

TAILS FROM THE ARK

A NEWSLETTER FOR NOAH'S WISH VOLUNTEERS

January 2012
Volume 3, Issue 1

Noah's Wish 2011 in Review

For nearly ten years, Noah's Wish has stayed true to its mission of saving the lives of animals impacted by disasters, and 2011 was no exception.

We believe the organization's strength is in our dedicated and highly skilled volunteers, staff, and board members, all of whom work tirelessly to bring the organization together in a manner that seamlessly transitions from one disaster response to another without sacrificing the impeccable care we provide the animals.

Tornadoes in the spring dealt an exceptionally brutal blow to the southern part of the U.S. A series of large, vicious storms cut swathes of devastation through many parts of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. Noah's Wish responded to both Georgia and Arkansas in late April and early May, setting up shelters to house animals displaced by the tornadoes. During these responses, we were operational for over three weeks and managed the care of more than 300 animals. Noah's Wish trained volunteers staffed the shelters, some traveling from as far away as Connecticut and Ohio. In addition, almost 100 local residents volunteered their time to help clean cages, walk dogs, cuddle cats, and comfort people. Noah's Wish volunteers added another dimension to our disaster response efforts in the late summer, when we participated in rebuilding the sanctuary in Georgia that was destroyed by the spring tornado - bringing it back to full operation and allowing volunteers to experience firsthand how their efforts to save the animals brought a community together.

While tornadoes were the bane of the South, flooding was the issue in the Midwest. Noah's Wish set up a shelter in Metropolis, IL, in early June to care for animals left homeless, when high water forced thousands to evacuate. From there, the next stop was Minot ND, where Noah's Wish volunteers sheltered over 400 animals whose families were displaced due to severe flooding. This response proved to be the longest of the year, with volunteers rotating in and out of North Dakota for well over a month.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2011 Raffle Winner	Pages 2
Items Toxic to Pets	Pages 2-3
Saving Money on Vet Care	Pages 4
New Year's Resolutions for Dogs	Page 5
Around the Regions	Page 6-10
2012 LA Marathon	Pages 11-12
2012 Training	Pages 12-13
A Cat's New Year's Resolutions	Page 14
Sponsor Ads	Pages 15-17

How to reach us:

Web: www.noahswish.info

Phone: 916-939-9474 - Fax: 916-939-9479

Email: info@noahswish.info

Then there was our response to Hurricane Irene on Long Island, NY. Noah's Wish established an animal shelter in record time, when the threat of a direct hit by the hurricane caused thousands of residents to be evacuated from their homes for several days.

Not only was Noah's Wish able to help out in major catastrophes during the year, but we also responded to smaller incidents in our local communities, for instance; we aided with renovating a cat sanctuary in Catskill, New York that was having a difficult time in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene getting volunteers to help rebuild their facility. We also responded to a call for emergency sheltering in Placer County CA, when over 10,000 people were evacuated from their homes due to a burning propane tanker car that threatened to explode.

Interspersed with disaster responses were numerous preparedness drills, community outreach events, and training sessions aimed at honing our volunteers' skill levels in order to be better prepared when the next disaster calls. Our training program is recognized as one of the premier offerings nationwide and this year was no exception. Over 350 volunteers attended one of the sessions conducted in various locations throughout the U.S. We thank our many volunteers, who so generously gave of their time and efforts to make these all success stories for the organization.

Congratulations to the grand prize training raffle winners for 2011!

Tracy Snell, Region 8 (Georgia) won the handheld Magellan "Xplorist 400" series GPS unit. Ann Glavin, Region 5 (Southern California) won the handmade quilt (see picture below).

Thanks to everyone that participated in the Saturday night raffles, from our generous sponsors and supporters to all the participants that bought tickets. This year everyone was a winner and walked away with fabulous prizes.

Special thanks to our sponsors Pet Ag, Coleman, ACES, Premiere, Lupine, Oster, Merck, Oxbow, and the many individuals including all of our "Training Site Liaisons and Coordinators" that brought items to expand this fun annual event.



Handbags: Reservoirs for Items Toxic to Pets

Pet Poison Helpline Reveals the Top Five Most Hazardous Handbag Contents

The cold months are upon us and everyone is spending more time indoors – including our pets. It is during this time that the veterinarians at Pet Poison Helpline receive the most calls concerning dogs and cats exposed to indoor poisons, including items found in handbags, backpacks and purses. Unbeknownst to many pet owners, the most common and most toxic handbag items

are; sugarless chewing gum, medications, asthma inhalers, cigarettes and hand sanitizers.

To a dog or cat, a handbag or backpack can be like an amusement park. In one compact place, they can find many flavorful treasures to nuzzle, sniff and chew. This wouldn't be so much of a problem if all the contents in handbags and backpacks were safe for pets, but according to the veterinarians at "Pet Poison Helpline", that isn't the case. They are reservoirs of things toxic to dogs and cats.

