



Four Hearts Foundation Newsletter

The 2013 year is in full swing for The Four Hearts Foundation! We have some planned events, and a few potentials, ahead for the year. Visit our website, www.fourheartsfoundation.org, for more details! In the meantime, here are a few stories with happy endings made possible by your donations:



Brutus

Ailments from an accident over a year ago started catching up to this 2.5 year old German Shepherd mix. When the curious pup decided to chase a duck, he didn't mind his surroundings and fell into a lake. The fall was rough enough to tear his ACL, resulting in a limp and increasing discomfort over time. As soon as his owner found out about our foundation, he contacted us for help. Because of your donations, Brutus was able to get the medication he needed to ease his pain, and become a playful, curious dog again.



Bronx

Nine months old and 77 lbs. of love, this Great Pyrenees mix had some difficulty using his hind legs. First the family attempted a change of diet in hopes that the issue was due to muscle growth problems. It was soon apparent that Bronx would need more stringent care, so he was taken to the local vet's office for x-rays and pain medication, both of which would have been harder to come by without aide from The Four Hearts Foundation. It turns out that hip dysplasia was the culprit, and Bronx is now recovering nicely from surgery.



Felix



At first this little kitty was slated to be spayed before going home to a lovely new family, but it was quickly discovered that she was actually a he, and already fixed! The Four Hearts Foundation was still able to lend a hand with shots and a feline leukemia test before Felix settled in with his new brothers and sisters.

more on the next page!



Rocket

At only four months old, this Yorkie has had an impressive amount of issues. He came into his new owners life bearing love, comfort, and fleas! After being taken to the vet, it was revealed that Rocket had other friends as well, worms! With proper treatment, Rocket was on his way to being happy and healthy, until an accident occurred. One of the smaller members of the family fell on top of Rocket, breaking his elbow. With the financial strain still looming from previous vet visits, The Four Hearts Foundation was able to assist in getting Rocket back on his paws, as well as netuered! Many thanks to our donors for being able to help lift the dark cloud hovering over Rocket!



Thank You All!

♥ Donations (In Cash or In Kind) ♥

Karyn Moser
Dave and Cathy Moeller
Mathis, Marifian and Richter Foundation
Lisa Brown
Greg and Kathy Simmons
Wendy Kricensky

Elizabeth Crosby
Stephen Krische
Mike Barker and Little Guy
Four Paws Animal Hospital
Carla Goacher

♥ In Memoriam ♥

In Memory of Ray, Martha and Samantha

Karyn Moser

In Memory of Jake and Buddy
Bonnie Schad

In Memory of Auburn
Karyn Moser

Matt, Tracy and Alex Eichholz

In Memory of Mia
Kenneth and Samantha Krieg



Top Ten Flea Myths by Dr. Noelle Miles

1. **Pets need flea preventative only a few months out of the year.**

In the Midwest, a mild winter like the one we had in 2011-2012 can extend the flea season to nine or ten months out of the year. In fact, last year, numerous clients remarked that they'd never before had a flea infestation, but they had a HUGE problem in 2011-2012!

Summer months are definitely flea season, but what many people don't know is that September, October, and November are also really bad flea months, and if your pet gets fleas in the fall, they can overwinter in your house. If you travel to warm, humid climates like Florida or Texas with your pets, you can definitely get a winter flea infestation, so consider year-round flea control as the best option for your pet.

2. I can get good flea products more cheaply at the pet store.

Over-the-counter flea control products might be less expensive, but if they kill some of the fleas but not all of the fleas, are they really a bargain? Most OTC products contain permethrins and pyrethrins, which are older compounds to which many fleas have developed resistance. Permethrins and pyrethrins can be quite toxic, especially to cats, as well as very young and very old animals. Your veterinarian can prescribe flea control products that are administered just once a month, are safe, and often have guarantees backed up by the manufacturer.



3. A few fleas are no big deal.

A flea-allergic animal is so hypersensitive to flea saliva that even one flea bite can make her break out and itch for a month. Plus, fleas have 8 ovaries, and are so good at reproducing that two fleas can quickly become a massive infestation of thousands of fleas. One of my clients had so many fleas in his house that he said he could see them on his tube socks as he walked around his living room! Don't tolerate "a few fleas"; your pet deserves to be totally flea-free, and a few fleas can rapidly snowball into an out-of-control flea disaster!

