

Animal Rescue Centres



ARK REPTILE RESCUE

November 2009
Issue 4

newsletter

Adopt for the right reasons to ensure a happily ever after

Special points of interest:

- K9 obedience training classes now at PAWS Darwin!
- Cat and Dog of the Month
- Wildlife Rescue Darwin Possum Care Packages
- Lawn Mower Frog!
 - Snakes as pets
- PAWS Darwin Poster Competition
- Vet Tip of the Month



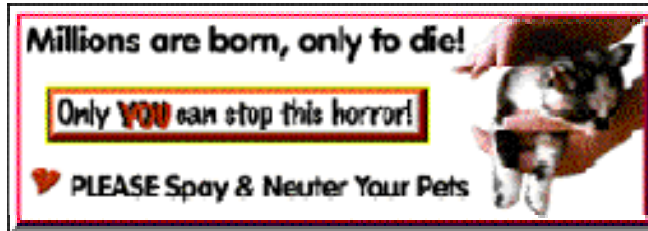
Councils and You!

Christmas, while for most a wonderful time of year, can be stressful and unsettling for others, including our pets. Buying a new puppy or kitten as a Christmas present can be risky too. Make sure they are well thought out before bringing them into your family and don't surprise another family with the gift of a pet. Talk to them and include them if you really must purchase an animal for them.

There is nothing worse than a sick new puppy at Christmas, or any time of the year. Research *where* you are going to get your new pet from. Adopting a pet which is already desexed, vaccinated and micro chipped helps to stop the vicious cycle of over population and unwanted kittens and puppies as well as ensuring you purchase a healthy animal. Talk to breeders and rescue shelters and get as much information as possible before making any decisions. As a general rule new pets are better bought *after* Christmas as there is less confusion and upheaval for the pet and less likelihood of making spur of the moment decisions which may be later regretted. Remember a pet is for life not just for Christmas.

Adopting a new family member at any time of the year must be thought out properly and ensure you and your family are committed to the next 15-20 years (Up to 90 years if you were to adopt a bird!!!).

Council Regulations mean that for many of us pet owners annual registrations of both cats and dogs are just a part of pet ownership. Having your pet registered can save you up to hundreds of dollars if your pet ever becomes lost and impounded at a council facility. By having your pets registration tag on their collar it can help to have your pet identified and returned quickly. Without registration you can face hefty fines and release fees to claim your pet back. Did you know that it is now mandatory for cats in the Darwin area to be registered? Registration fees can differ depending on if your pet is desexed or not and with different councils. Visit www.darwin.nt.gov.au or www.palmerston.nt.gov.au and get your pets registered today!!!



Have you adopted a PAWS Darwin shelter animal?

Help us to give homeless pets a second chance!!!

Have you adopted a pet off us in the past? Have you volunteered or fostered with us and want to share your story?

Support for the Animal Rescue Centre is growing and we would like to publish your stories on our website and in our newsletter to show that our animals can get a second chance at a happy ever after. We are asking for everyone in the community to share their happy ending stories with PAWS Darwin. Submit your heart warming stories with a picture or two and help us to spread the word and continue to help the homeless! Send your stories to pawsdarwin@gmail.com or post them to PO Box 2275, Palmerston, NT, 0831.

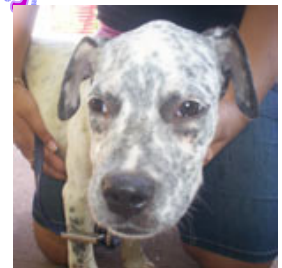
We would like to update stories regularly, so keep on sending them in!!!

Cat of the Month



Claudia is a 4 year old female DSH who has lived at the PAWS Darwin shelter since March this year. Loving and loyal, Claudia would love a home to call her own!

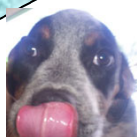
Dog of the Month



Sianna is a 5 month old female Heeler cross who was an unclaimed stray with her sister. Gentle and laid back, Sianna is a very intelligent girl who wants to be loved.

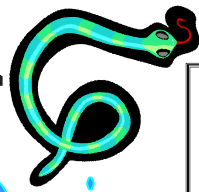
For the price of just 2 McDonalds meals a week you could assist in keeping a young puppy's tummy full. With food in their tummies they can go on to find a forever home and get the second chance they deserve!!! Contact PAWS Darwin to find out more about our sponsorship program and help us help them!

K9 Obedience Classes
Using Craig A. Murray's fantastic method of obedience training, our PAWS Darwin shelter manager and dog trainer Vicki Tilbrook will guide you through teaching you and your pet basic obedience. Our classes will equip you with the tools on how to teach your dog to sit, drop, heel and regain your Alpha position in the pack!
Bookings are essential as class sizes are limited, so please phone us for more information! Dogs enrolling must have up to date vaccinations (records are required) and be over 6 months of age.



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	Dog Walkers and Washers are	
	always welcome down at PAWS	
	Darwin!!! Come down and	
	spend some time on making	
	sure our homeless pets feel	
	loved!!!	
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snakes as pets

Dr Stephen Cutter B.V.Sc(hons)

Native Wildlife in Darwin

Most people don't realise that there are native rats and mice. In addition to a lots of small species of small marsupials (like dunnarts & antechinus) we also have a large number of true rats and mice. The best known are the water rat and hopping mice. In Darwin we have many different species, but one of the most spectacular is the black footed tree rat. They are quite large - about double the size of a "normal" rat. We get quite a few each year usually after an altercation with a dog.



