



Central Coast Humane Society

Serving the Animals of Lincoln County Since 1974

www.centralcoasthumanesociety.com



Summer 2013

Dogs In Hot Cars: How To Prevent A Disaster

A Naples, Florida, man was convicted of cruelty when his dog died after being locked in a car for four hours on a warm day. The dead dog's temperature was still almost 110°F a full two hours after police removed him from the car. The man was sentenced to six months in jail and slapped with a \$1,000 fine for "animal cruelty by abandonment." "I always try to have sympathy for defendants before making a decision," the sentencing judge told the man. "I don't have any sympathy for you." Could such a thing happen here in cool, temperate Lincoln County? Read on.

Why was the judge so unsympathetic? Because he believed that the man, a doctor, should have known better than to leave a dog in a car for hours with one window cracked open just an inch. Indeed, all of us should know better, especially when temperatures climb into the 80s and 90s. But even a mild day can be dangerous. Recently, a dog died after being locked in a parked car on a sunny, 67°F day in Albany, New York, even though the car windows had allegedly been left open a crack. We need to be vigilant – even here on the Oregon coast where, unfortunately, canine deaths have happened.

During the "dog days" of summer, the temperature inside a parked car can climb to well above 100°F in just a matter of minutes. Beating the heat is extra tough for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and sweating through their paw pads. Heatstroke can come on quickly and result in brain damage or death. Watch for symptoms such as restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, rapid heartbeat, fever, vomiting, or lack of coordination. If your dog shows any of these symptoms, get her or him into the shade immediately and call your veterinarian. Lower the animal's body temperature gradually by providing water to drink, applying a cold towel or ice pack to the head, neck, and chest, or immersing the dog in lukewarm (not cold) water.

Prevent Heatstroke by Taking These Precautions:

Never leave a dog in a parked car. On a mild 73°F day, the temperature inside a car can reach 120°F in 30 minutes.



Should you ever leave a dog in a parked car in the summer – even with a window well cracked? You need to use common sense about this potentially hazardous situation.

On a 90°F day, the interior of a vehicle can reach 160°F in minutes. If you see a dog in a car and in distress, take down the car's color, model, make, and license-plate number, and if you're in Lincoln County, call Dispatch at (541) 265-4910 and ask for Animal Services. Have someone keep an eye on the dog. If help is too slow in arriving and the dog's life appears to be in imminent danger, find a witness (or several) who will back your assessment, take steps to remove the suffering animal, and then wait for authorities to arrive.

More tips: don't carry your dog in the bed of a pickup truck. This is always dangerous, but the heat brings the added danger of burning the dog's feet on the hot metal. Don't take your dog jogging—except on cool mornings or evenings—and don't force exercise. On long walks, rest often and take plenty of water. Hot pavement can burn dogs' paws; choose shady, grassy routes. Trim heavy-coated dogs' fur, but leave an inch for protection against insects and sunburn. Keep an eye on areas where hair is thin, like eyelids, ears, and nose as they can get sunburned. Keep your dog indoors. If he or she must stay outside for long, avoid the hottest part of the day. Provide shade, water, and a kiddie pool. Keep drinking water in an anchored bucket or a heavy bowl that won't tip over.

Using common sense and these tips, you will avoid hot-weather harm to your own dog, or another person's beloved canine friend.

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**Spay Neuter assistance is
now available by phoning
our number: 541-265-3719.
Call us and someone will
call you back. Be sure to
speak clearly when you
leave your message.**

President's letter

CCHS participated once again in the Rogue Brewery Brewer's Fest, in memory of the Brewery labrador named Brewer. This occurred the weekend of May 17-18 and CCHS had their annual dog wash on that Saturday. We "manned" a booth all weekend, talking to various people about what it is CCHS does in Lincoln County. We were one of five charities being honored at this event. Between donations and the dog wash, CCHS was a few hundred dollars richer! Our bumper sticker was a huge hit!

Kitten and puppy season has arrived. Please make sure your pets have been fixed. If you need some assistance, please call CCHS. We have been approved for a couple of new grants, focusing on spay/neuter.

