

The S.P.O.T. Express

Vol. 1, No. 2, Jan. 2009



FROM DR. MELOCHE...



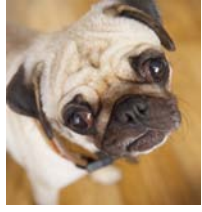
Dr. Gilles Meloche, DVM, MBA
 Director, Metro Animal Services

Pet overpopulation is the number one problem encountered by MAS. Although the reason behind the problem is simple, the solutions to stop it are more complicated. The problem is one of supply and demand—there are more homeless pets born each day than there are homes to adopt them. Sadly, owners of unaltered pets too often find themselves surrendering their new litter to MAS because they are unable to find homes for them. Because of insufficient demand and the high number of litters surrendered to MAS, most of these animals must be euthanized. It is a tragedy that can be stopped. MAS is doing our part by spaying and neutering all of the animals adopted from our shelter, as well as any unlicensed animals claimed by Animal Control Officers, and by providing low-cost spay and neuter surgeries through our SPOT program. You and your organization can help end the suffering of homeless pets in our area: spay and neuter all of your pets and convince your neighbors, family members and friends to do the same; report illegal, unlicensed breeders; sponsor our SPOT program; license your pets. MAS is making great progress—the number of animals euthanized for overcrowding has decreased by over 52% since 2006—but together we must do more to Stop Pet Overpopulation Today (S.P.O.T.).

Donate to Metro Animal Services!

Your donation will help support and enhance programs that aren't covered by our general expenditures, such as The Spot Fund for our new state-of-the-art adoption campus, the animal care fund to enhance the lives of the animals in our shelter, and S.P.O.T., our low-cost, mobile spay and neuter clinic.

[Click here to donate now!](#)



NEWS	DID YOU KNOW...	WISHLIST
<p>DEADLINE EXTENDED! License your pet online before January 18 and MAS will waive your late fees!</p> <p>On February 13, MAS is teaming up with YPAL and Proof on Main for a Valentine's Day fundraiser! Watch for more details coming soon on our website and in your inbox.</p>	<p>Did you know that MAS offers a low-cost spay and neuter program? Costs range from \$22 to \$57; pet owners must meet income eligibility requirements.</p> <p>If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, please call MAS at (502) 361-1318. Spaying and neutering is the answer to the pet overpopulation problem!</p>	<p>Please help the animals by donating these much needed items!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good-quality dry dog and puppy food • Large bath towels • Large plastic litter pans • Wide-bottom stainless steel bowls • Digital cameras • Tongue depressors

4H GROUP BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER (AND TREATS!) TO ANIMALS



On December 16, 2008, nine members of the 7th grade Highland Voyagers 4-H Club from Highland Middle School, their teachers and parents arrived at MAS to deliver bundles of holiday treats for the animals in our shelter. Last fall, the 4-H clubs across Jefferson County held a fundraiser by selling Best in Show pet treats; customers were asked to purchase treats for their own animals as well as those waiting at MAS to find a home. The Highland Voyagers 4-H group sold the most treats of all the 4-H clubs and were invited to come to MAS to deliver over 120 bags of treats to the animals and get a tour of the shelter. They were able to interact with many of the animals waiting in our shelter and give them some special holiday attention with their bright smiles and tasty treats. Thank you 4-H and Highland Voyagers! Click to read the [feature article](#) by the Courier-Journal and to view [photos](#) from the Voyagers' visit.



THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR "DART" TRAINING THIS MONTH!

Metro Animal Services has partnered with the Humane Society of the United States to offer "DART" training, which stands for Disaster Animal Response Team. The training, which will be held in Louisville at the Fern Creek fire house at 6200 Bardstown Road, is offered through the Humane Society University. The three-day course will be offered January 23-25 and will give graduates the basic training and skills needed to set up DART teams in their area and be the nation's first responders for animals in crisis after a large disaster. For more information or to register, visit the HSUS page [here](#).



