



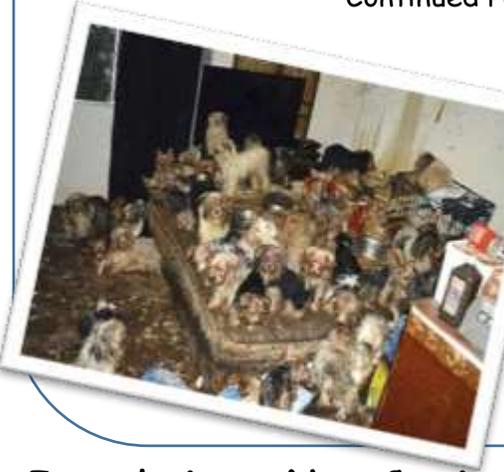
Spay and Save

Volunteer Newsletter

Animal Hoarding a Complex Issue for Animal Rescue Organizations

Animal hoarding is a complex issue that encompasses' mental health, animal welfare and public safety concerns. Animals "collected" by hoarders' range in species from cats and dogs to reptiles, rodents, birds, exotics and even farm animals. The issue of animal hoarding is something both volunteer groups like Spay and Save and professional organizations will forever have to deal with. Although, once the situation is out in the open we are perplexed as to how to stop it from happening again.

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ADOPTIONS
July/August
Cats 53
Dogs 4

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Introducing a New Cat into the Family

Adopting new animals, be it cat or dog, and trying to blend them into a family that might already be well established makes most new adopters a bit concerned. Kathy O'brien and I gave this much thought and following are two suggestions that might help. Kathy's would suit the average pet owner and mine works well with those of you in our organization who might like to foster but are concerned that a current resident might not be so receptive.

By Kathy O'brien

I finally broke down and wrote up some cat Intro Ideas.

1. Put the new cat in a carrier and let the established resident walk around it. Then switch places allowing the new cat to familiarize itself with the established resident in the carrier. This technique seems to get it in their heads that they are sharing the space.

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Animal Hoarding a Complex Issue continued

A Closer Look at Animal Hoarding by the ASPCA

"Animal hoarding is an intricate issue. The following criteria are used to define animal hoarding:

- ♥ An individual possesses more than the typical number of companion animals.
- ♥ The individual is unable to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care, with this neglect often resulting in starvation, illness and death.
- ♥ The individual is in denial of the inability to provide this minimum care and the impact of that failure on the animals, the household and human occupants of the dwelling.

This definition comes from the Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium, an independent group of academic researchers based in Massachusetts. The full definition and more info can be found at vet.tufts.edu/hoarding.

Why Do People Hoard Animals?

It is not clearly understood why people become animal hoarders. Early research pointed toward a variant of obsessive-compulsive disorders, but newer studies and theories lead toward:

- ♥ Attachment disorders in conjunction with personality disorders, Paranoia, delusional thinking, depression, other mental illnesses.

Some animal hoarders began collecting after a traumatic event or loss, while others see themselves as "rescuers" who save animals from lives on the street.

How to Tell if Someone Is a Hoarder

Animal hoarders often appear intelligent and clearly believe they are helping their animals. In addition, many hoarders possess the ability to garner sympathy and to deceive others into thinking their situation is under control. They often are blind to the fact that their animals are suffering under their care.

Animal hoarders' range in age and can be men or women of any race or ethnic group. Elderly people may be more at risk, due to their own deteriorating health and isolation from community and social groups. One commonality between all hoarders is a failure to grasp the severity of their situation.

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Introducing a New Cat

2. Put new cat in a room for a few days. Then established cat can smell the "intruder" thru the door. Then feed them on each side of the door. Then crack the door when feeding. Basic idea is to have them near each other while eating
3. Do scent exchange. Here is a link with details. <https://www.petcha.com/what-is-a-scent-exchange-will-it-help-me-introduce-cats-to-each-other/>
4. Use Feliway to help reduce stress during period of introduction: <https://www.feliway.com>

By Toni Dougherty

My foster method of introduction is to place the new cat in my playpen cage for about a week on the porch, which is my cat's room. I feed them there and just let them out into the cat room when my cats are outside or in the house. The other cats get complacent about the intruder and eventually they will greet them in a friendly manner when I finally do give them one on one time. The odor thing is taken care of by their presence in the room, but both sets of cats are protected from each other by the cage. Most importantly the separation assures me that transfer of any pathogens will be limited because contact is limited. It also eliminates the territorial competition that goes on in a multi cat

Happenings at Spay and Save



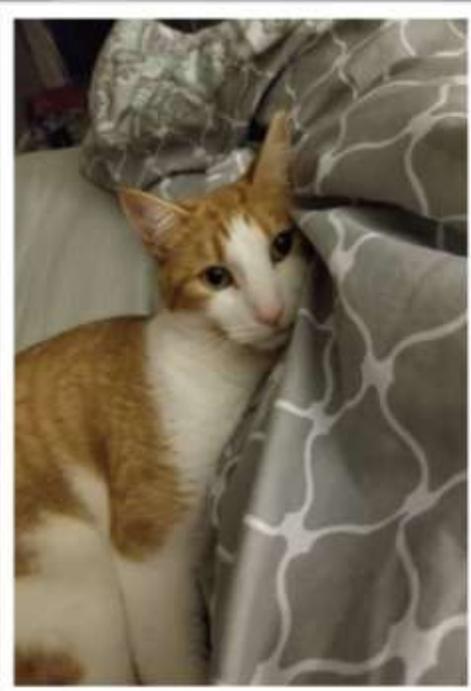
Left: Janet Lynch and Naomi McCarron at an adoption day at Limerick PETCO

Below Casey Checking out the big Turtle in the fish bowl at Roxborough Pet Valu. Really, I bet he only wanted a drink of water.