"We often talk to panicked pet owners who are dealing with the aftermath of handbag invasions by unsuspecting pets," said Ahna Brutlag, DVM, MS, and assistant director at Pet Poison Helpline. "As we head into the cold months, when pets are more often indoors, it's important for pet owners to be cognizant of some typical handbag contents and how the contents can poison their dog or cat."

The five most common purse items that are toxic to pets are sugarless chewing gum, medications, asthma inhalers, cigarettes and hand sanitizers.

Sugarless chewing gum and breath mints

Many women carry chewing gum in their purses and don't realize that, if ingested by a dog, it can be fatal. Most sugarless gums, including some Trident™, Orbit™, and Ice Breaker™ brands, contain xylitol, a sweetener that is toxic to dogs. Some sugarless mints and flavored multi-vitamins may also be made with xylitol. When ingested, even small amounts of xylitol can result in a life-threatening and rapid drop in blood sugar, and if large amounts are ingested, dogs can suffer from severe liver failure. Signs of xylitol poisoning include vomiting, weakness, difficulty walking, collapse, tremors and seizure.

Human medications

Many purses contain pill bottles and dispensers. They are irresistible to some dogs, as they resemble toys that rattle. Each year, nearly half of the calls to Pet Poison Helpline concern ingestions of potentially toxic human medications.

Continued on page 3

Common drugs including NSAIDs (e.g. Advil®, Aleve® and Motrin®), acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) and antidepressants (e.g. Effexor®, Cymbalta®, Prozac®) can cause serious harm to dogs and cats when ingested. NSAIDs such as Advil can cause stomach and intestinal ulcers as well as kidney failure, especially in cats. A single Tylenol tablet containing acetaminophen can be fatal to a cat, and in dogs, a larger ingestion can lead to severe liver failure. Of all medications, antidepressants account for the highest number of calls to Pet Poison Helpline, and can cause neurological problems like sedation, incoordination, agitation, tremors and seizures.

Asthma inhalers (albuterol)

While asthma inhalers are often used in veterinary medicine for cats and dogs, when accidentally chewed and punctured by dogs, they can cause severe, life-threatening, acute poisoning. Because inhalers often contain concentrated doses (often 200 doses in one small vial) of beta-agonist drugs (e.g., albuterol) or steroids (e.g., fluticasone), dogs that chew into them are exposed to massive amounts of the drugs all at once. This can lead to severe poisoning, resulting in life-threatening heart arrhythmias, agitation, vomiting, collapse and death.

Cigarettes

As few as three cigarettes can be fatal to a small dog, depending on the “strength” or “lightness” of the cigarettes. After ingestion, clinical signs of distress can become apparent in as little as 15 minutes. Cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and even gum (Nicorette®) contain nicotine, which is toxic to dogs and cats. Exposure causes high heart and respiratory rates, neurological overstimulation, uncontrolled urination/defecation, tremors, seizures, paralysis and death.

Hand Sanitizer

In recent years, hand sanitizer has become a common item in millions of handbags. Many hand sanitizers claim to kill almost 100 percent of germs, and this possible because they contain high amounts of alcohol (ethanol) – sometimes up to 95 percent. Therefore, when a dog ingests a small bottle of hand sanitizer, it can have the same effect as a shot of hard liquor. This can cause a severe drop

in blood sugar, loss of coordination, a drop in body temperature, neurological depression, coma and death.

The bottom line! When there’s a dog or cat in the house, store handbags and backpacks out of reach. When the holiday season is in full swing, many pet-loving households are hosting parties with friends and family. Whether you are the host or a guest, be sure that purses are placed in a safe location and out of the reach of pets. When in doubt, hang it up.

If you think your pet may have ingested something harmful, take action immediately. Contact your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline at 1-800-213-6680. Pet Poison Helpline is the most cost-effective animal poison control center in North America charging only \$35 per call, including unlimited follow-up consultations.

About Pet Poison Helpline

Pet Poison Helpline, an animal poison control center based out of Minneapolis, is available 24 hours, seven days a week for pet owners and veterinary professionals that require assistance treating a potentially poisoned pet. The staff provides treatment advice for poisoning cases of all species, including dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, large animals and exotic species. As the most cost-effective option for animal poison control care, Pet Poison Helpline’s fee of \$35 per incident includes follow-up consultation for the duration of the poison case. Pet Poison Helpline is available in North America by calling 800-213-6680. Additional information can be found online at www.petpoisonhelpline.com.



Submitted by Kathy Wahlen, Pet Poison Helpline

Saving Money on Vet Care



Schedule Regular Check-Ups

Remember the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?" Well, it applies to pets, too. Don't skip your pet's yearly exam. It's much more expensive—and risky—to treat illnesses than to protect against them.

