



Spay and Save

Volunteer Newsletter

Understanding Your Cats Language

From Purina Pet Foods Website

Did you know that cat's meow to people, but not to other cats?

Adult cats, living apart from humans, have very clear communication with one another. Cat language is spoken mostly through scent, then through facial expression, complex body language and touch.

Cat sounds for vocal communication involve caterwauls for mating, chattering upon spotting prey, hissing to ward off an intruder or shrieking when hurt or terrified. Meowing is not part of natural cat language—it was developed almost exclusively for humans.

The only meowing in cat language is done between a mother cat and her kittens. A kitten's tiny "mew" is a cute, endearing sound, used to solicit attention and care from mom cat. Once the kittens are grown, the meows and meows would stop, if not for communicating with humans.

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ADOPTIONS
January February
Cats 41
Dogs 2

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Making Philadelphia a No Kill City through the "No Kill Coalition"

From the 01/10/2018 The Philadelphia Inquirer

"Mayor Kenney vowed his support and voiced his appreciation Wednesday for the city's leading animal welfare organizations' effort to make the Philadelphia a city of no-kill shelters. In a room filled with animal activists attending a news conference, the mayor praised the "Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition." The groups that formed the coalition "share a common goal in ending euthanasia. Now the leaders in the community have come together to work toward this common goal."

Last year, about 82 percent of the 18,000 cats and dogs housed by the city's official shelter, the Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia, survived — a dramatic increase from 2005, when nearly 90 percent of the animals brought to the city shelter were euthanized. In addition to the city shelter, the coalition includes the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, Pennsylvania SPCA, and 10 other organizations. Contd. Page 2



The Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition continued

<http://nokillphilly.org/about/>

The Philadelphia No Kill Coalition is a collective of animal welfare agencies working together to end the killing of savable pets in shelters. We will achieve our goal by helping struggling owners keep their pets as cherished family members and increasing rescue, adoption, and foster placements for pets with nowhere else to go.

Mission

The mission of the Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition is to use collaborative public and private partnerships to end the killing of healthy, treatable, and manageable cats and dogs in the City of Philadelphia and to promote humane alternatives for community cats, ultimately attaining 100% safe placement of healthy and treatable pets.

History

Philadelphia, which only ten years ago faced one of the worst homeless pet crises on record, is now poised to become one of the largest no-kill communities in the U.S. Unwavering efforts to reform shelter operations, cultivate adoption, foster, and rescue programs throughout the region, offer services to impoverished pet owners, and engage the community have resulted in a true sea change: approximately 82% of cats and dogs entering the city's animal control shelter in 2017 survived, compared with only 11% in 2005. The number of animals entering the shelter has declined sharply as well: approximately 18,000 dogs and cats were taken into ACCT Philly in 2017, compared to over 30,000 as recently as 2011 - a 40% drop.

We have come a long way, but thousands of healthy or treatable dogs and cats still land in Philadelphia shelters each year and don't make it back out. We must continue to strengthen the safety net until every pet owner can get the help they need to keep their families together, and every savable homeless animal finds a home.

Putting Our Stake in the Ground

Staff of ACCT, PSPCA, and PAWS celebrate the formation of the Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition in late-2017. In late-2017, the city's three leading animal welfare agencies - ACCT Philly, the Pennsylvania SPCA, and PAWS - formed the Philadelphia No-Kill Coalition. We then invited our fellow rescues, shelters and animal service providers to join us. Today, the Coalition consists of 14-member organizations committed to working together to achieve our shared goal of creating a truly humane community in Philadelphia.

The Path Forward

Coalition members have pledged to take specific steps to continue increasing the survival rate of animals in Philadelphia's shelters, and to reduce the number of pets who land in shelters in the first place. Among them are prioritizing the intake and rescue of vulnerable pets in Philadelphia over animals outside the region to alleviate the burden of open-admission shelters in the city; coordinating efforts to use and mobilize resources where most needed; making lifelong commitments to animals transported from regions outside of Philadelphia, regardless of time passed since adoption; and more. We will provide regular updates to the community on our progress, needs, and ways to help. Together, we will make Philadelphia a no-kill city where no savable pets die in shelters."

