

# Newsletter Winter 2011

## ZANI'S FURRY FRIENDS

**ZANI'S FURRY FRIENDS** IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO RESCUING COMPANION ANIMALS FROM NEW YORK CITY SHELTERS WHERE THEY ARE AT RISK FOR EUTHANASIA DUE TO OVER-CROWDING.

WE RESCUE PUPPIES AND KITTENS AS WELL AS ADULT PETS WHO DESERVE A CHANCE AT A LOVING HOME. OUR DOGS AND CATS ARE ALL UP TO DATE WITH VACCINES, SPAYED AND NEUTERED. DOGS ARE MICRO-CHIPPED AND HEARTWORM NEGATIVE, CATS HAVE TESTED NEGATIVE FOR FIV

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## Winter-izing your pet Tips on how to care for your furry friend during the colder months.



Getting used to the sudden drop in temperature is hard enough for us humans, but pets often require a few extra precautions as well. Follow these simple steps to make your indoor or outdoor pet more comfortable and safe during these cold winter months.

**DUNKIN**  
**SHORTHAired, MEdIUM SIZED, YOUNG, MALE**

### Keeping Your Outdoor Kitty Safe and Warm

Cats that live outdoors for most of the year really should be brought inside in extreme weather. If that's not an option, some sort of insulated shelter should be provided- preferably large enough for a cat or two, but small enough to prevent a nosey raccoon or possum from wandering in and taking over.

The shelter should be off the ground on some sort of platform and have a flap to keep the wind out. A shelter placed in some sort of enclosed area is even better. You can even buy heated shelters (just be sure to keep your eye on them in case of fire).

Also keep in mind that cats need readily available food and water. Dry food doesn't dry out like wet food, so it tends to be a better option. Be sure to provide plenty of it since kitties need the extra calories to keep warm.

Don't assume they'll be able to hunt enough prey to feed themselves- they need a steady food supply! Also make sure their water doesn't freeze over. This can be prevented by keeping it in a warm, accessible place, or even by investing in a handy heated water bowl.

Cats are also especially susceptible to frostbite, mainly on the tips of their ears. Make sure you check for red, painful areas that may become black over time. If you find your kitty has frostbite, get it to a vet ASAP!

Unsuspecting outdoor kitties also have a habit of crawling up into car hoods in order to snuggle near the warmth from the car's engine. Be sure to honk the horn or bang on your car hood before starting up your car!! That should sound the alarm to any snoozing cats to beat a hasty retreat.

## ADOPTABLE



**HARMONY**  
MEDIUM HAIRED,  
SMALL, FEMALE



**MELO YELLOW**  
CHIHUAHUA/  
DACHSHUND  
MIX  
SMALL, YOUNG,  
MALE



**DAPHNE**  
NORFOLK  
TERRIER MIX  
SMALL, YOUNG,  
FEMALE

## Protecting Your Indoor Cat

Luckily, indoor cats don't require the same amount of care as their outdoor friends, but certain precautions should be taken. Firstly, it goes without saying that you shouldn't put an indoor cat outside during the winter. They haven't developed the same tolerance for cold and survival skills necessary to tough out the severe weather. Inside the house, special attention should be kept on the garage.

Antifreeze, a common product used in the wintertime can easily leak out of cars onto garage floors. With its sweet flavor, cats (and dogs) are quickly drawn to it. Cats are extra sensitive to it, only one or two teaspoons of the stuff can poison a cat, while it takes three tablespoons to poison a medium sized dog. Be extra alert of any change in behavior in your pet, especially if you find an antifreeze spill.

Approximately thirty minutes after swallowing antifreeze, your pet will appear tipsy. They may vomit and will drink or urinate excessively. Pets should be brought immediately to a vet for treatment before irreversible kidney and central nervous system



**MING**  
MEDIUM HAIR, MEDIUM,  
YOUNG, FEMALE

Special attention should also be paid to clothes dryers. Much like car hoods, cats have a tendency to seek out the warm interior of dryers as a prime napping spot during colder months. Before throwing your wet laundry into the machine, be sure to check for sleeping kitties.

## Indoor/Outdoor K-9 Companions

Nowadays there aren't too many dogs that live full time outside and they certainly can't get into as many sticky situations as their feline friends (won't find my corgi crawling into the clothes dryer). Nevertheless, certain steps should be taken to make sure our dogs are kept safe and comfortable. Exposure to cold weather and wet snow can mat dog fur and cause skin irritation. Similarly, salt and chemicals can get between their toes and irritate their paws. To keep them comfy, be sure to groom longer haired dogs regularly. You can also keep a small tub of warm water by the door, so you can wash your dog's paws after s/he comes in from playing outside. You can also buy small, waterproof booties that protect their paws- although getting them to wear them is another story. For smaller, short-haired dogs like Chihuahuas and Dachshunds, sweaters or mini jackets are helpful in keeping them warm since they don't have the mounds of fur like their Labrador or Retriever cousins.