Below: Khaleesi! She is doing great and we are just obsessed with her! She loves treats, snuggling, and running with her mama (though, not so much recently in this heat!). She is so friendly with other people and just loves anyone she meets. She graduated from beginner training and has learned a lot of new commands like sit, stay, come, and paw. She's still learning with her leash walking but, has improved. She's a happy camper!

Samantha and Ryan Gillies



Left: I just wanted to let you guys know how Gunther is doing. It's been almost 2 weeks now and the first couple of days he would not come out from under the bed! Now, he has his routine! Mornings are spent playing with dad before he goes to work. He hangs out with mom later in the evenings and gets rubs before she goes to bed!

Kristen Smith



Right: Kitten at Roxborough Pet Valu. Fiona looking for a home!



Left: Paula Wenke (Ulrich) with Dior, a doggie who is waiting for his forever home, at the Exton Petco adoption day. Paula and husband, Randall, are integral parts of our Spay and Save family, both in the dog and cat division. Paula's lovely home is a temporary haven for MANY of our dogs and sometimes cats also. Thanks to Paula and her husband.



How Can you Help Animal Hoarders?

Not everyone who has multiple animals is an animal hoarder. However, if you think someone you know is struggling with animal hoarding, here are some ways you can help:

- Call your local humane law enforcement department, police department, animal welfare organization or veterinarian to initiate the process.
- Contact social service groups. Your local department of the aging, adult protective services, health departments and other mental health agencies.
- Reassure the animal hoarder that it's okay to accept help. Animal hoarders are usually worried that their animals will be killed or that they will never see them again.
- Volunteer your time. With the removal of so many animals from a hoarding situation, the burden on local shelters can be staggering. Volunteer your time to help clean cages, socialize animals, walk dogs and perform other such necessary duties.
- Keep in touch. Under the guidance of an organization, help the individual with daily animal care chores. And if the individual acquires new animals, help ensure that they are spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

Animal Hoarding a Complex Issue continued

Signs that may indicate someone is an animal hoarder:

- ♥ They have numerous animals and may not know the total number of animals in their care. There is a strong smell of ammonia, and floors may be covered with dried feces, urine, vomit, etc.
- ♥ The animals are emaciated, lethargic and not well socialized,
- ♥ Fleas and vermin are present,
- ♥ The individual is isolated from community and appears to be in neglect himself,
- ♥ The individual insists all animals are happy and healthy—even when there are clear signs of distress and illness.

Hoarders Posing as Rescue Groups or Animal Shelters

Research shows many hoarders are beginning to set themselves up as "rescue shelters," complete with non-profit status. They may appear to be sensible people, persuasively conveying their love for animals and readiness to take those who are sick and with special needs.

Here are several signs that a rescue group or shelter may involve a hoarder:

- ♥ The group is unwilling to let visitors see the location where animals are kept.
- ♥ The group will not disclose the number of animals in its care and makes little effort to adopt animals out.
- ♥ More animals are continually taken in, despite the poor condition of existing animals.
- ♥ Legitimate shelters and rescue organizations are viewed as the enemy. Animals may be received at a remote location (parking lot, street corner, etc.) rather than at the group's facilities.

Legal Outcomes for Animal Hoarders

Criminal prosecution of animal hoarding can be a difficult process and may not be the most effective route. Such cases are difficult to successfully prosecute and, once litigation ends, the hoarder is likely to resume collecting an excessive number of animals unless closely monitored.

Some say prosecution isn't the answer because hoarders are often emotionally troubled rather than criminally inclined. In some cases, judges can impose conditions that help the hoarder, such as by requiring counseling, or by prohibiting the person from having animals."



*Far Left:
Brittany
Thistlewood
coordinator of
Adoption Days
at Bryn Mawr
Veterinary
Hospital*

Volunteer Corner

Welcome to Our New Adoption Locations

♥ Petco Paoli:

Kathy Tierney, veteran volunteer, will be heading a team of Spay and Save volunteers launching the Paoli Petco. Louise (Weezy) had the honor of being our first cat to reside in the habitat there. Pebbles Zell is the first volunteer to sign up for the Paoli schedule. Pebbles is well-known to our organization for her help in the King of Prussia Petco and the Gateway Pet Valu. Welcome the Paoli Petco to the Spay and Save Family.

♥ Bryn Mawr Veterinary Hospital:

Toni Dougherty and two Tabby kittens spent the afternoon on July 21st with Paula Wenke, and three dogs, at the Bryn Mawr Veterinary Hospital for a first time Adoption Day coordinated by Brittany Thistlewood. Brittany works there as a technician but felt the hospital could do more by helping organizations like ours find homes for unwanted pets. I spent some time interviewing her but unfortunately events lately have over whelmed me and have left me with little space to talk about our latest adoption Location. They currently have two cats in a playpen, Megan and Harry. They have the honor of being the first kittens to be adopted at this location by one of Bryn Mawr's long time clients.

♥ Chester County Cat Hospital:

Araceli Wakil has been coordinating and transporting our kittens to this lovely facility headed by Dr Rachel Stadler. Dr Stadler and staff have constructed an adoption habitat for kittens and provides food and litter for our little tykes. So far 5 kittens have found homes through Chester County Cat Hospital.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event Location	Coordinators
1 st Saturday	Gateway Pet Valu (Dogs)	Thresa Lare
1 st Saturday	Limerick Petco	Alicia Ferraioli
TBA	Paoli PETCO	Kathy Tierney
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	Paula Wenke
4 th Saturday	Perk Valley Pet Eatery	Susan Trombadore
4 th Saturday	Roxborough Pet Valu	Chris Daniels

**Peter Cross Plate
and Greeting Cards
at
Petercrossart.com**



Even The Cats Are Addicted



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