VOLUNTEER CORNER

In December, 2008, a group of very committed volunteers organized a donation drive for MAS that was amazingly successful. Mallory Delk, Kayla Luckett, Rachel Mills, and Katherine Steltenpohl are sophomores at Assumption High School who volunteer at MAS on a regular basis. The donation drive they held brought in 50 jars of peanut butter, 86 towels and blankets, 76 rolls of toilet paper, 28 bottles of bleach, and 139 rolls of paper towels! We are so thankful to these volunteers and all who contributed to their donation drive. Great job Mallory, Kayla, Rachel and Katherine!

Are you interested in holding a donation drive at your school or workplace? It's easy to do and we'll give you all the information you need to get started! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, David Neeson, at (502) 574-5556.

TIPS FROM OUR VETS

Is your pet spayed or neutered? If not, it should be! It's one of the best things you can do for your pet's health—spaying and neutering reduces the risk of many types of cancer and also cuts back on unwanted behavior. Although you may have heard that spaying and neutering can cause weight gain or personality changes in pets, these myths are untrue.

For more info on health benefits and myths surrounding spaying and neutering, visit our website.

ON THE ORDINANCE...

Q: Why are the license fees for unaltered animals higher?

A: Because we have a terrible pet overpopulation problem in our community. By offering a lower licensing fee for animals that are spayed or neutered, we are trying to encourage people to have their pets altered. The overpopulation problem is caused by the offspring of animals that aren't spayed or neutered.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the ordinance, and [here](#) to access other ordinance FAQs.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

On a very cold, snowy day in January 2007, Animal Control officer Kim Corder found a weak and frightened miniature pinscher in a Louisville backyard. He was chained, had inadequate shelter and was badly malnourished. Upon arrival at MAS, veterinarians determined he was dangerously underweight at barely 5 lbs and was suffering from hair loss due to his severe malnutrition. Although his chances of recovery weren't promising, MAS veterinary assistant Patty Wilbert came to his rescue, opening her heart and her home to the dog as his foster parent.

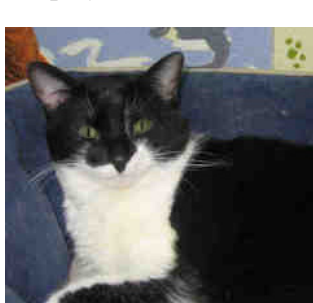
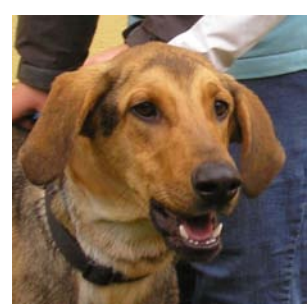


Jake one year after rescue, happy and healthy.

One year later, Jake is fully recovered from his hair loss and nutritional deficiencies. It took time, but with Patty's devotion Jake eventually learned good behaviors and became a loving, healthy dog. After a full year of nursing Jake back to health, Patty decided she couldn't part with him. Instead of transitioning from foster care to our adoption floor like most foster animals, Patty welcomed Jake as a permanent member of her family.

PET PERSONALS

Hi there, I'm **Andre**. I've been here at MAS for too long now... none of the staff can figure out why, they all say I'm such a good boy! I'm a hound mix with long legs which come in handy for walks and exploring, which I love to do. I'm happy-go-lucky and have a great big heart—I'll be a loyal best friend to the person who makes me a member of their family. Sometimes it's hard to see my charms behind my kennel fence, but I promise that once you get me out and give me a chance to stretch my legs a bit, I'll show you just what a great pet I'll make. Stop by soon to see me—I'll be waiting to go home with you!



Prrrr... **Roo** here. Are you the lap I'm waiting to curl up in? I'm definitely a lap cat, I love to be petted and show affection. Everyone loves how I purr and they all say I'm such a loving boy. I'm about three years old, I've been declawed on all four paws, and I get along well with other cats. My green eyes really pop against my black fur, and my white markings are a very pretty contrast. I would love to go to a home where I'll get lots of love and attention—is that home yours? If so, I hope you'll come adopt me soon!

UPDATE ON DECEMBER'S FEATURED PETS: You may remember [Annabell](#) and [Runter](#) from last month's newsletter... they are still looking for homes! Please come visit them soon—they're anxious to find their forever families! You can find Annabell at our shelter, and Runter at Barkstown, 962 Barret Avenue.

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR ADOPTABLE PETS HERE!