A special warning: Dogs frequently get lost in the winter because they lose the scent they are following in the snow! Be sure to keep your dog on a leash as much as possible and make sure s/he is well identified by tags and a collar!

## A GENTLE LEADER

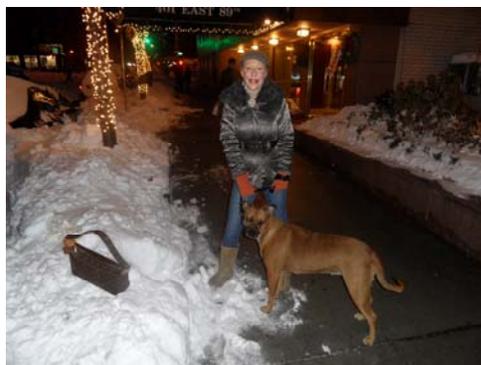
I adopted Libby (aka Sassy Red from the euthanasia list via Zani's Furry Friends in October. And although she was rated "mild" by the behaviorists at the CAC, after a couple of weeks with us, she began to lurch at other dogs on the street (a sign she was protecting her "forever mommy"). She's a big girl who weighs eighty pounds. Because I'm a relatively small woman, this behavior became quite a problem and ultimately prohibited me from walking her. However, after hiring a trainer, we learned a couple of very important things that can be extremely useful to those experiencing similar problems.

First of all, he suggested we change her diet to a low carbohydrate formula. This calmed her down substantially. Next, we employed a Gentle Leader, which had been a life saver. The head collar allows the owner to communicate with the dog in a way that she instinctively understands, translating your requests into "dog language"; indicating to her that you are the leader. The nose loop encircles the dog's muzzle in the same way a "pack leader" gently but firmly grasps a subordinate's muzzle in his mouth. The neck strap puts pressure on the back of the neck, working with your dog's "opposition reflex: (the natural instinct of dogs is to push against pressure rather than move away).

While traditional collars put pressure on the front of the throat (causing dogs to keep pulling even while choking), the Gentle Leader places 80% of the pressure at the back of the neck, taking advantage of the opposition reflex.

The dog, therefore, instinctively leans back against the pressure, putting an end to leash pulling. It also taught her to sit almost automatically with no need to press down on her back or hindquarters

Libby is a testament to how well this works. While her early behavior might have caused some to think twice about their adoption decision, I can now walk her myself, with no problems at all. She is even moving on to the "next stage", the Martian collar, which is green with daisies to compliment her beautiful coloring!



LIBBY IN ACTION



HARRY  
HOTOT  
SMALL, ADULT,  
MALE BUNNY



SNOOPY BEAGLE  
BEAGLE MIX  
MEDIUM  
ADULT  
MALE



NINA (PIRATE OF THE CARIBBEAN)  
SIAMESE/  
SNOWSHOE MIX  
SMALL, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



BRANDY A.K.A. QUEENY  
GERMAN  
SHEPHERD MIX  
MEDIUM,  
ADULT,  
FEMALE



FRITH  
BUNNY RABBIT  
MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT,  
FEMALE



LUCY CHIPUGGLE  
CHIHUAHUA/  
PUG MIX  
SMALL, ADULT,  
FEMALE

## At What Cost? The Price and Particulars of Caring for Your New Family Member. Part One: Dogs

As the old saying goes, money can't buy you love. And for anyone who's ever had the privilege of adopting (especially) a shelter pet, we realize we're preaching to the choir in terms of knowing the boundless affection and devotion that is yours for the taking. But we must be realist here, as well. These animals are living, breathing beings- family members- that require a lifetime of commitment of not only love, but the respect that comes with proper care in every way. So, let's take a look at what that roughly entails for our furry friends, starting in this installment with *man's best friend*, the dog.

While the cost of adoption can vary depending on such factors as size, age, and the place from when she/he came, the initial investment is usually somewhere between \$200 and \$400, with annual upkeep in the ballpark of \$500-\$1500.

Although the spay/neuter fee is routinely included in the adoption fee from shelters and rescues, independent vets can charge anywhere from \$250-\$400, with the price being substantially lower if you opt to have the procedure done at one of the shelters or ASPCA mobile facilities (\$75-\$100).