Read your Pet Food Labels

A POCKET GUIDE TO PET FOOD LABELS

PETS WEEKLY FOR ALL THINGS PET

PET FOOD GUIDES	IT MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST THIS INFORMATION?
CHICKEN, BEEF, SALMON (dependent on analysis)	YES
CHICKEN, BEEF, SALMON (in their whole form)	NO
WET/Dry: List with the Chicken with every package	NO
Wet/Dry (in Chicken, Salmon, Beef, Salmon, etc.)	No requirement

AAFCO
Only requires the guaranteed analysis of four standards:

- THE MINIMUMS of: Fiber & Moisture
- THE MINIMUMS of: Protein & Fat

"ALL STAGES" means it is formulated for "young, active" animals. AAFCO only requires these stages:

- GROWTH ADULT
- MAINTENANCE
- REPRODUCTION

HUMAN-GRADE holistic Premium Allergen-free Super-Premium

USDA ORGANIC

- "100% Organic" Means all ingredients are organic. The USDA Organic logo may be used on the packaging.
- "Organic" Means a minimum of 95% of ingredients are organic. The package may include the USDA Organic logo.
- "Made with organic ingredients" 70% to 95% of the product is organic. USDA logo cannot be used on package.
- Ingredient panel only Means the food has less than 5% organic ingredients. "Organic" can only be used on the ingredient panel.

AAFCO Feeding Statement

If food was **FORMULATED** it may never have been fed to animals prior to selling. Was this product actually **FEED** to animals prior to selling?

Is your pet the test subject?

INGREDIENTS LIST

- Order is listed in descending order based on weight of product. **PER 100g** is preferred.
- If the **SAME PERCENTAGE** of 1 or more ingredients is used, the Manufacturer **CHANGES THE ORDER** of ingredients.

Pet Nutrition Facts

AAFCO Statement: Any holistic or human-grade pet food must be formulated to the product's intended use and fed to the animal.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PET NUTRITION SYSTEMS!
<http://PetsWeekly.com>

Around the Organization 2017



In January of last year, we were celebrating winning the presentation of a Holiday Wishes grant of \$25,000 from Petco Foundation. The adoption of Kahlua, a young miniature pincer mix in February of 2017, plus the song and video that Kahlua's Daddy created, landed the award for Spay and Save.

In March of 2017 had our Spring Coordinators Meeting at the beautiful home of Jason Bizich.



In May 2017 Ginny Shaffer, Kelly Sabatino and Paula Ulrich from our dog division, three of our adorable pooches attended the event at Community Music School in May.



In September 2017 Maria Robb and Beth Licata Coordinator of the Conshohocken Pet Valu at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Fundraisers.



In November 2017 Halloween Activities at the Petco's were all but over.

Do Cats Understand You?

By Maria Zerva

It turns out that cats can understand our words. Japanese researchers in Tokyo uncovered this special trait, which separates domestic house cats from all other large, wild felines (tigers, lions and so forth). It turns out the smallest and cutest ones of them all are the most verbally sophisticated. It appears house cats have actually evolved to understand us as part of their domestication. They know their name, our name, and a host of other titles we assign to things around the house or activities. And most fascinating of all, they've evolved to mirror us. In the wild, cats prefer to be pin drop quiet. They are hunters that catch prey by closing distance through silence and camouflage followed by a brief sprint. This is why when cats communicate to each other, the primary device is their body, not their vocals. Download this free report <http://bit.ly/2hlc4Mc> to find out more.



Understanding Your Cat's Language (Continued)

So why do cats meow to people? Because meowing is what works. Your cat is dependent on you and quickly learns that you are clearly not picking up the scent messages she leaves on your belongings or the body language she is attempting to use. The meows and mews are what get you to do what she wants. So, the meowing develops into a second language to communicate to you. Some scientists would go so far as to say that cats have refined their meows specifically to manipulate people. And we must admit—it works!

Cat people know cat language

Dr. Nicholas Nicastro, Ph.D., did his thesis on humans' ability to understand meows. He recorded hundreds of meow's cats used in real settings with their owners. He had people listen to the meows, then asked what they thought the cats were communicating. Part of the experiment asked general interpretations (Does the cat sound angry or pleasant?) and part were more specific translations (Is this cat asking for food or does he want you to go away?).