A very critical reminder for the summer months.... we get many visitors to our coast and unfortunately sometimes their pet companions get left in the cars. Many people believe that our cooler weather will prevent temperature extremes in their vehicles; nothing could be further from the truth! Interiors of vehicles heat up just as quickly in our cooler environment as when in the Valley, even if you leave the windows "cracked." We had the tragedy last year of two small dogs succumbing to the heat while their humans were visiting in Newport. Please read the article on hot cars in this newsletter and remind all your visitors NOT to leave their pets in their vehicles.

CCHS is so grateful for every cent you share with us — in donations, memberships, purchases of our t-shirts and bumper stickers! Thank you from all of us and have a safe and happy summer on the Coast! And enjoy the article we have in this newsletter about the help we have provided in a most unexpected way!

Again, we would ask you to please send us your email address so that this newsletter can be emailed to you, our Humane Ambassadors. It will save a bit on our postage costs. Thank you!

*Kathe Stander
President*

From Cardboard Box To Penthouse



Ken, now restored to health

When I first met Ken he was living in a cardboard box with a couple of filthy towels in it, outside in the weather. (This all relates back to a story in our last newsletter where CCHS was in the process of removing a bunch of inside cats from a hoarder at the same location).

At that time, Ken was in the running for Most Beaten Up Cat of The Year! He looked as if he had been in a fight with a Mack Truck and lost. About two-thirds of his tail had been chopped off and what was left had healed crooked. Three of his legs had about half of the hair and skin peeled off and a big chunk of hair and skin on his neck was missing, too. In spite of all this, Ken had a great attitude, and was very friendly.

I felt sorry for him, so I took him to the vet, had him checked out and neutered, and brought him home with me. We built him a spot in a corner of a tool shed. We let him out during the day, and put him in at night to keep him safe from predators.

Whenever he was outside, Ken would follow me around (HE STILL DOES) like a puppy dog wherever I would go. However, Ken made it quite clear that he wanted to be on the deck by the house, to be near us. He sometimes got a little reluctant to go back in his shed at night. Well, he won. We decided to build him his own little penthouse on the deck, glassed in and enclosed (see attached picture) where he is now very content with his living conditions, so much so that he very seldom even leaves the deck now. Ken's hair has grown back and he has become a very handsome Tuxedo cat, and is loving life.

by Don Elmore



Ken's penthouse

Reasons To Spay/Neuter

Whether you've recently adopted a pet or you're considering it, one of the most important health decisions you'll make is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. Spaying—removing the ovaries and uterus of a female pet—is a veterinary procedure that requires minimal hospitalization and offers lifelong health benefits. Neutering—removing the testicles of your male dog or cat—will vastly improve your pet's behavior and keep him close to home.

The CCHS has some funds available to help with the costs of surgery. In particular, at the present moment, we have a grant from the Handsel Foundation that pays the entire cost of having owners' pet cats spayed/neutered. Call us for information about "Fix Fluffy For Free". We may also be able to help with ferals/strays/community cats and with dogs.

Here is a list of the top 10 reasons to spay or neuter your pet:

- 1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.
- 2. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male.** Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

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Sparky's Passing: A Eulogy



Sparky and Big Boy

You'll probably recognize this as a eulogy, for I guess that is what it is. I find some solace in writing about a pet when their time finally comes. Something we have all endured and knew was inevitable. Still very difficult to accept. On the 27th of March, age and the resurrection of Sparky's old injury took their toll. He is gone.

I adopted Sparky about twelve years ago at the time he was released from a veterinary hospital. He had been run over by a vehicle and sustained severe injuries to his pelvis and left hind leg. A good Samaritan picked the dog up from the pavement and took him to a rescue group. They took him to the hospital. The doctor estimated the dog's age between six and eight months. Despite the dog's young age, the doctor's opinion was the injuries were too extensive and the dog should be euthanized. The rescuer said no. The doctor's next recommendation was to amputate the left leg. This was also rejected. The third option was to have an orthopedic surgeon accomplish the surgery. I adopted the dog the day he was released from the hospital. I named the dog Sparky after the little Jack Russell dog in the movie "**Michael**". This dog was run over by a truck and then brought back to life by a not so angelic angel played by John Travolta. The angel did this to the detriment of his own longevity. I felt a slight resemblance to Sparky's rescuers.