Snakes are certainly the pet of the moment. I treated a pet snakes about once every six months when I first graduated thirteen years ago. Now I see dozens everyday. They make excellent and spectacular pets and they are relatively easy to care for. What's more they suit most peoples busy lifestyles better than dogs or cats. Pythons make the best pets and come in a spectacular array of size, colors and temperaments. When choosing your snake make sure you do your research and choose the one is right for you. Don't just choose the prettiest. The jungle python is one of the most brilliantly colored, but most likely to bite. not the best for a beginner. Pythons are great escape artists so make sure your enclosure is escape proof, a "cave" of some sort is also a necessary feature. A study water bowl big enough for the snake to get into (and not tip over) and soak is essential to prevent shedding problems. Many pythons like to climb so some branches in the enclosure are helpful. While snakes pass urine and faeces relatively rarely compared to mammals good hygiene is important. While covering the bottom of the cage in leaves or sand looks great, newspaper works well and is much easy to keep clean. Snakes eat whole food, there is no easy way around that. There is no reason to feed snakes live food, as well as being cruel to the rat or mouse many pet snakes are injured and even killed by an angry potential prey. Food can be bought frozen, it just needs to be thawed, warmed and given to the snake. As with any pet it is essential that you find out about how to look after your snake properly.

Possum Care Package

Help support a possum today! By donating and sponsoring a possum, you are giving them the best possible chance of being successfully raised and released back into the wild. The Animal Rescue Centre has registered wildlife carers who are on call to take in and hand rear orphaned baby possums. This process can take up to 6 months for a baby possum, and 2 to 3 months for a juvenile possum.



Your **\$100** sponsorship will help cover the following;



- Veterinary Health Check,
- Milk Powder, fruits and vegetables,
- A pouch to live in whilst young,
- A possum box to live in once released.

Lawn Mower Frog For those of you in Darwin might be have already heard about this one (it was in the NT news). We had a female green tree frog that got run over with a lawn mower. The Lawn mower took the top layer of skin off and a fair amount of bruising. We anaesthetized her and stitched her up. She has recovered well and now looks great and is ready for release. Here is some photos of before during and immediately after the surgery. And one photo of how she looks now. She has now been released back into the wild to hopefully live a long life.



The Animal Rescue Centre thanks all of our sponsors, donators and supporters.

Bitch Box Pty Ltd
Ph; 0419 852 652



Paul Arnold Bush Photos
Ph; (08) 8941 6062



DBH
Ph; (08) 89313188



Aerosail
Ph; (08) 8947 2880



Ark Animal Hospital
Ph; (08) 89329738



Contact List

Animal Rescue Centre - 89329496

PAWS Darwin and Wildlife Rescue Darwin

Business hours: Monday to Friday 10am-6pm,

Saturday 11am-3pm, and Sundays 10am-1pm.

58 Georgina crescent Yarrowonga,

postal address PO BOX 2275 Palmerston, 0832.

Email at pawsdarwin@gmail.com or visit www.pawsdarwin.org.au

Ark Animal Hospital - 89329738 Emergency after hours - 0407391543

Business hours: Monday to Friday 7am til 7pm,

Saturday 8am til 2pm, and Sundays 10am til 12pm.

56 Georgina crescent Yarrowonga, postal address PO BOX 2772 Palmerston, 0830. Email at info@thearkvet.com or visit www.thearkvet.com

Humpty Doo Veterinary Clinic - 89883340

Business hours: Monday to Friday 7.45am til 6pm, Saturday 8am til 2pm.

Shop 8 and 9 Vereker st, Humpty Doo. Postal address PO Box 2275

Palmerston, 0832. Email at humptydoovet@hotmail.com

Reptile Rescue - 24 hour snake removal service - 1800453210

TELAF - Top End Lost and Found Website

An independently run website which gives pet owners another avenue to search for a lost or found pet. Visit www.telaf.wordpress.com

Visit us at
pawsdarwin.org.au
or
thearkvet.com!!!

Vet Tip of the Month **Obesity**

Dr Stephen Cutter B. V. Sc (hons)

Obesity is a growing trend not just amongst us humans but also amongst our pets. A survey by the RSPCA showed that 41% of Australian dogs and 33% of cats are overweight. It is certainly very common and I see animals every day that are suffering poor health due to being overweight. Being overweight can contribute to a whole range of diseases such as heart disease, pancreatitis, arthritis, diabetes, overheating and even skin disease

Owners will often state that the animal was not overweight until it was desexed. There is some truth in that. Desexing can slow down the metabolic rate a bit and desexed animals have fewer interests than undesexed animals. Desexing will reduce wandering (to find mates) and some other forms of exercise.

Fundamentally though, for the vast majority of animals, the cause of obesity is that they are eating too much or exercising too little. There are certainly significant metabolic and genetic differences but it is still possible to achieve a healthy weight in almost every pet. A thorough medical check up is important to ensure there are no medical conditions contributing to the weight. Maintaining exercise such as regularly taking your dog for a long run or walk certainly helps. Getting cats to do more exercise is more of a challenge.

For most animals weight loss will require decreasing the amount or the content of the food being offered to your pet. There are now excellent weight loss pet foods available and these are very effective. Often even just buying a smaller food bowl can make a big difference. (Since the desire to fill a bowl is so strong by having a smaller bowl you feed less.) It is also good to keep track of who is feeding what to the pets - often several people in a house may feed or treat a pet. Treats can add up to a substantial amount of food.