Grooming costs depend largely on the breed and can run anywhere from \$50-\$150 (or more), annually. While simple procedures such as nail trimming can be had for \$10-\$15 a "clip", regular grooming costs tend to escalate with breeds such as poodles and bichons. Training usually starts around \$40

per hour and ends when you agree your dog doesn't need it anymore (often after \$300 or more is invested). Of course, this particular addition is a personal decision and adoption from a rescue who fosters the animal in a home (and, hence, gets to know the personalities of each well prior to adoption) can frequently avert this pricey addition.



PRECIOUS  
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE  
TERRIER MIX  
MEDIUM, YOUNG, FEMALE



FAT SALLY  
AMERICAN  
STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER  
LARGE, SENIOR,  
FEMALE

## WHO'S YOUR KITTY?



LITTLE CAT  
SHORT HAIR  
MEDIUM,  
YOUNG,  
FEMALE



CRYSTAL  
LONG HAIR,  
SMALL, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



STELLA  
SHORT HAIR  
SMALL, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



FLUFFY PERSIAN  
PERSIAN/  
LONG HAIR,  
MEDIUM, YOUNG,  
MALE



MAX  
SHORT HAIR,  
MEDIUM, ADULT,  
MALE



SAMMIE  
MEDIUM HAIR,  
YOUNG, SMALL,  
FEMALE



FLING-A-LING  
CALICO MIX  
SMALL, ADULT,  
FEMALE



ALYSSA  
SIAMESE/SHORT  
HAIR MIX,  
SMALL, ADULT,  
FEMALE



WENDY  
SHORT HAIR/  
TORTIE MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT,  
FEMALE

### WEEKLY ADOPTION EVENT

PETCO  
1280  
LEXINGTON AVE.

(BETWEEN 86<sup>TH</sup>  
AND 85<sup>TH</sup>)

EVERY  
SUNDAY!

12:30-5:00PM

PLEASE CONSIDER PROVIDING A HOME FOR MORE THAN ONE DOG, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING ADOPTING A PUPPY. DOGS ARE PACK ANIMALS AND VERY MUCH ENJOY AS WELL AS NEED OTHER DOG COMPANY TO LEARN TO PLAY, SOCIALIZE AND BE GOOD COMPANION ANIMALS TO PEOPLE. THE UPSIDE TO THIS IS THAT YOU WON'T FEEL AS GUILTY LEAVING THEM ALONE AND YOU GET TWICE!

## PUPPY LOVE!



MOZART  
LAB RETRIEVER  
MIX  
YOUNG, MEDIUM,  
MALE



CASH  
PIT BULL MIX  
MEDIUM, BABY,  
MALE



CINDY  
GOLDEN  
RETRIEVER/CHOW  
MIX  
LARGE, ADULT,  
FEMALE



ALEXIA MIDTOWN  
AMERICAN  
STAFFORDSHIRE/  
LAB MIX  
LARGE, ADULT,  
FEMALE



KING  
AMERICAN  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
LARGE, SENIOR,  
MALE



ROSIE  
GERMAN  
SHEPHERD MIX  
MEDIUM, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



SUKI  
GERMAN  
SHEPHERD MIX  
LARGE, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



LIBBY  
BOXER/BERNESE  
MOUNTAIN MIX  
MEDIUM, YOUNG,  
FEMALE



SHIRO  
LABRADOR  
RETRIEVER MIX  
MEDIUM, ADULT,  
MALE

**ZANI'S FURRY  
FRIENDS****HAPPY TAILS: HOMER'S ODYSSEY**

I thought you should know that Homer changed my life. I am now a cat shelter volunteer myself. You may recall that Homer was blind (have you read the bestseller "Homer's Odyssey" about another blind kitty?) and he wound up also having a shaking condition, possibly Cerebellar Hypoplasia. He was also terribly behaved! I had gotten a bid-a-wee trainer and even had Homer put on medication to try to prevent him from attacking me. When I moved in 2009, I adopted a kitten named Cookie, and she and Homer were eating out of the same dish within an hour of meeting each other. Homer also licked Cookie from head to toe constantly (see attached photo!). Since the day I brought Cookie home, Homer was no longer aggressive toward anyone, and became the love of my life. Unfortunately, his shaking condition progressed and he became unable to jump onto the couch or bed. I got him pet steps, but he fell often. When he was no longer able to get into the litter box, his quality of life suffered greatly. I said goodbye to Homer this May, and I thought you'd like to know how much he meant to me. Since then, I have adopted a 12 year old cat named Callie from my shelter, a real scaredy cat, who months later is finally coming around. Thank you for being so patient with me when I adopted Homer, my first cat, my first love. My experience with him has opened my heart to cats forever.

PLEASE VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE TO  
SEE HOW YOU  
CAN HELP!

ADOPT!

FOSTER!

VOLUNTEER!

DONATE!

WISHLIST!

<http://zanisfurryfriends.org>



HOMER AND COOKIE

