

# PAWS & THINK

## RESCUE NEWSLETTER

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Sponsored by Color Design Innovations and Pets Without Parents

**Pets without Parents**

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www.PetsWithoutParents.net



**OUR Pet of the Month is named Manhattan**

Poor Manhattan came from the deplorable conditions of a backyard puppy breeder. He was a mess - but the kind folks at Mutts & Co. in Dublin gave him a free grooming! Come meet this handsome boy!

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### SOMEONE FORGET WHERE THE LITTERBOX IS?

There can be many reasons for cats to avoid using their litterboxes. The triggers might not be obvious to us humans, but for a cat they are significant. Perhaps you are moving the boxes around or you don't have enough boxes. It's always a good idea to have one box per cat and one for the house. (so, 3 boxes for 2 cats) The boxes should be located in different parts of the house and never moved. Cats do not like boxes moved around and/or removed. The types of boxes are important as well. We recommend large uncovered boxes. Cats are vulnerable when they go to the bathroom. A cat can feel trapped in a covered box, having no way to escape a perceived threat. Cats want immaculately clean boxes and covered boxes can keep fumes inside. And finally, be consistent with cat litter. Most people buy whatever litter is on sale. Cats like consistency, so if you must change litter - do it gradually by adding a little every day for about 5 days. Remember, never punish your cat for messing up. They will just start avoiding you, and problems may escalate.

(source: catchannel.com)

## Found Dog? Lost Dog? What Next?

Statistics show that less than 16% of lost dogs are returned to their rightful owners. This number could be discouraging to lost dog owners, but instead it should be a motivator for them to follow the experts' advice when searching for their lost dog. Most people rely on one or two methods to find their lost dog. Obviously, 84% of the time, that's not enough. We recommend that you use all resources available to you in finding your lost dog, or to help find a stray dog's owner.

**Found a dog?** Here are some steps to take in tracking down the owner. Ohio's own Petfbi.com, and the national Fidofinder.com are two free searchable databases that are heavily used, and a friend of mine just found the owner to a lost dog by posting his picture on Craigslist.org! Remember, these sites are not known to everyone, and many people do not even use the Internet. Therefore, it is indispensable for you to seek and spread information about the animal you have found in as many ways as possible.

1. Contact your community animal control department, sometimes called the "dog warden". Often this is the first place people call when they realize their animal is missing. Ask that they keep a written record that you have found a certain animal. For Franklin County - that number is 462-3400 (if the dog has a license - they can look it up for you), or 462-4360 (no license, but you intend to keep him/her until you find the owner).
2. Microchips are another way to trace the owner. They are implanted under the loose skin on the scruff of the neck. The local dog wardens, and most shelters and veterinary offices have the necessary equipment to check if your new friend has one.
3. Contact the local shelters and vets in your area to see if anyone has reported a missing dog matching your description, and request that they keep a written record.
4. Prepare a "Found Dog" flyer with a picture or description of the animal, date found, and how to contact you. Be sure the letters are large enough to be visible from a passing car, especially the phone number, and post the flyers in high traffic places.
5. Take a photograph and show it to people in the area to see if they recognize him/her. Hand out cards or flyers with your phone number.
6. Check the Lost and Found classified ads in your local papers.
7. Regularly check community bulletin boards in pet supply stores, supermarkets, laundromats, cafes, groomers and kennels.etc.

**Lost your dog?** Obviously, you would want to consider all of the resources mentioned above - especially the online databases. Another great service - if you don't mind spending a little cash... for a mere \$75 (to start) the folks at lostmydoggie.com will call 250 of your neighbors with a detailed, automated message about your dog. If they don't reach a person on the other end - they leave a message. Depending on your local population and circumstance, lostmydoggie.com has plans which call up to 5,000 homes, and has an overall "find rate" of almost 70% - how cool is that!

Now when beginning your search on foot - be sure you take a picture of your dog with you so that you can show the people you encounter what your dog looks like. In most lost dog cases dogs are found just down the street, or within a mile of their home.

Posting "Lost Dog" posters for your dog increases the chances of his return by over 200%. Someone in your neighborhood saw your dog, had your dog, or currently has your dog. Any tip you receive from your posters will be useful, and will give you an idea of where he might be. The only information you need on your post is the words "LOST DOG", a picture or clip art of your dog or his breed, a color description, and a phone number.

