



PCB Paws & Claws
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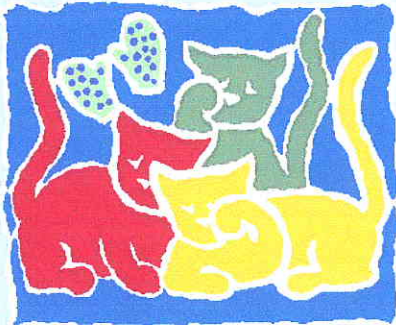
PCB Paws & Claws

Spring 2009 Newsletter



Mission Statement:

Dedicated to ending the tragedy of homeless and abandoned cats and dogs through spay/neuter, vaccination, adoption, and education programs while promoting a no-kill philosophy.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

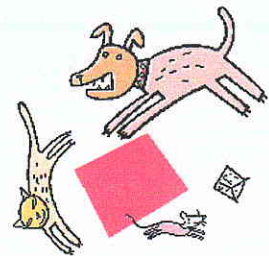
President's Letter

Dear Fellow Animal Lovers,

The amount of dogs and cats found abandoned and homeless in this area last year was overwhelming. The economy had a lot to do with the irresponsible and very sad situation. In many cases animals separated from the only owners they had ever known were left behind to starve. Some were found on the streets, some inside empty homes or even left tied up somewhere. We knew we couldn't save them all but we sure tried. Our dedicated volunteers opened their hearts and homes to help them. Our foster homes stayed full all year and as waiting pets were adopted, new arrivals took their places. This new year may bring a lot of the same type of problems. Our hope is that more people will have their pets spayed or neutered. Many people don't know that there is low-cost surgery available here in Bay County. Unaltered pets running loose and indiscriminate breeding has caused thousands of healthy dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens their lives.

Our adoption program through the PetSmart Store in Panama City continues to be a rewarding experience for volunteers and all of the homeless pets we take in. We thank all who support our work and ask that you please remember PCB Paws & Claws throughout 2009.

God Bless You,
Linda
Paws & Claws President





Success Stories

The Rescue of Oreo and Bojangles

It was a cold afternoon in December as I drove to a sub-division off of Thomas Drive to rescue 5 little kittens that had been left out in the cold and rain for days. Someone called Paws and Claws about a momma cat that had not returned to her sick kittens.

As soon as I saw them I knew to take them straight to the vet's office. I cried all the way to Parkway Animal Hospital. The kittens were so cold and stiff. I was worried that none of them would make it through the night. After only seconds, the vet knew that one should be euthanized. It was the kind thing to do. The other four were taken to the back and given fluids immediately. As I waited, I prayed to God for a miracle.

Just then I was handed the box of four kittens and sent home with a can of KMR (milk replacer for kittens) and a tiny baby bottle. I was advised to feed these 5-day old kittens every 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The drive home was almost unbearable. I wanted to stop along the way and hold the kittens and warm them up so desperately.

Once home, I found a blanket and heating pad and continued to pray for the lives of the kittens. I knew the first night would be the toughest. I had never done this before. I didn't even know until I read some information on the package that I was supposed to cut a slit in the nipple. I just assumed it came with a hole. It turns out that I didn't need it anyway. The kittens were not sucking from the bottle. I found a syringe and used it to inject milk into their little mouths.

Several days later, two of the kittens began sucking milk from the nipple during feedings. The other two appeared somewhat weak and I watched their health deteriorate during the night. Monday morning came and I was back at Parkway. As I feared, another kitten had to be euthanized. And later, during the wee hours of the next morning, another little kitten lost its life. I experienced all sorts of emotions. I cried and cried. What could I have done differently?

As broken hearted as I was, I still had to take care of the remaining two kittens. I fed them, I wiped them and I held them for what seemed like hours. I watched them while they were sleeping to make sure that they were still breathing. I was exhausted. I wasn't getting much sleep and I was still emotionally drained from the loss. I said another prayer asking God for strength.

Each and every day afterwards, the kittens became more and more active, sleeping less and playing more between feedings. Their little personalities developed and we soon gave them names. The female we named Oreo and the male we named Bojangles. I knew what was coming next. My boys asked, "Mommy can we keep them?" How could I say no? For weeks I had struggled to keep them alive. I spent countless hours with them and more hours praying for them. It would be difficult to imagine life without them at this point.

Christmas came and went and along with the new year came many changes. The kittens are growing up healthy and every day become more and more a part of our family. ♥



*Oreo & Bojangles happy in their tree.