Personalize Your Pet's Vaccines

Hard times are not an excuse to skip your pet's annual shots, but it does make sense to talk to your vet about personalizing your pet's vaccine protocol. Some vaccines are optional, while others are essential in preventing serious diseases.

Spay or Neuter Your Pet

Spaying or neutering your pet can save a lot of money by preventing serious health problems including uterine, ovarian and testicular cancer. Many local shelters provide resources for low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter surgeries.

Brush Your Pet's Teeth

Dental disease—such as tartar, gingivitis, loose or infected teeth—can lead to heart and kidney problems and expensive procedures. Start a daily dental routine to keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy.

Protect Your Pet from Parasites

Flea and tick infestations can cause a host of costly medical problems from minor skin irritations to life-threatening anemia. Stick with a topical flea and tick solution to keep the critters at bay.

Toss the Cigarettes

Secondhand smoke is no joke for pets—it can cause asthma, bronchitis, lymphoma and oral, nasal and lung cancers. Quit now and you'll save money on vet bills. At the very least, avoid smoking around your pet.

See a Specialist

Pet parents can reduce costs by getting a pet's condition diagnosed and treated by an expert as quickly as possible. Veterinary specialists are available for everything from skin disease to cancer, and will often work with you and your budget.

Buy High-Quality Pet Food

A good quality pet food—formulated under the guidelines of the American Association of Feed Control Officials—is often more cost effective than a homemade diet. Avoid over feeding your pet, which can lead to obesity and other health problems.

Shop Smart

Whether he's looking for pet food, medicine or grooming supplies; the smart shopper clips coupons and buys in bulk. It's also a good idea to shop veterinary practices by comparing fees for preventative care.

Consider Pet Health Insurance

If the costs of an emergency vet visit or serious illness would be a financial strain, consider investing in pet health insurance, while your pet is healthy. Be sure to read the fine print, though—not all plans are created equal.



Submitted by Thea Martin, Region 5 Coordinator

New Year's Resolutions For Dogs



1. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
2. I'll remember that the garbage collector is NOT stealing our stuff.
3. I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
4. I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.
5. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.
6. I will not eat the cats' food, before or after they eat it.
7. I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.
8. I will not throw up in the car.
9. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc.
10. I will not lick my human's face after eating animal poop.
11. "Kitty box crunchies" are not food.
12. I will not eat any more socks and then redeposit them in the backyard after processing.
13. The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.
14. I will not wake Mommy up by sticking my cold, wet nose up her bottom end.
15. I will not chew my human's toothbrush and not tell them.
16. I will not chew crayons or pens, especially not the red ones, or my people will think I am hemorrhaging.
17. When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it's raining
18. The sofa is not a face towel. Neither are Mom and Dad's laps.

19. I will not steal my Mom's underwear and dance all over the back yard with it.
20. My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
21. I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and car registration.

2010 Most Popular Dog Names:

- 1. Buddy
- 2. Max
- 3. Daisy
- 4. Bella
- 5. Lucy
- 6. Jack
- 7. Molly
- 8. Charlie
- 9. Sadie
- 10. Rocky

2010 Most Popular Cat Names:

- 1. Lucy
- 2. Midnight
- 3. Bella
- 4. Molly
- 5. Smokey
- 6. Tiger
- 7. Oreo
- 8. Max
- 9. Princess
- 10. Charlie

Here are 2010's Most Popular Celebrity Pet Names:

- 1. Elvis
- 2. Houdini
- 3. Cherz
- 4. Madonna
- 5. Twiggy
- 6. Oprah
- 7. Lady Gaga
- 8. Beyonce
- 9. Coco Chanel
- 10. Shakira

Submitted by Thea Martin, Region 5 Coordinator

Around the Regions

Region 4 - Storm Alfred-Nor'easter Strikes Connecticut

A major snow storm in the winter is not usually an issue for the Northeast, but when the storm strikes in the fall it can in fact turn disastrous. Personally at my home we experienced 14" snowfall, a power outage that lasted six days, over 20 trees down on the horse fence alone, no phone or internet. So how did we cope? Luckily our family has a disaster plan that includes contingencies for power outages (a 10,000 watt generator that's ready to go) and a means of heating our home when the power is out. We did a mad rush to cut firewood Saturday right before the storm hit to burn in the woodstove, and we made sure the gas grill on the deck had a full tank of propane.

We had the regular variety of stocked supplies like any prepared disaster family would have ready to shelter in place. Because we were so well prepared, we were able to open our home to elderly neighbors, and a fellow CERT member, and even took in a stray 18 year old teenager!