Not surprisingly, the more experience the people had with cats, the better they were at understanding meows. People who owned cats could correctly translate 40% of the meows. That's remarkable considering the respondents did not have the benefit of seeing the cat. Normally, when a cat meows, we get more clues to the meaning from the context—including location (by the door, near a dirty litterbox) time of day and body language.

Different meows. Different meanings.

There are dozens of meows that cats can use—they vary in pitch, length and volume. Most cat owners learn the language easily. A short, high-pitched meow is a standard "Hello!" Several of those strung together can communicate excitement like, "You're home! YAY!"

Cats use pleasant meow sounds to solicit you for food, to go outside or to simply get attention. Your cat learns which meow is going to get the results she wants. Cats use unpleasant, harsher, louder meows for demands, reprimands or to express annoyance. These meows have a lower pitch. Even though there is a distinct "demand meow," for example, your cat may have separate variations for each of her regular demands. Generally, the following meows have these meanings:

Short meow or mew: Standard greeting. "Hello!"

Multiple meows or mews: Excited greeting. "Great to see you!"

Mid-pitch meow: Plea for something. "I'd like to eat."

Drawn-out mrrroooow: Demand for something. "Open the door. NOW."

Low-pitch MRRRooooowww: Complaint of a wrong you have done. "Hey—why's my bowl still empty?"

High-pitch RRRROWW!: Anger or pain. "That's my TAIL you just stepped on!"

Snip Snip, Zip

Russell Park of Pottstown holds "Zip" a young male tabby adopted from Spay and Save one year ago. Russell is very diligent in bringing Zip for a nail trim each month when we are at the Limerick Petco adoption day. Spay and Save offers free nail clipping at any one of our Adoption Events to help our adopters save money and their furniture!



How does Philadelphia's New No Kill Coalition Affect Spay and Save?

By Chris Daniels

The only thing I would add in the No-Kill article is how much of a role rescue groups have played in helping Philly become No-Kill. Spay and Save routinely takes kitties from ACCT (in fact, Kendra, at Gateway Pet Valu came from there). We have had such good experiences with the ACCT's life-saving team. They will even bring the kitties to us. They are usually spayed/neutered, vaccinated and vetted. Also, companies like Pet Smart has become involved by offering grants to fund the Coalition. The money is intended to hire some full-time employees to help with placements of adoptable pets.

DEFINING No Kill

Irremediably suffering: An animal who has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting physical pain even with prompt, necessary, and comprehensive veterinary care.

The goal of the No Kill movement is not to reduce killing to some consensus-based level such as 10%. It is total killing for all animals who are not irremediably physically suffering, rigorously defined. This principle applies to all species of animals, including, but not limited to, companion mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, aquatic animals, "farmed" animals, and wildlife.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NO KILL & KILL SHELTERS

ANIMALS SAVED	NO KILL SHELTER	KILL SHELTER
Healthy animals	✓	
Community dogs and cats regardless of whether they are social or unsocial with humans ("feral")	✓	
Orphaned animals, pregnant animals, in utero animals, or animals with newborns	✓	
Animals suffering from or exposed to a treatable, contagious illness	✓	
Prosthetic animals, shy dogs, or traumatized dogs	✓	
Animals surrendered for "euthanasia" (the animals must be independently evaluated by a veterinarian and determined to be irremediably physically suffering)	✓	
Treatable animals labeled "behavior" or "medical"	✓	
Animals with "behavior" or "medical" impediments even if they have been signed over "for euthanasia"	✓	
Animals based on arbitrary criteria such as color, age, or breed		✓

A Peter and Abigail coalition focus on animal sheltering inevitably exists as if the No Kill movement can continue to do what it has always done until every last animal entering our nation's shelters—whatever the species, whatever the challenge—no longer faces killing, someone the flawed but realistic tradition we have inherited from prior generations. The center we recognize the need for change and further innovation, the center we will find the resources and tools to bring that brighter future into reality.

nokilladvocacycenter.org

Volunteer Corner

Changing of the Guard at Spay and Save

To keep an organization viable in the future it is important to find new Blood. It is hard to find people that have the same dedication to an organization like Spay and Save as people like Chris Daniels and our long-time treasurer, 30 years, Kathy Orlando. Kathy will be handing over the financial reins to Ginny Shaffer, head of our dog division this month. Thank and congratulate them both for their service to Spay and Save.