This is a heartfelt story sent in by a dedicated Paws & Claws supporter:

The weirdest thing happened, I was trying to find a patient's house out in Fountain and became lost. I was in the middle of nowhere and heard this awful noise, and saw a very small dirty black looking animal in the woods. I found a female kitten who had obviously been dumped there, she was about 5 or 6 weeks old and starving. She was screaming and making a real ruckus. I picked her up and put her in a box I had in the car and after seeing my patient that day I drove home.

I bathed her, fed her, medicated her for fleas, worms and ear mites of which she had lots of!! After bathing her it became obvious that she was white not black!! She is part Siamese I think, and she has pale blue eyes!

Iggy has fallen in love with her and treats her like his baby, he carries her by her neck scruff and deans her and washes her, he is so tender with her. We named her Grace, as in saving Grace. Grace loves Iggy too!! ♥



*Iggy & Grace loving on each other.



*Woody at home.

Woody's New Home

After living in several homes and being abandoned at a church, Woody has finally found a forever home with a family who loves him as much as he loves them. He has a brother to play with and a bunch of cat friends. His separation anxiety is getting better and he often gets to come to work with me to make new friends. He is such a happy, lovable little guy. It's the highlight of everyone's day when Woody comes to visit. ♥



Success Stories

The Great Kitty RoundUp: A TNR Success Story

One night while going through the "drive-thru" at a popular fast food restaurant on the beach, I was astonished to see several cats and kittens roaming around the restaurant parking area. They were obviously waiting for someone to toss them a morsel of food. I have seen feral cats before (including in my own back yard), but never as many as this, in one place and at one time. I was very sad for them because feral cats have a very difficult life just trying to stay alive and avoiding humans who don't want them around.

Since it was dark, I could not see well enough to tell if their ears had been "tipped," which would have meant they had previously been trapped, neutered/spayed, and given a rabies vaccination. (During the spay/neuter surgery, the veterinarian will remove a small portion of the left ear so that another trapper will know that this cat has already been fixed.) This is the humane way to help curb the stray cat explosion. Killing them should never be an option! I was told by one of the restaurant employees that the cats had not been neutered/spayed and they would like for them to be trapped, fixed and relocated.

I had borrowed a trap from Panama City Beach Paws and Claws (P&C) to trap a few stray cats in my neighborhood and after having a discussion regarding the restaurant cats with someone at P&C, I was told that if I wanted to remove the colony from the restaurant, P&C would provide me with more traps, and, of course, pay for the spay/neuter surgeries.

Luckily, about the same time, someone had called P&C to volunteer her time, learn how to trap and help transport animals to an animal hospital for surgery. She had not heard about the "restaurant cat rescue" beginning in just a couple of days, but she was anxious to help on the project. Animal rescue is very rewarding, but is time consuming and most of the P&C volunteers have families and full-time jobs, but give what time they can.

Two more traps were delivered and on the first night, with three traps, we trapped two cats. We would have trapped a third, but one of the traps was old and rusty, so the cat had a nice dinner of sardines and then escaped. We were so happy that we caught two that it didn't really matter that the trap failed to get the third. We knew that since we had gotten off to such a good start, we would catch the escapee eventually.

It has been a few weeks since we began this project and we still have a few cats left to trap, but we are awaiting homes to relocate them to after we have them fixed and vaccinated. The cats that we trapped were spay/neutered, vaccinated and relocated. Some went to an established cat colony, but most are being relocated to country homes where food will be plentiful and with acres of "woods" in which they can explore to their hearts' content. Hopefully, these lucky feral cats will live out their lives as maybe God intended, wild and free.

The cats might not remember the two trappers who got so excited each time a trap door slammed closed and who are very thankful they were given the opportunity to help these beautiful animals have a better chance of survival, but one thing is for certain, the two trappers will never forget them. ♡



*Two feral cats eating at drive-thru restaurant colony

★ Why the TNR Program is Important ★

The major reason for the feral cat/kitten problem is that some people will not have their animals neutered/spayed. Many people will take a cute little kitten in, and say they will get it fixed, but never get around to it and then it is too late. By now everyone should know how prolific cats can be and in a short period of time. Many unaltered pets are allowed to roam freely, get lost, become strays and have kittens. "Mama cats" that are living outside are very protective of their kittens and keep them so well hidden that by the time they are seen, they are feral and then it is usually too late to socialize them for adoption.

P&C volunteers not only adopt out kittens, cats and sometimes dogs at the adoption center at Pet Smart; spend days, weeks, sometimes months fostering animals; spend hours trying to educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets; but, also, spend countless hours trapping stray animals to have them neutered/spayed, vaccinated for rabies, and on a daily basis, provide them with food, sometimes in a feral cat colony or just in their own back yard. We do our best, but we can't save the life of every homeless animal, and we can't trap every feral cat. If you believe in what we do, we ask for your help. You can support us financially with your tax deductible donations (traps cost us \$40.00 each and we have them at several locations in Bay County, but we could use more and they do get old and wear out) and/or volunteer your home, time and love to foster an animal for us. We also need caring people who live in rural areas that have barns and would be willing to accept a spayed/neutered feral animal(s) and provide that animal(s) with food and shelter. P&C and the saved animals will be very grateful for any help that you can give.



