

The Daily Bark:

Pleas From the Pound and Other Happenings

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Spay/Neuter: Help Reduce Animal Overpopulation

By Meredith Holt

Each year, 6 million to 8 million homeless animals enter shelters across the U.S., according to Humane Society of the United States estimates. About half are adopted, and the other half, sadly, are euthanized.

The most effective solution to the nationwide pet overpopulation problem is spaying/neutering, which is an important part of 4 Luv of Dog Rescue's mission and included in the adoption contract.

Adoption fees are \$150 for a dog that has been spayed/neutered. Otherwise, the fee is \$100 plus a \$50 deposit to be returned to the adopter once proof that the dog has been spayed/neutered is received.

Any unaltered dog adopted from the rescue must be spayed or

neutered within one month after adoption or when age appropriate. "We do follow up on this and will reclaim a dog if it is not spayed or neutered in the appropriate amount of time," says Kish Hilmert, 4 Luv of Dog Rescue president.

Further, the rescue will not place a dog in a home that also houses an unaltered dog, unless there is a valid medical reason not to perform the surgery. Applicants may claim their unaltered dog never leaves their yard, but accidents do happen.

"We do this because we want to help reduce the animal overpopulation problem in this country and we do not support the breeding of dogs," Hilmert says. "We want to ensure that we are adopting to homes that also want to help reduce the animal overpopulation problem."

Dogs that haven't been fixed face greater health risks. Male dogs have a greater risk of prostate issues and testicular cancer, and female dogs can develop cancerous mammary tumors and life-threatening uterine infections, she explains.

"Sadly, as a vet tech, I have seen all of this in unaltered dogs," Hilmert says. "It is so sad to see a dog die from an illness that could have been easily prevented if their owners had chosen to spay or neuter them earlier on in life."

Spaying/neutering helps prevent behavioral problems, too. Dogs that haven't been fixed may "spray," or mark their territory with strong-smelling urine. They're also more likely to display signs of aggression.

Note: For more information on the importance of spaying/neutering, see Dear Miss Molly on page 5.

2011 By the Numbers

Dogs surrendered to the rescue by their owners: 69 (25%)
Dogs rescued from local and regional pounds: 206 (75%)
TOTAL RESCUED: 275

Number of owner surrender dogs adopted: 67 (27%)
Number of pound dogs adopted: 183 (73%)
TOTAL ADOPTED: 250

*More than 910
dogs have been
adopted to date!*

The Boarding Bunch

By Lindsay Stordahl

4 Luv of Dog Rescue has no shelter. Most of its dogs live with foster families. But what if there aren't enough foster homes for all the dogs?

Usually the rescue has at least three dogs living in local boarding facilities while they wait for a foster home to open up. Below are some ways to help these great dogs!

How can you help?

Financial donations are always accepted to offset the cost of boarding the rescue dogs.

To make a donation, visit 4LuvofDog.org and click the "Donate" button in the upper left-hand corner.



Our organization receives no government funding, we rely on fundraisers and your generous donations to help pay for the expenses we incur while caring for the dogs. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.



To donate using PayPal, please visit our website and look for this graphic. It is linked to our PayPal account so all you have to do is click!

www.4luvofdog.org

Exercising, socialization and play
Amanda Steiner is a volunteer with the rescue and spends time exercising, socializing and training the dogs in boarding.

"I usually take the dogs out for an hour walk, sometimes rollerblading," she said. "I take time to let the dogs play with toys and time for working on basic commands such as sit and down with treats."

She said one of the best ways volunteers can help is just by spending time with the dogs. Regular exercise and socialization are the keys to having happy, healthy dogs.

"The rescue needs as many volunteers as we can get to provide this for the dogs on a regular basis," Steiner said.

“Regular exercise and socialization are the keys to having happy, healthy dogs.”

Once someone has been volunteering or a while, he or she can take a dog for a couple of hours for a "date," said Jamie Floan, manager of one of the boarding facilities and owner surrender coordinator for 4 Luv of Dog Rescue. These dates could be anything such as visiting a dog-friendly store or just a car ride.