Finally, if you are lucky enough to find your pet - be prepared to provide some "proof" of ownership. This is, or should be, common practice when returning dogs to their owners. So, for those who find the pup, be cautious before you surrender the animal to someone who claims to be the owner! A veterinary receipt or a photograph, or you can ask to see the license or rabies certificate. Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous and heartless people around who collect animals and then sell them to labs or use them in dog fighting or for other abusive purposes. Sad, but true. Best of luck to both groups - the lost and the found!

**Remember: a simple collar and tag make all the difference!**

(source: petfbi.com, fidofinder.com)

### What to do...What to do...?

- **EVERY MONDAY Night All Summer! - Dog's Night Out @ Rita's**  
Starting at 5:00pm - 2116 W. Henderson Road - Bring your pooch and spend an evening with other dog people and enjoy a frozen custard or ice.
- **Wednesday, July 8 - Popcorn and Putty Tats @ Cat Welfare - 5-6:45pm**  
741 Wetmore Road in Clintonville - Enjoy a fun children's movie, have some popcorn, and visit with feline friends. Children under 12 must be with an adult. This week's movie: MILO & OTIS
- **Saturday, July 18 - Hogs for Dogs Poker Run @ CHA - 11am-4:30pm**  
3765 Corporate Drive - Join CHA for a relaxing summer-ride with great views of Hoover Reservoir and Alum Creek Lake. Collect your cards, return to the shelter and see who wins the grand prize.
- **Thursday, July 30 - The Nationwide Children's Hospital (Golf) Invitational Played at the OSU course...** A unique blend of top and up-and-coming players in the world with some of the best collegiate amateurs in the country. For every ticket you purchase with the Friends of the Shelter order form, 100% of the ticket price will be returned to Friends of the Shelter!

**Thanks to all that participated in Run With The Pack!**

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Summer is officially here - so take some time to enjoy one of the Columbus area's public dog parks! All are fenced, and free to enjoy by well mannered pups and their owners!

**Alum Creek Dog Park**  
3992 Hollenback Road  
Lewis Center, OH 43035  
[www.AlumCreekDogPark.com](http://www.AlumCreekDogPark.com)

**Big Walnut Dog Park**  
5000 E. Livingston Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43227  
[www.BigWalnutDogPark.com](http://www.BigWalnutDogPark.com)

**Nando's Dog Park**  
Darree Fields Park (Cosgray & Sheir Rings Rd.)  
Dublin, Ohio  
[www.dublin.oh.us/recreation/parks/dogpark.php](http://www.dublin.oh.us/recreation/parks/dogpark.php)

**Pooch Playground**  
Pizzuro Park (Hamilton Rd., South of 270)  
Gahanna, Ohio  
[www.PoochPlayground.com](http://www.PoochPlayground.com)

**Three Creeks Dog Park**  
@ Sycamore Fields (Spangler Rd, S of Watkins)  
Columbus, Ohio  
[www.dogparkusa.com/ohio/columbus/three-creeks-dog-park](http://www.dogparkusa.com/ohio/columbus/three-creeks-dog-park)

**Brooksedge Bark Park**  
708 Park Meadow Rd  
Westerville, Ohio 43082  
[www.dogparkusa.com/ohio/columbus/brooksedge-bark-park](http://www.dogparkusa.com/ohio/columbus/brooksedge-bark-park)

**Wheeler Dog Park**  
725 Thurber Drive (Wheeler Memorial Park)  
Columbus, Ohio (Short North)  
[www.shortnorth.com/WheelerDogPark.html](http://www.shortnorth.com/WheelerDogPark.html)

**BOCCO'S RANTS...**



Did you know that according to a recent survey, only 36% of people who own cats - allow them to sleep in the same bed with them. I guess not everyone is as naturally sweet & cuddly as me. That's still not bad, considering that only 29% of dog owners allow them on their beds with them! Woohoo - we beat those canine fleabags again!

Cats Rule! (heehee)

(source: freekibblekat.com)

# PAWS & THINK

## Happy Tails...

We adopted Indie Ren (previously Haley) November 2007 and we can't imagine our lives without her now. She was one of the first dogs my husband and I met at Mingle with Mutts and after an hour of meeting other dogs we had to come back to see her before we left. It was decided that afternoon that we would take her home. As my husband frequently says, "We hit the jackpot with her." She is darn near perfect for us: laid-back, loving and quiet indoors, but spunky and energetic outdoors. She is one of the sweetest and smartest dogs we know and definitely one of the funniest with her quirky personality. We both grew up with dogs but we both agree that she is the best dog we've ever had.