4. Flea preventatives protect pets from fleas only.

Many topical flea preventatives also prevent tick problems, and ticks can spread disease to the human members of your family. Some flea preventatives also prevent bites from mosquitos and flies, and one of the newer flea preventatives, spinosad, comes in a combination monthly pill called Trifexis that prevents heartworms, intestinal parasites, AND fleas—broad spectrum parasite protection all in one tasty chewable pill.

5. My dog is an indoor dog, so he won't pick up fleas.



Your "indoor" dog still goes outside to eliminate, and rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, and other wild mammals all carry fleas, which can easily "hitch a ride" on your dog when he visits your back yard. Even indoor cats can get fleas when they hop in from outside when a door is opened.

6. I'm not seeing fleas on my animal, so he really doesn't need any flea control.

Just because you don't see fleas doesn't mean they're not there. Cats are fastidious groomers and often ingest fleas soon after they hop on, so the only sign you may see on a cat is flea dirt (which looks a lot like black pepper) or a bald spot from licking or biting. Your veterinarian may use a special flea comb to more easily detect fleas and flea dirt. Some animals with long, thick fur provide perfect hiding places for fleas, so you may not realize you have a serious flea problem until it's very advanced. Good places to look for fleas include the tailhead, rump, and belly.

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7. If I treat my pet with one month of flea control, my problem should be solved.

Wrong! Because fleas are so good at reproducing, thousands of eggs and pupa (resistant cocoons) are deposited into the pet's bedding and the carpeting. It may take 60 to 90 days for all of the fleas to hatch out, so many pet owners become frustrated when they think they've killed all the adult fleas on their pet, then several weeks down the road, they see more. Also, if you eliminate the fleas from your household, then neglect to use flea control and develop a flea infestation again, your pet becomes much more likely to develop flea allergy dermatitis. Eliminate repeated, intermittent exposure to fleas, and your pet is much less likely to develop this itchy, irritating skin problem.

8. I'm only seeing fleas on one of my pets, so I only need to treat that pet.

You will never completely rid your house of fleas if you do not treat ALL of your pets, including rabbits and ferrets (see your veterinarian about the safest way to treat these species). Since some animals are very good at hiding the fact that they indeed do have a few fleas, you absolutely need to treat every animal. Some veterinary-strength products will not honor their guarantee if you do not treat all of the pets in the household.


9. I just can't afford to give a flea preventative every month.

Preventing a problem is always more cost-effective than trying to "put out the fire" once a problem happens! You will spend far less on flea prevention than you would treating flea-allergy dermatitis on multiple animals (examinations, cortisone injections, antibiotics, etc.) and other flea-related diseases like tapeworms and Hemobartonella felis, a blood parasite of cats that can cause a life-threatening anemia. Ask your veterinarian about rebates, as many 6-month or 12-month supplies of flea prevention offer money-saving rebates AND give your pet continuous protection.

10. I think I might try garlic or brewer's yeast as a safer way to kill fleas than those toxic chemical products.

Neither garlic nor brewer's yeast will kill fleas. All prescription flea products that you can obtain from a veterinarian are tested for safety by the FDA, which has much more stringent requirements than the EPA, which approves the more toxic permethrin and pyrethrin products sold over the counter. Many prescription products only have activity against chitin, the external skeleton of insects; mammals do not have chitin and thus are unaffected by such products. Once, one of my clients accidentally administered her dog's flea topical product into her dog's mouth; I called the 1-800 helpline and was relieved to find out that the dog might drool a little, but no toxicity whatsoever would occur!

Like us on Facebook! 

Want to help spread the word about The Four Hearts Foundation quickly and easily with friends and family by just clicking a button? Then like us on Facebook! Get invites and updates on events as they become available. Just look for The Four Hearts Foundation page and click 

The Four Hearts Foundation was established in June, 2005 as a tribute to our canine and feline family members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

In their memory, we work toward a better life and future for the homeless, abused, unwanted and unloved animals in the community. Our goal is to make a difference, even though it may be just one small heart at a time.



Tracy Eichholz, President
Jan Gettys, Treasurer
Christy Parkin, Secretary
Noelle R. Miles, D.V.M.
Jessica Draughn, Webmaster

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The Four Hearts Foundation

along with

Belleville Area Humane Society

invite you to a

Spay-ghetti Dinner



Wednesday, April 10, 2013

from 4-8pm

at

Swansea Improvement Center

301 Service St.

Swansea, IL 62226

Dinner will include:

spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara

side salad

bread sticks

Desserts available for \$1 extra (two servings each)

Cash bar for all beverages

Adults: \$8

Children 3-12: \$4

Under 3: Free

All proceeds will go toward helping fund low-cost spay/neuters within the community

Dine in or Carry out

