will lead to a longer healthier life for your pet. Regular cleanings called dental prophylaxis includes scaling and polishing of the gums and teeth. This process reduces the buildup of bacteria in your pet's mouth which could enter the bloodstream and cause damage to internal organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys. By keeping the gums healthy and teeth clean you significantly reduce the onset of periodontal disease and tooth loss.
5. Spay or Neutering- "Fixing" your pet not only eliminates the chance of unwanted puppies and kittens but greatly reduces many health risks. Aggression, fighting, biting and wandering can easily be prevented by neutering male dogs and cats. Not only does spaying your female dog or cat prevent unwanted pregnancies but reduces disease transmissions and lowers the risk to reproductive cancers. Ask your veterinarian about the benefits of these procedures.
6. Microchips and Identification- Simply putting a collar on your cat or dog is no way to insure they will find their way back to you if they are lost. A high percentage of pets that end up in shelters show up with collars but no ID. Microchipping your pet will insure that your local veterinarian and animal shelter can identify and return your pet to you even if their collar or tags fall off. Keep in mind that some studies have shown that microchips may cause cancer although the benefits may outweigh the risk.
7. Exercise Program- Make a date with your dog every day. A regular exercise routine not only helps your dog feel like they are part of the family but also keep your dogs weight down and keep his/her body in shape. Whether you engage in walking, jogging, hiking, or simple ball play remembers this New Year's resolution will benefit you as well as your pet.

"They will not go quietly, the cats who've shared our lives. In subtle ways they let us know their spirit still

survives. Old habits still make us think we hear a meow at the door. Or step back when we drop a tasty morsel on the floor. Our feet still go around the place the food dish used to be, And, sometimes, coming home at night, we miss them terribly. And although time may bring new friends and a new food dish to fill, That one place in our hearts belongs to them. . . and always will. " - Linda Barnes

~ In loving memory of Boo Boo Kitty & Morris Kitty Edell - We miss you both so much!..~

Foster pet care providers needed! [Will you open your heart and home and help us today?](#)

HSMC LOGO WEAR



Our first annual **"We Love Pets!"** 2008 calendar have arrived! [\(To order you own click here!\)](#)



Calendar Page Examples

Calling all Animal Lovers! WE NEED YOU! [Volunteers Signup Here!](#)

Tempting Tuna Treats ~ Makes 55 to 65 marble-sized treats ~

To most cats, tuna is almost as attractive as catnip! Try this delicious cat treat recipe on your cat!

Ingredients:

- 1 3-ounce can albacore tuna in water or oil, undrained
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup nonfat dry milk
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup water

Directions:

