



# the Scoop

produced by and for OHS volunteers, donors and supporters

winter 2009

## Animal Welfare Web Links

(<http://www.>)

oconeehumane.org  
 americanhumane.org  
 hsus.org and aspca.org  
 petfinder.com  
 greenvillehumane.org  
 oconeepests.com (County site)  
 guidestar.org

Produced by: the Oconee Humane Society; P.O. Box 966; West Union, SC 29676  
 peter.hens@oconeehumane.org

OHS is a 501(C)(3) charity organized in the State of South Carolina.

## Coming Events

**Easter Parade**  
 High Falls Park  
 Seneca, April 2009

**Fly-In**  
 Oconee Airport  
 May 9, 2009

For up to date times and other events, please check our website [www.oconeehumane.org](http://www.oconeehumane.org)

## Inside this Issue

Memorials	2
Where is Fido?	2
It started with one	3
Correction	3
Special Thanks	3
Neologisms	3
The Cat Who...	4
Help yourself	4
Animal ER:	5
Needed: Beds	5
Olny srm at poelpe	5
2009 Membership Application	6

## Oconee County Animal Shelter Opens

Seneca, SC, October 2008 – The long road to a new Oconee County animal shelter came to an end at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard in Seneca. It is here, it is operating and the dream has become a reality for hundreds and hundreds of volunteers, donors and supporters of the Humane Society's efforts to get a new building. Not only is there a new facility in the middle of the demographic center of Oconee County, this project marks the beginning of an unprecedented level of cooperation between government, law enforcement and charity in our County.

The 3.8 acre property is owned by the Humane Society and leased to the County of Oconee at a rate of \$1 per year, for 99 years. The Oconee Sheriff's Department oversees Animal Control and, prior to the move to the new facility, managed animal adoptions from the shelter. Although eventually the Humane Society will assume responsibility for the adoption program at the new site, for the time being they are in a transition and training phase. In the meanwhile, Oconee Animal Control and the Humane Society will be sharing the new facility.

It is no secret that this project cost a lot of money; but a whole lot less than initially suggested. In the process of squeezing the budget as much as possible, items like paving and a security system may have to wait, but perimeter fencing and additional cat cages are expected to be installed sometime during 2009. Already the Humane Society conducted a fund drive and cooperated with ITRON to install epoxy flooring just before the opening of the shelter. Plans are also in the works for



Marion Lyles, Chairman Oconee County Council, 6 year old granddaughter Adisyn Lyles, Jean Stappler, President Oconee Humane Society, James Singleton, Oconee County Sheriff and Lt. Travis Tilson, Supervisor Oconee County Animal Control, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new animal shelter on Route 123 in Seneca, October 11, 2008 (not pictured is Randy van Surdam, Director Oconee Humane Society).

erecting a sign along the road.

With three on site staff and three animal control officers on the road, the shelter accommodates between 4,000 and 5,000 abandoned, stray, surrendered, confiscated, or hurt animals in an average year. Think about it, that is 75 – 100 animals each and every week of the year. It takes special people to handle so many animals that have become separated from their homes and find themselves in a shelter environment. Compassion rules and Oconee County Animal Control employs some of the most dedicated and hard working animal lovers. Next time you see one on the road, or when you visit the shelter, take some time to say thanks, or tip your hat, for a job well done.



### Animal Shelter Dress Up

Landscaping was one of those items that was squeezed out of the very tight construction budget. But it was installed anyway, thanks to Duke-Energy who donated the materials. Then Zone 7 Nursery designed and donated a landscape plan and some of the materials. Next, Duke employees Liz Glenn (4th from right), Jeff Hekking (2nd from right), and friends donated the labor to install 100 shrubs and trees at the new shelter in October. Now that's community spirit. Thank you, everyone, for a beautiful job.



First visitors to the brand new Oconee County Animal Shelter October 11, 2008, Celebration



# MEMORIALS

July - December 2008



Jean Bainbridge, in memory of Paul Power.

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kelley, in memory their dog "Sandy".

Carolyn Paradise, in memory of Paul Power.

Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of their dog "Dakota".

Jean Stappler, in memory of Cathy Hofgren.

Jean Stappler, in memory "Dakota", beloved pet of Chuck & Karen Sconce.

Jay & Alice Kennedy, in memory "Dakota", beloved pet of Chuck & Karen Sconce.

Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of Cathy Hofgren.

Steven Sconce, in memory of "Dakota", beloved pet of Karen & Chuck Sconce.

Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of "Jake", beloved pet of Davis & Jackie Roeske.

Blair & Arlene Stanicek, in memory of "Jake", beloved pet of Davis & Jackie Roeske.

## Tributes

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barnette, in honor of Howard & Ginger Lewis

Nelle Rochester, in honor of "Maggie Mae", pet of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cantrell.

Robin, Rick, Matthew, & Megan Young, in honor of Ann Miller.

Linda Redmann, in honor of Peter Hens.

Gayle Griffin, in honor of Patsy Whitten.

## Where is Fido?

What about Fluffy? These panicked questions are asked millions of times in the US each year. If you have ever experienced the anxiety of being accidentally separated from your pet for even a brief period, you know you would not wish that feeling on anyone. Here is some supporting evidence that justifies your bewilderment. According to the American Humane Association, after a pet becomes lost, there is an 83% chance for dogs and a 98% chance for cats that they will never return.

Here are some of the ways people and pets get separated; we're sure you can add to the list. 1) A visitor to your house accidentally lets your pet out. 2) A window, perhaps with a loose screen, is left open and your cat slips away chasing a bird. 3) An unattended pet can be stolen. 4) A dog may be tied up, but a poorly tied knot can easily be undone. 5) An unleashed dog spots wildlife and gives chase. 6) Thunderstorms or fireworks cause pets to panic and flee. 7) Digging dogs can escape under fences. 8) An electric fence goes down and your pet bolts through it - once through, they get "locked out" and wander off. 9) While traveling, pets wander off in unfamiliar territory.

What happens next depends on the luck of the draw. Perhaps your pet will be lucky and gets run over by a car, or shot by some miscreant, since both of those ends are sudden and without suffering. But perhaps your pet is not so lucky and runs into wild animals that attack your pet in an effort to defend their territory. Or your pet is collected by animal control and eventually euthanized because there is only so much room at the shelter for stray animals. Or, in your wildest dream, perhaps some kind soul will collect your pet off the street and give him a new home.

Increase the chance that you and your pet remain attached by following some common sense rules. An un-

marked dog or cat has virtually no chance of being identified properly, making an eventual reunion nearly impossible. Be sure to outfit your pet with a collar and tags that identify clearly where and to whom it belongs. Since collars, scarves and ID bands can become entangled and lost, it also is a good idea to have your pet microchipped. Unlike anything your dog or cat wears that can become lost, a microchip is permanent.

The microchip consists of a tiny radio transmitter the size of a grain of rice. The chip is implanted under the skin of your pet below the neck and between the shoulder blades and remains there for the life of the pet. If the pet is lost, any vet or animal control officer, using a portable scanning unit, can scan the animal and read a number that is unique to that animal. The number is then entered into a database of registered pet owners and matched to a name, address and telephone number. If this is your pet, you would be mighty glad to receive a phone call or visit from the person who found your friend. The new animal shelter at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard (Route 123) in Seneca is now providing microchipping services. Get yours before it is too late.



## It Started with One Cat — by Martha Lee

One skinny, grey, beautiful, pitiful cat who cried with abandon outside our family room door. I put out some dry food. The same cat appeared the next day stalking the compost pile. As we watched, two kittens popped out of the compost bin. One cat had become three. We named the mother Shadow because of her ability to disappear at will. Shadow would rub against us and purr, but our hands were off limits. The kittens grew. And grew.

Then one had a litter, of which we only saw one of the kittens. It would be in one cat's mouth as she across the yard one way and, a little while later, it would be in another cat's mouth as she trotted back across the yard the other way. We never were quite sure which one was the mother. After four weeks of this shared motherhood, all three cats seemed to lose interest and the kitten was left to fend for itself. Well... You can't let a kitten die of neglect right before your eyes.

We trapped her, named her Miss M and got her vaccinated. Now we had three outside cats and one inside cat. Miss M wasn't easy. For months I walked around with scratches and bites on my hands and arms. Bill, my husband, learned to dress in the closet because Miss M loved to attack his toes. After having her spayed, she has calmed down considerably. Even so, she only comes to us on her terms. When she wants, she will climb on us for petting, otherwise, we are to give her space.

Meanwhile, another litter arrived with the original outdoor cats. Four cats became nine cats. This had gotten out of control. As soon as the kittens stopped nursing, we decided to trap and neuter the original three (\*). We bought a cage trap and baited it with Fancy Feast. It wasn't a very big trap, which was a mistake. As we watched from inside the family room, we saw Shadow teach the other two how to



step inside the cage, stretch her neck as far as it would stretch, then stretch just a little further, eat the food, and back out of the cage without ever stepping on the trip lever. They were quick learners.

Then a friend let us borrow two larger cages. Finally, one evening, we heard yowling from the backyard. We had caught one of the kittens. The kitten was too small to be neutered; so we released the door and watched it race down the sidewalk to wherever the rest of the family was waiting for it. Cats don't talk to one another like they do to us, but with body language they definitely get their messages across. From that night on, not a cat would go near either of the two cages.

We had had enough. Three of the new litter were tame. They let us pick them up, even would spend some nights in our house. We visited the Animal Shelter, paid for the Oconee Humane Society's spay/neuter certificates and took the cats to Walhalla Veterinary Clinic. We had named them Nutmeg, Cinnamon, and Elsie. The next day, when we were told they all were boys, we had to change Elsie's name to L.C. (for Less Cat). Now we had one house cat, three indoor-

outdoor cats, two feral females, one feral we-didn't-know-what, and two feral cats who just would drop in for a visit every now and then. We had stopped feeding them. Some time after we stopped feeding, one of the original three disappeared. The others kept coming, even without food. Our home had become their home.

Then, Bill came up with a creative idea. He tied a string to the trapdoor of one of the cages and sat just inside the family room, waiting. When a cat would enter, he would jerk the string and bring the trapdoor down. That way, we caught the two feral females. This time we took them directly to the Animal Shelter. We had struggled with the *(continued on page 5, It Started...)*

### CORRECTION...

The Summer 2008 issue of the Scoop (page 3 Cruel...) stated in error that the effort to exempt wildlife from the definition of animals failed to pass. **It did pass.** The newly inserted language is contained within SC H4921 and specifically approves certain "dog training exercises". What they mean is "Bear Baying" is OK in South Carolina, the only state in the union. Check it out, contact your State Legislator and express your opinion:

Bill Whitmire - whitmirew@schouse.org  
 Bill Sandifer - HLC@schouse.org  
 B R Skelton - SkeltonBR@schouse.org  
 David Hoitt - HoittD@schouse.org  
 Phil Owens - HED@schouse.org



### SPECIAL THANKS TO



**Itron**

**For answering our urgent last minute call for help with the epoxy floor installation that was needed at the new animal shelter. You are a friend in deed.**

**Neologism** (n.) - a new word or a new meaning for an existing word...

**Cyberchondriac** (n.): Someone who needlessly fears the worst after using the internet to self-diagnose an ailment (BBC 12/1/2008)

**Rectitude** (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

## The Cat Who Came in From the Cold

Autumn has made way for Old Man Winter, and your concern is steadily growing for the stray cat who settled into your backyard last summer. Homeless Hildegard has been enjoying your fresh-air hospitality under the deck all season, but with cold weather approaching, there's no better time to introduce her to the pleasures of indoor living. Luckily, bringing a friendly stray in from the cold or keeping an indoor/outdoor feline entirely inside is not as difficult as one might think. All it takes is some environmental enrichment and a bit of training.

Litter box training is the biggest concern for most people. If the cat was ever box trained, she will likely fall right back into the habit. For the former indoor/outdoor cat, a two-box system filled with fine-grain, clumping litter works best. Place one where you want the litter box to permanently reside, and put the transitional box at the door the cat once used to exit the house. When she finds that she can't get outside to the topsoil, she will use the box by the door. After that habit is established, slowly move the transitional box closer to the permanent setup. Once the boxes are side by side you can remove one of them.

For the cat who has never been litter box trained, a confinement method is usually necessary. Set the cat up in a cattery cage or a large dog crate complete with litter box, resting space, food, water and toys. When the cat is consistently using her litter box, she can be moved to a small room, like a bathroom or galley kitchen. After she gets the hang of that, you can increase her space yet again. If she has a lapse, return to the last space the cat kept clean. Don't forget to visit her often and release her for supervised exercise, grooming and affection during the confinement period. Also, once she has earned the free run of your home, make sure she isn't tempted to use your potted plants as a litter box. Cover soil with aluminum foil, or pack glass pebbles or marbles around the plant.

### Enhancing Your Cat's Habitat

When litter box training is complete, you can begin to enrich your cat's new environment. Since her days will no longer be spent searching for her supper, she'll need something else to while away the hours. Window perches allow



your indoor cat to keep an eye on the backyard bird population while safely basking in the sun. An indoor planter containing feline favorites such as catnip and wheat grass enables your cat to nosh on cat-safe greenery. Toys are a must for these reformed hunters; interactive playthings sporting feathers are especially enticing. Just remember to rotate toys every week or two to keep your feline's interest piqued.

To safeguard furniture from a cat who's used to scratching wherever she pleases, offer several kinds of scratching posts and determine her pleasure. Look for posts that are sturdy enough to climb. Cat tree furniture, which usually includes several resting platforms atop natural tree trunks or posts wrapped in sisal, is a good bet. Placement near a sunny window or patio door guarantees enjoyment. In addition, cardboard scratch pads embedded with catnip are inexpensive and can be scattered throughout your home.

### Overcoming the Lure of the Outdoors

Although indoor living has many perks, the call of the wild can be intense for some cats. Given the opportunity, these cats will attempt to dash for freedom whenever a window is opened or a door is left ajar. Make sure screens fit snugly in windows and cannot be dislodged by a persistent cat. Dissuade door-dashing by drawing your cat away from doorways before entering and departing your home. Roll a toy or toss a treat across the room to focus kitty's attention away from the door. If there are children in your home who come and go frequently, stage practice runs with your cat. Leave the door ajar; if she begins to saunter out of it, startle her with a blast of canned air or a spritz of water from the outside. If the outdoors proves inhospitable, it's likely to dampen her ardor for adventuring. A backyard cat enclosure can fulfill the fresh air needs of a hardcore outdoor lover while keeping the cat and nature safe from one another.



By the time winter sets in, you'll be able to sit back and enjoy watching the first snowflakes fly. Hildegard will be napping on the hearth, safe and warm and there to stay.

*(Jacque Lynn Schultz, C.P.D.T., is a Companion Animal Programs Adviser, National Outreach, ASPCA.)*

## Help Yourself, Animals, and the Oconee Humane Society



Many are not aware of how much the **Bi-Lo BoostersPlus** fundraising program means to us. Well, it means *a lot*. When you choose to participate, besides qualifying for in store discounts, 1% of all your purchases at Bi-Lo will be earmarked for the Oconee Humane Society. There is not much to it. All you need to do is fill out an enrollment card and the store will take care of the rest. You can get them from us at the office 1925 Sandifer Boulevard, Seneca (Route 123 across from Square D), any of our fundraising events (see page 1), request them by mail or email, or stop by at the service desk of any Bi-Lo store and tell them you want to enroll in the BoostersPlus program and your favorite charity is the Oconee County Humane Society, #855. You will only need to do this once. Thank you. Meow.

## Animal ER: Rescue Me.

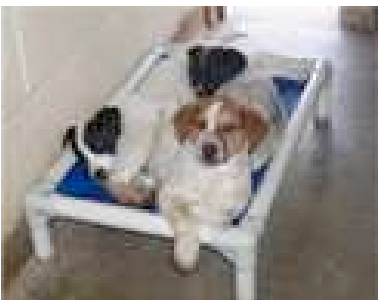
Dr. Maureen McMichael is a veterinary specialist at the University of Illinois in Urbana. She experiences tragedy every day, but marvels at the resilience displayed by some animals under duress, particularly her own dog, George. George, a pit bull mix, was rescued from a dog-fighting ring where he had been used as bait to train more mature combatants. His first lucky day came when he landed at Dr. McMichael's animal clinic.

"What they (dog fight trainers) do is take these dogs and string them into a harness", she says. "Then they let their limbs dangle, and train the pit bulls to attack their limbs. When they were done with George, they just threw him out of a (moving) van". The Animal Rescue League found George and brought him into the clinic. "When they brought him in, he was in septic shock," Dr. McMichael said. "Each leg had about forty five (45) bite wounds and a lot of puss, really infected. His back right leg was gnawed to the bone - it was just hanging." He was in such rough shape, any compassionate veterinarian would have to consider putting him to sleep.

"We had him on the table, and we started to have a little conference about (what to do about) him," Dr. McMichael remembers. "We decided that even if we could save him physically, which was unlikely, he had no owner, so no one would pay this bill, which would be astronomical. And if we amputated the leg, emotionally he would never be able to recover, and he would never be adopted. As they were talking, I turned around and caught his eye, and he wagged his tail. And I thought, how can you wag your tail?" She smiles at the memory. "To this day, I still don't know now he could have done that. We just joke and say it's because

## Needed: Kuranda Beds

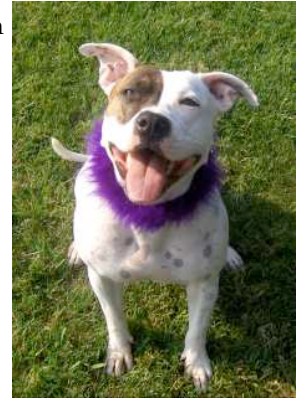
To keep dogs off cold concrete floors, the choice of professionals has always been these sturdy chew-proof beds; the animals love them! There currently are only a handful available at the new shelter and they could use another 40 beds. If you able to help out call Mike Hardin at 1-800-752-5308 or Carol Grandmougin 1-800-494-7122 and tell them you want to donate a Kuranda dog bed to the Oconee Humane Society at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard, Seneca, SC 29678. Kuranda will sell you the bed at a



discount, ship it to the shelter and send an acknowledgment and receipt. We need the following sizes: 8 small, 26 medium, 4 large and 2 XXL. Call Wendy Rohleter or Jaimee Paul at the shelter to confirm the latest count (864) 888 0221. Woof.

he is so stupid. He has one neuron - a happy neuron - and that is why he is alive today."

They did multiple surgeries on the leg and saved it. What remains most vivid in Dr. McMichael's memory, though, is the dog's indomitable will. "I certainly wouldn't want to go into a pit bull ring. That would be an awful place, but he is the happiest dog you will ever meet in your entire life." When Dr. McMichael looks back over all the incredible cases she has treated, it is George that affects her the most. "I actually cried for three days at the thought of that happening to an animal. And to know on top of it how well organized it all was. He had red dye on his neck, and someone told me they paint them. They do certain dogs Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and others Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and they have them in cages", she says, "I just could not fathom it. This is such a sweet, lovely creature who would do nothing but kiss everybody."



**For more information: punch up "dog fighting" in Google and get a snout-full.**

## Olny srmata poelpe can raed tihs.

cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuam nmid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at CmabrigdeUinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm.

Tihs is bcuseae the huamn nmid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorant! if you can raed tihs psas it on!



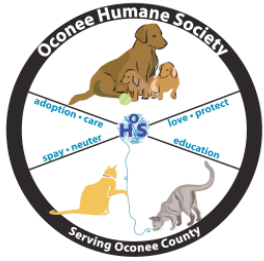
*(continued from Page 3, It Started...)*

idea of euthanasia, but we were in luck. There was a lady there who offered to take the cats. She lives on a farm, the cats can live in her barn, and they will live on rats and the dry food and water she will put out every day.

All we have to do now is catch the two remaining permanent residents and the two visitors, and we will be finished with this experience. We can be happy with Miss M, Nutmeg, Cinnamon, and L.C.

I have learned my lesson. Never again will I be tempted into feeding a stray cat.

(\* Kittens can be spayed / neutered as early as 2 months of age. Cats usually go into heat (and can then become pregnant) at 5 - 6 months of age.



# Oconee Humane Society - 2009 Membership Application

P.O. Box 966 - West Union, SC 29696 - Tel. 864 944 8155

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address / PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories  
(check any number)

- \$10 Youth
- \$25 Family
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$150 Benefactor

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

(optional)

Additional donation to:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Spay/Neuter
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund

May we contact you regarding volunteer work? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Comments or suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed:
\$ _____

*Please fill out this form, cut it on the line below, tear along the side and mail it with your check.*



www.oconeehumane.org



<p><b>Bulk Mailing Permit 3</b></p> <p><b>West Union, SC 29696</b></p>
--

Oconee Humane Society  
P.O. Box 966  
West Union, SC 29696