About six months ago a decline in Sparky's physical health became noticeable. Then about six weeks before the end of March, he stopped putting any weight on his left leg. X-rays determined one of the breaks in his pelvis had not healed completely and either arthritis or a re-injury was creating the problem. Another surgery was ruled out and pain management was determined to be the best treatment. The plan was working until diabetes and Cushing's disease became dominant. Sparky's days were now numbered.

Sparky cont'd

Sparky always enjoyed basking in the sun. The Sunday before his passing was one of those good days. I took his pad and placed it in the driveway. He immediately found it and lay down. In less than a minute, Big Boy the cat appeared and flopped down beside him. Big Boy was an absolutely unapproachable feral cat for at least the four years I observed him. It took a couple of months of constant effort before I could have any relationship with him, but after this obstacle was overcome, Big Boy felt safe hanging around the house. Almost immediately, the cat did not feel any threat from Sparky and never ran when he was around. Here is a cat that has been threatened and chased by dogs, coyotes, and raccoons for years, yet chose Sparky for a friend. Sparky never knew how to respond to this attention from a cat and remained aloof. It was the cat that pursued the friendship and this lasted for over a year.

For half an hour, Big Boy rolled around on his back next to Sparky and occasionally extend a paw in an attempt to get his attention, as he had done so many times in the past. Big Boy never stopped looking at Sparky. Sparky had very little close up vision but could detect movement at a distance. I know he knew Big Boy was with him. I was fascinated with what was transpiring and watched the entire episode. After I picked Sparky up to take him inside the house, Big Boy was gone as suddenly as he had appeared. I truly believe animals sense when another animal is in distress. Our other dog is a three year old Lhasa Apso. In the hours after Sparky was gone she knew there had been a change and was constantly searching for him.

Our pets are amazing. Never underestimate their capacity for feeling.

by David Mitchell



Big Boy and David Mitchell

Reasons cont'd

3. **Your spayed female won't go into heat.**

While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently—sometimes all over the house!

4. **Your male dog won't want to roam away from home.**

An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

5. **Your neutered male will be much better behaved.**

Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

6. **Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat.**

Don't use that old excuse! Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds—not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

7. **It is highly cost-effective.**

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray!

8. **Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.**

Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets.

9. **Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth.**

Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children—especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.

10. **Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.**

Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

Cleo and Oscar

Sometimes our ability to help comes at the oddest moments

While enjoying a delicious latte at one of our local cafes, the couple at the next table passed along a few photos of two cats that had wandered into their yard, hoping we would know of someone interested in giving a home to these two cats. The couple said the cats were sweet but they couldn't keep them as the couple traveled a lot. They were worried about them. They weren't even sure the two cats were traveling together.

How propitious! They had no idea they were speaking with the Central Coast Humane Society and that's what we do

— help people with the animals outside the shelter system!

We discussed various options — are the cats friendly enough to get into a carrier? Can they be wait-listed at Lincoln County Animal Shelter? Could the couple take the photos to the nearest vet (a few blocks away) to see if perhaps they are known? If not, can the cats be "caught" and taken to the vet for examination and "fixin'" if necessary? If the couple was willing to "foster" — and CCHS could provide a yurt — then the two felines could be placed in our rehoming program and listed on our website and on Petfinder.

This marvelous couple took the photos immediately to the veterinary clinic, but the cats were not recognized. A couple days later, the calico was easily put into a carrier and taken to the same vet clinic to be examined. Lo and behold, she was not only already spayed but also had a microchip! Yes, Cleo was one of their patients. The staff at the clinic placed a call to the owner to let her know where her cat was; turns out the cat's human was traveling and had a cat sitter staying at her house. She had no idea that her cats had gotten out and were wandering the neighborhood. She was due to return in a few days; the clinic said they would board Cleo until then.

The next day, the tabby was caught and taken to the vet — yep! Oscar was also microchipped and belonged to the same woman! Cleo immediately started to meow when she heard Oscar's meowing upon arrival at the clinic. They were put together in boarding until their human returned, much to their delight! A truly happy ending!

The moral of the story is that microchipping even works for cats. You never know when they might wander away from home and become lost. It also shows there are exceptional, wonderful humans in our community so willing to help the animals amongst us. THANK YOU, CONRAD AND GAIL WILLETT! You gave so much of your time to help these two felines.

by Kathe Stander



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