More information on how to become a volunteer is available at 4LuvofDog.org under the "How to Help" tab.

Take a dog to an adoption event

Each dog needs a handler at these events.



Training Volunteers

can take dogs to training classes if the rescue has one going on, said Stacie Folmer, adoption coordinator and assistant foster home coordinator for the rescue.

Pixie

Become a foster home! Or better yet, adopt!

It's important to get these dogs into foster homes so the rescue knows how they act in a home, Floan said. Most dogs act completely different once settled down in a home than they do in boarding.

"Just because a dog is in boarding instead of a foster home doesn't mean that dog is less adoptable than another dog," Folmer said. "It just means we didn't have a foster home for him or her."

Now let's meet two of the dogs in boarding!

As more dogs come and go from the rescue each day, the actual dogs staying in boarding facilities is always changing. To see which dogs currently need foster homes, visit 4LuvofDog.org and click "Foster home needed" under "Available dogs."

Meet Pixie!

Pixie is a pitbull-type dog. She would do best with a foster owner who is patient and able to work with her, Steiner said. "Wherever

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Good Dental Care a Must for Your Pet

By Beth Bradley

“Grandmother, What big teeth you have,” said Little Red Riding Hood, her voice quivering slightly. “The better to eat you with, my dear,” roared the wolf.

Regardless of what your pet eats, healthy teeth are important for overall good health. Unfortunately, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats have signs of oral disease by age 3, according to the American Veterinary Dental Society.

“Brushing your pet’s teeth is very important. Pets age seven years to our one year, so not brushing your pet’s teeth for one year is like not brushing them for seven years,” explained Kish Hilmert, veterinary technician at Casselton Animal Service and founder of 4 Luv of Dog Rescue.

Bacteria combined with saliva and food particles between the teeth and gums can cause plaque accumulations on the teeth. Bacteria grows in the plaque, and as calcium salts are deposited, plaque turns to tartar. Without proper dental care, plaque and tartar build up leads to gum disease. Symptoms of gum disease include yellow and brown build up along the gum line and persistent bad breath. Broken teeth are also a common problem especially among outdoor dogs who chew hard objects like cow hooves.

“Dog and cats’ teeth are graded on a dental scale of zero to 4, zero being perfect and 4 being a mouth filled with gingivitis, possible bone loss, a large amount of bacteria and tartar build up. Having a mouth

graded 3-4 can be as painful to a pet as having a broken bone,” Hilmert said.

“It is important that people get their pets’ teeth professionally cleaned when their dental grade is at a level 1-2. If they do this and keep getting annual cleanings, their pet should have a healthy mouth and never get to a level 3 or 4,” Hilmert said. “If an animal has a level 3-4 mouth, they will most likely have teeth pulled. Teeth at this level often are decaying under the gum line and can cause bone loss, painful gum recession and many other health issues.”

When an animal’s teeth are ignored, they can develop periodontal disease just like people. Symptoms include red, swollen, tender, receding gums, bleeding, pain and bad breath. Periodontitis can result in tooth loss. The inflammation and infection associated with periodontal disease may damage organs like the heart, liver and kidneys, or lead to other serious health problems. Pet owners should look for signs such as changes in eating and chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth and depression.

The rescue takes in a lot of senior dogs that are in desperate need of dental care. “Brie and Mickey both had severe problems in the 3-4 category,” Hilmert said. “They both had so much dental disease; they had the majority of their teeth pulled. Their dental treatments took more than four hours each and cost more than \$700 dollars. Their

adoption fees would never cover the cost, but the rescue knows how important dental care is for a dog’s overall health and well being.”

“Mickey’s owner was going to euthanize him because she could not afford his dental care, among other things. He has since been adopted into a wonderful home and is doing awesome. Brie has also been adopted into a loving home. She was a senior dog who was not reclaimed at a local pound. She had multiple health issues that had to be addressed prior to getting her dental work done,” Kish said. “I am proud our rescue does so much to make sure the dogs in our care get the medical attention they need.”