What is Chicken By-Product Meal?

By Toni Dougherty

I have included in this newsletter an infographic on how to read the labels on your canned and dry foods for your pets. If you watch the ads for pet foods, they often make it seem that Chicken By-Product meal is really something bad for your pet. I have often thought of it as similar, but in dried form, to the ingredients in my sausages, scrapple and hot dogs. Just in case you are in the dark about these foods they are the innards, left overs of the animals we eat like chicken and beef. Here is Purina's description of Chicken By-Product Meal:

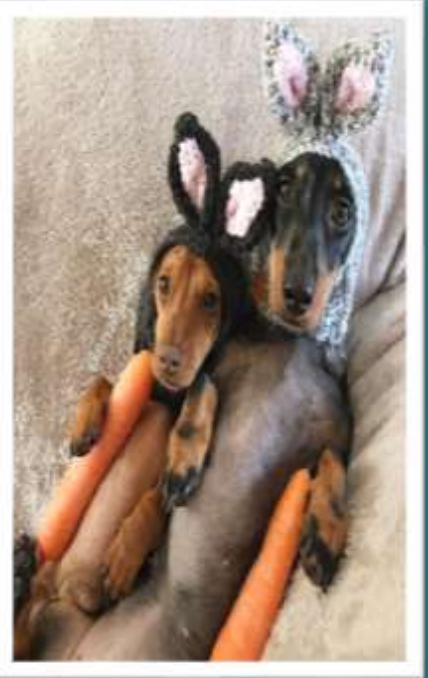
Chicken by-product meal is made up of chicken that has been ground and cooked, reducing the fat content to create a protein-rich ingredient. It's high in protein and amino acids to help strengthen and maintain your pet's muscles. It's also a high-quality source of glucosamine for joint health. For more information on ingredients in your pet foods, what they look like, and what they do go to <https://www.purina.com/ingredients>.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

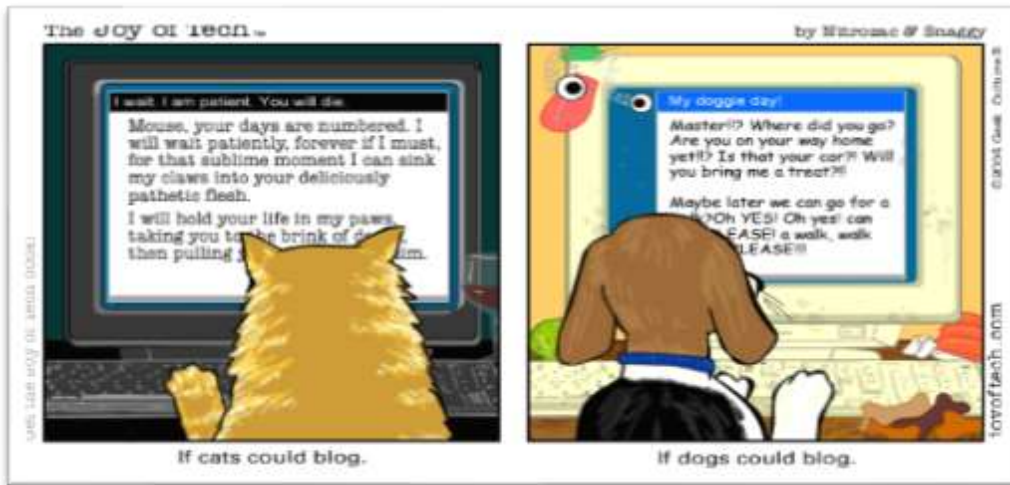
Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1 st Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Ginny Shaffer
1 st Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
2 nd Saturday	Sears Hardware (Dogs)	Paula Wenke
2 nd Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu	Janet Lynch
2 nd Saturday	Exton Petco	Morag Steskal
3 rd Saturday	Limerick Petco	Madelyn Ferraioli
4 th Saturday	Exton Petco	M Steskal/CDaniels
4 th Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4 th Saturday	Roxborough Pet Valu	Chris Daniels

Got Your Bunny Ears and Carrots Yet?



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- ♥ President: Chris Daniels
- ♥ Vice President Naomi McCarron
- ♥ Secretary: Morag Steskal
- ♥ Treasurer: Ginny Shaffer



If cats could blog.

If dogs could blog.



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