



Hello everybody! Here we are into October already. Soon Christmas will be here! I hope you enjoyed the last newsletter about nutrition. This month we are going to talk about our veterinary assistant, Stephanie's idea of adoption. She even wrote part of the newsletter. Thanks Steph!



### **PET ADOPTION:**

What do you think of when the month October comes to mind? Leaves that are beginning to change? Football? Halloween? How about adoption? October is the National Adopt a shelter-dog month. Adopting a pet can be a rewarding and challenging experience. One look and your heart melts and then you find yourself buying toys, food, bedding, and anything else you

think your new pet may need. But how do you choose a pet and are you ready? Some questions you need to ask yourself are: Why do you want a pet? Do you have time for a little one (housetraining is a long process) or would an adult be better for your situation? Are you able to afford the pet and give him/her a good environment? Finally, are you able to have a pet where you live?

Try to google "pet adoption", or go to the following links for more information on pet adoption:

[http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet\\_adoption\\_information/what\\_to\\_consider\\_before\\_adopting\\_a\\_pet.html](http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_adoption_information/what_to_consider_before_adopting_a_pet.html)

<http://www.asPCA.org/adoption/adoption-tips/questions-to-ask-before-adopting.html>

<http://www.asPCA.org/adoption/>

Some good places to look to find the perfect pet locally are:

- ❖ The Canine Adoption Center.  
<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/WV105.html> This is our local county run animal shelter. They always have a good selection of cats, kittens, puppies and dogs. They have the most variety. All the animals are spayed/neutered and vaccinated. The adoption fee is \$85. They are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-4:30 and Tuesday and Thursday 10-6. Check out our very own Adoption Center Critters section in this newsletter.
- ❖ Animal Friends Shelter. <http://www.animalfriendswv.org/index.html> This is our local no-kill shelter. It is located on the River Road and is open from Thursday through Saturday from noon to 4:00. They usually have a good selection of cats, kittens, dogs and puppies.
- ❖ Pet Helpers <http://pethelpersinc.org/default.aspx> Pet Helpers is based out of Fairmont, West Virginia. They rescue animals and put them in foster homes until they are ready to be adopted.
- ❖ Petfinder <http://www.petfinder.com/index.html> Pet finder is the place to go when you would like to look on line at your choices of multiple animal shelters/rescue organizations.

Finding your right pet can be intimidating. You have to find the pet that you can live with for its entire lifetime. We encourage you to do some research before adopting your pet, because a lot of the pets that end up at the shelters have had homes at one time. It is much better to realize that you are not ready to adopt, then to adopt and have to relinquish your pet. Sadly enough, many pets that are relinquished are not adopted; they are euthanized due to lack of space at the shelters.

Don't be afraid to ask us any questions you may have about adoption!

### Dr. Tidbit by Dr. Kelley Owen:

Once you have decided to adopt a pet, choosing one that is suited for your family is the next step. First, consider your lifestyle. If you are considering a dog, make sure you will have time to crate-train at least the first 4-6 months. Be sure you will be able to provide exercise and adequate mental stimulation to prevent unwanted behaviors. If you choose a cat, make sure you do not have an aversion to cleaning the litter box. Also, plan on at least 15-20 minutes per day dedicated to play with your kitten. Other pets to consider are bunnies, rodents, reptiles and fish. Whichever type of pet you choose, remember it is for the life of the pet, 10-15 years of care and attention.

### ADOPTIONS:

I am happy to report that one of our kittens got adopted last month. 😊 I would like to thank Amy Giardina for taking her! We still have 1 female and 1 male kitten. They have been felv/fiv tested, vaccinated, de wormed and altered. They are ready to go!

We also have the mother to these kittens who is very sweet! She is a beautiful longhaired cat with a great personality.

We would love to help out our local shelter and rescue more, but we cannot until we adopt these. 😊

### ADOPTION CENTER CRITTERS:



Joey is a 2 yr old Collie mix. He was adopted from us when he was a pup and brought back by no fault of his. He is a very attentive boy and after working with our volunteer that is also a professional trainer we hve discovered his potentials are endless. He has been here longer than any dog up for adoption and hopefully will find a forever home soon.



Jonesy is a vocal black and tan Coon Hound. He is around 1 yr old and seems to chase away potential familys because of his beautiful bark. He is so sweet and smart but continuously is saying, "Please pick me!" "Please pay attention to me!" and "Love me!!" With the right training he could be taught not to bark so much and I believe if he were in a different atmosphere he wouldn't be trying to attract so much attention.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ❖ We would like you to e-mail us or drop off a picture of your pet in his/her Halloween costume. We are going to post these pictures on the wall in the office so you can do this at any time. We will pick our top favorites and put them in next month's newsletter.
- ❖ Animal Friends is having their annual Pet Halloween Costume Contest. This will be held at the Mountaineer Mall on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Registration is at 12:30 and the contest starts at 1:00. Dress up your pet and go out and support a good cause!
- ❖ Woof's pet store is having their annual pet Halloween costume contest on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 12-2. Come down for some fun games with your pet!
  - ❖ Check out this website to see the exciting dog agility trial that is coming up at Mylan Park!  
<http://www.mkclub.org/showsandtrials/index.html>

## **EMPLOYEE BIO:**

Hello there! My name is Stephanie Godfrey. I graduated from WVU with a Bachelors in Pre-Vet Med and a Masters in Agriculture, but have decided that I enjoy radiography, so I am now studying to be a Radiology Tech at Ruby Hospital...then on to law school (kidding!). I am the proud parent of an 8 year old female blue merle Australian Shepherd named Andi, a happily retired 17 year old Appaloosa gelding by the name of Flash, and an 8 year old Appaloosa stallion, Josh, who decided he wanted me to be his "two-legger" though I'm not sure why...hahaha. I enjoy showing Josh in Reining, Trail, Bareback Equitation, Western Pleasure and Western Equitation classes. I have been around animals since I was 6 (21 years now...where has the time gone?), and have raised and helped to train Josh, Flash, and several other horses my family has and have had in the past. When I'm not busy working or being in school, I can be caught napping on my couch, watching t.v., being a goofball, or at home back in Hurricane messing around in the barn and riding.

Pictured below left to right: Andi, Me, and Josh (I don't have any pictures of Flash on my computer ☺ but I won't tell him if you won't).



That is all we have for this month. If you have any questions about adopting the perfect pet, please feel free to let us know! Join us next month to see our favorite Halloween photo picks and pictures of our employees' pets in their Halloween costumes.