~ Thank you Pets Without Parents for helping us complete our family!



## Help When You Need It Most

Most Americans are unaware that 117,000 pets are euthanized or forfeited every week in the United States. The reasons behind this high number may surprise you.

Thousands of pets are put to sleep by reluctant pet owners, who are faced with financial challenges that prohibit them from rendering emergency and necessary medical care for their animals. Veterinary care can be very costly often requiring hundreds, or thousands of dollars. Unexpected veterinary bills have caused many pet owners, struggling to make ends meet, to make painful decisions involving the life of their pet.

Angels4Animals, a non-profit organization, has a mission to serve as the guardian angel of animals whose caretakers find themselves in difficult financial situations. At Angels4Animals they believe that animal owners should not have to say goodbye to the animals that they love. Their work is accomplished in conjunction with veterinary clinics across the country, eager to assist as many animals, and their owners, as possible. Services range from financial aid to complete treatment to those pets and pet owners in need.

### Here are some FAQ's...

#### Where does Angels4Animals offer services?

Currently, efforts are geared toward assisting animals in the United States.



### Who is eligible to participate in the program?

The scope of their program is only limited by the resources at their disposal. Participants are selected after filling out an eligibility assessment application. Precedence is given to those that have the shortest amount of time to make a decision and/or to those that can demonstrate the greatest amount of negative impact on family life if the pet was gone. For more information, check out [www.angels4animals.org](http://www.angels4animals.org).

Angels4Animals is just one of the groups that I have found when searching for this type of service & assistance. They have a full list of these agencies on [beingstray.com](http://beingstray.com).

Another problem facing owners with financial woes is the simple act of feeding their poor pups. Pet food pantrys have popped up all over the country to help. Here in central Ohio, the RASCAL Unit recently initiated such a service last fall. Specifically designed to provide pet food to local shelters and rescues, low-income families, senior citizens, feral cat caregivers, as well as area shelters to which the unit travels. One of the goals of this program is to keep pets from being surrendered to a shelter due to a family's inability to afford food. Check out [www.rascalunit.org](http://www.rascalunit.org) for more information.

For those who truly want to keep their beloved pets - these wonderful resources would be a great place start!

## Just Leaving Their Mark!

Dogs who mark are simply urinating for the purpose of leaving a message. They mark to communicate fear or friendliness, to flirt, to express rank, to claim resources, to blaze trails, and to leave their calling card for dogs who follow. Consider it the "pee-mail" of the canine world! Punishing a dog after he marks seldom causes him to stop - he will still feel the need to "refresh" his spots tomorrow (or sooner). To discourage indoor marking, thoroughly clean all the usual spots with a product designed to eliminate urine stains and odors. It helps, but don't be fooled - they can still smell it. Keep an eye on him, and in the mean time, praise him for pottying where he should outside. Outside, if he has been marking on playsets and lawn furniture - same thing - clean vigorously. You can blot up some of the urine - and wipe it on trees, and other approved sites in your yard. (yuck, I know, but it beats a pretty, yellow chaise lounge!) He will soon get the message that he needs to "refresh" these spots instead. Again, praise and cookies when he does! The earlier you start re-directing, the better! Good luck - lets hope he gets the message!

(source: dog bible)

*"The real test of friendship is: can you literally do "nothing" with that someone; can you enjoy those moments of life that are utterly simple?"*

- Eugene Kennedy



## IZZY SEZ...

OK people, I know we just had a big story on the front page with tips on how to "find your lost dog", or "find the owner of a stray". Do we really need to do this every time? Can't we just spend the \$5-10 at Petsmart and buy a proper tag for your beloved companion? Please? And why do we keep taking the collars off inside the house? In our crates - yes - but not in the house! If the jingle noise drives you nuts, buy one of those cool silencers for the tags - my Mom just did (thanks Mom). We don't mind wearing the collars, honest - we think we're cute. Some of us (I won't mention names) have a tendency to "shoot the gap" when that front door opens, so having that collar & tag on can really make a difference. Also, you might want to put your cell # on the tags these days - if your pups are lucky like me, and get to travel with you - cell #'s may be the only form of contact if they are lost away from home!

Now get going, and buy that tag!

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**MEET REX!**



Rex is 8 yrs old. His owners could not afford to have his growths removed, so they gave him to us. They were massive - and limited his activity - but luckily they were benign. Rex is recovering nicely in his foster home! He is such a sweet boy!

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