Adoptable Pets & Info



Petfinder.com

So many more pets need a home!
Visit Petfinder.com and search our zip:
32413.



Visit the Adoption Center at the
Panama City PetSmart to see a few
of our adoptable pets!

Second Chance for Love Adopt-a-thon
February 13th & 14th: 10am - 4pm
February 15th: 12pm - 4pm



**IT'S RAINING
CATS & DOGS...**

so don't forget to
get them spayed
& neutered!

**Parkway Animal Hospital
& Pet Hotel**

Call for low cost spay & neuter options.
739-A Tyndall Parkway in Callaway.
(850)763-8387.

Looking for our Forever Home



MAGGIE is a 2 year old female that may seem shy at first, but loves to rub noses and show affection. It will probably take her a little while to get used to new surroundings, and she will be most happy if she's the only cat in the house. But if given a chance, she will be a great companion!

MAMA MIA is a young acting female. She loves to sleep in laps and snuggle in the bed. She also greets you at the door when getting home from work! She might be best at a home where there are no other cats to distract from all the affection she wants to share!



DITTO is a one year old male who has had a rough life. He can be quite shy at times, but gets along well with other animals and children. He needs a special home with a dedicated cat lover who will love him for the wonderful feline he is!

SABRA is a 4 year old female Maine Coon who loves to be . Once you've gained her trust she loves to cuddle and be extra sweet. After two litters she's ready to settle down in her forever home!





Supporters & Donations

Memorial

Joan Wilson's dear cat, Charlie, was loved for many years. He will be missed.

Information Center

Kritter, Inc is a new wildlife rescue and sanctuary on Panama City Beach headed up by Lisa Mabry. They rescue, raise, rehabilitate, and release wildlife. (850)819-3354 (800)327-8686 www.kritterinc.com

Tax-Deductible Donations Needed:

FUNDS: Angel Fund (medical emergencies), Spay/Neuter, medical treatments

VOLUNTEERS: PetSmart Adoption Center, foster homes, website building, fundraising, etc.

SUPPLIES: Cat Food, Dog Food, Litter, Toys (We can arrange for pick up.)

LAND/PROPERTY: Zoned commercial or agricultural on Panama City Beach.

Please call (850)234-6284

Attention Cat Lovers:

If you find it hard to keep your kitties inside your yard there may be a solution. A 6ft high vinyl fence might be the answer for the problem. The fence has been suggested by people who have tested it. We have been told that the cats can't jump or climb the vinyl fencing and make an escape.

DECEMBER YARD SALE

Thank you Sarah, Tracie, & Counts Real Estate for hosting a yard sale benefiting Paws & Claws and other charities! We appreciate all of your hard work!



Howell & Golden, P.A.
 1122 Florida Ave.
 Lynn Haven, FL 32444
 (850)215-3093
 (850)215-3111 Fax
 beng@knology.net

Thank you Eric Howell and Ben Golden for all your help! If you are looking for an expert in accounting please give them a call.

Membership

Please consider becoming a PCB Paws & Claws member and supporting our mission! Each member will receive our quarterly newsletter and reassurance that their donation will be used strictly for animal welfare.

Yes, I will support the efforts of PCB Paws & Claws, Inc. I have enclosed the following tax-deductible donation for my 1 year membership:

Please fill out the form and mail to:

PCB Paws & Claws
P.O. Box 7412
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

- _____ Single \$15
- _____ Family \$25
- _____ Patron \$100
- _____ Benefactor \$500
- _____ Angel \$1000
- _____ Other \$_____

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____



Upcoming Events



Second Chance for Love Adopt-A-Thon

February 13th & 14th

10am - 4pm

February 15th

12pm - 4pm

Come give a special pet their
forever home!

Yard Sale

Saturday, March 5th

8 am - 1 pm

At L3 Communications
on Thomas Dr.

All Proceeds benefit PCB Paws & Claws.

Car Wash

by Arnold High Beta Club

Saturday, April 25th

10 am - 3 pm

At Applebee's on Middle Beach Rd.

All Proceeds benefit PCB Paws & Claws.

Catt'n Around on Island Time

Sunset Luau Cruise

Saturday, June 6th

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Food, Fun, & Festivities!

\$35 Donation

All Proceeds benefit
PCB Paws & Claws.

Call 819-6639 for details and
reservations!

Check out our new website at www.pcbpawsandclaws.org.



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