Mickey, before



Mickey, after

Contact Information

4 Luv of Dog Rescue
 c/o Natural Pet Center
 3037 13th Ave. S.
 Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: (701) 205-0190

Please understand that our phone is monitored by volunteers. If no one answers, leave us a message that includes:

- Your name
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Why you are calling
- The best time to reach you

We will make every attempt to respond to your inquiry within 48 hours. Our preferred method of contact is e-mail. E-mail us at:

info@4luvofdog.org -
 general questions

foster@4luvofdog.org -
 information on fostering

volunteer@4luvofdog.org -
 to find out how you can help

donate@4luvofdog.org -
 information on donations of
 money and/or supplies.

Becoming a foster home is one of the most important things you can do to help our organization. Please consider becoming a foster today!

Apply online at:
www.4luvofdog.org

3rd Annual Silent Auction & Gala



The chocolate fountain was a hit.



Donated items lined many tables.

Date: November 4, 2011
 Attendees: 650
 Volunteers: 35
 Items up for bid: 715
 Sponsors: 250
 Total raised: \$28,000

**All numbers approximate*



4 Luv of Dog Rescue's board members enjoy an evening that took a lot of preparation, but was well worth it.

Tear-off reply form for contributions via mail:

Fill in your name and donation amount.

I, _____
 would like to contribute to 4 Luv of Dog Rescue.

\$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____

Other amount \$ _____

Please remit to:

4 Luv of Dog Rescue c/o Natural Pet Center
 3037 13th Ave. S.
 Fargo, ND 58103

or remit donation via PayPal link at www.4luvofdog.org

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she came from didn't spend much time with her, so she's learning as she goes."

Pixie is one smart and

Pete happy girl, Steiner said. And she has a special request for a foster home with a "Chuck It" and tennis balls!

Meet Pete!

Pete is likely a black lab/pitbull mix. "He is a very loving dog and thrives on human attention," Floan said. She believes Pete needs a quiet, nurturing foster home to show him the outside world is not scary.

"He previously was in a shelter for six to seven months so he 'grew up' in a kennel environment, and that's where he feels most comfortable," Floan said.

Lindsay Stordahl writes the blog ThatMutt.com and is the owner of Run That Mutt dog running and pet sitting.

Dear Miss Molly ...

Q: Often, I am asked "Why does 4 Luv of Dog Rescue require resident dog(s) to be sterilized before we can adopt from 4 Luv of Dog Rescue? and "Why do you require that the adopted dog be sterilized per adoption contract?"

A: To answer these questions, we have to look at why there are thousands of rescues. This is because of dogs that are unsterilized, for various reasons ... most usually not a good reason. We can discuss this part some other potty break (well ya' know I gotta do my business!) ... Anyway, because of overbreeding, there are so many of us (and we all deserve luv!) that when we are "thrown away," (and yes, I hate that term and the fact that we have to use it! WOOF WOOF, sorry, I was upset.) we end up starving in the streets/alleys, tortured or caught and sent to pound where we hope that someone has money to pull us, have us vetted and has a place



for us to lay our weary bodies. The only thought that keeps some dogs going is the hope that we might find someone to love, love us and take us home forever, no lie! So that is why rescues such as this require resident dogs to have been spayed/neutered and why we, the dogs to be adopted, also need to be spayed/neutered. Let's stop the cycle! WOOF!

Have a question for Dear Miss Molly? Please e-mail dearmissmolly@4luvofdog.org.

Upcoming "Meet the Dogs" Events

Saturday January 28, 1-3 p.m., at West Fargo PetSmart

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, 1-3 p.m., PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekend

Saturday, February 25, 1-3 p.m. at West Fargo PetSmart

Saturday, March 10, 1-3 p.m. at West Fargo PetSmart

Saturday, March 24, 1-3 p.m. at West Fargo PetSmart