By mid-week, I ventured out to replace fuel for the generator and learned from my local fire department's message board that warming stations were opened, which meant my local CERT team was deployed. I did an inquiry to see if I was needed, and learned they were shorthanded because they could not reach their volunteers due to power and communications outages. I returned home put on my CERT gear and reported for duty. I worked an overnight shift, where I served over 40 dinners with friendly greetings and light humor, for the area residents. I even had some crates, pet food and blankets staged in my car just in case a pet showed up. Fortunately they were not needed. All in all it, was a gentle reminder that everyone should have a plan in place. P.S. - I have a few loads of firewood for sale, if you were interested.

Below are just a few facts from an executive summary about our unprecedented Nor'easter that struck Connecticut and impacted my hometown.

Heavy wet snow began falling in Southwestern CT. at 11:30 AM on October 29th. As the storm rapidly intensified a very large shield of heavy

wet snow formed from Maryland to Maine which fell in the area for 12 - 18 hours.



It snowed approximately 3 inches per hour and covered a very large area of the Northeastern U.S. with temperatures within a few degrees of freezing over most of the area. The combination of heavy wet snow and near freezing air caused snow to adhere to all objects including trees that did not yet lose their seasonal foliage. The weight of the snow on trees and power lines, very wet soils as a result of recent storms (including T.S. Irene and the remnants of T.S. Lee) and moderate Northeast winds of 30 - 40 MPH combined to quickly overwhelm the ability of trees to remain upright and tree limbs to remain attached under the added weight. Significant power outages began occurring in Southwestern Connecticut within three hours of the start the storm and within 12 hours hundreds of thousands of trees were uprooted and delimbed. Falling limbs and trees caused an unprecedented amount of damage to utilities and a major amount of damage to structures and cars. Total outages reached a peak of 880,000 by the evening of October 30th with Western and Northern Connecticut the most severely affected. Snowfall from this storm event exceeded previous October records by a factor of up to 7 times in Connecticut making this storm event unprecedented in recorded weather history in Southern New England Dating back to 1650 according to the Connecticut State Library. Federal, State and local response to this event was negatively affected by three important factors; 1) Several States experienced widespread power outages nearing 4 million customers at its peak which diverted resources from Connecticut, 2) A foot or more of snow needed to be plowed from roads in addition to removing tree debris before power restoration

Around the Regions

Region 4 (continued)

could begin, 3) Daylight restoration time was only 10.5 hours per day compared with over 13 hours per day during the T.S. Irene recovery effort. These factors combined to complicate response and restoration activities. Full restoration required 12 days and during this period cold nighttime temperatures were in the 20's and 30's and daytime highs in the low 50's resulted in extensive shelter and warming center support for thousands of residents unable to heat their homes or remain in homes that averaged around 45 F. Ten deaths occurred in Connecticut from carbon monoxide poisoning, house fires, automobile accidents and falling trees.

The message is to be prepared – you can never tell when or where a disaster might strike!

Submitted by Jo Ellen Cimmino LVT

Region 4

Aslan Cat Sanctuary Recovery Project

Noah's Wish was sent an SOS message to see if we could help a cat sanctuary that had major flood damage in Catskill, New York called "Aslan's Cats". The message came three weeks after Hurricane Irene's fury struck the northeast. After a visit/assessment of the damage, it was quite apparent this special rescue group, which takes in only "feline leukemia" cats needed help right away. The history of events was provided by Sabrina, the president, and Hilary, the Co-founder. The rescue had only been in their newly refurbished location for five months, when the flash flood occurred (Hilary and her niece live on site).

During the weekend of Hurricane Irene, it was torrentially raining when they noticed the backyard suddenly covered with water, which was already at the steps of the back deck door. A panic rushed over them as they raced to round up cats, but at that moment fire department personnel were going door-to-door evacuating people in harm's way. Hilary refused to leave without the cats. She was forcibly removed from the house, and carried through now knee-deep water in the front yard, and placed on higher ground across the street. She watched in horror as the house flooded right before her eyes and could do nothing but stand by.

When Noah's Wish first arrived to do the assessment, it was day 21 of the situation, and we found Sabrina and Hilary totally overwhelmed! The devastation ranged from the emotional loss of 8 of 68 cats that drowned in the flash flood, to the severe flood damage that ruined everything on the first floor and basement of the house and the new storage shed. The shed contained loads of cat supplies; from medications, food, bedding, toys and a variety of other cat items.

Luckily, earlier in the week a local town work crew went door-to-door gutting the sheetrock and insulation down to the studs for all the houses on this street, if the structure was not condemned. After talking with Hilary and Sabrina, we told them what we would be able to do and put together a plan for what was needed for the recovery project.

Normally, Noah's Wish participates in temporary sheltering and care during disasters, but this response needed more help with the recovery aspect, something that was new for us. The recovery phase would need to be prioritized and done in stages. Projects ranged from replenishing day-to-day cat supplies, establishing a safety protocol, finding and lining up supplies and resources to fix the outside perimeter fence and the inside living areas for the cats. Plus put together a cat wellness plan to deal with the different health issues of the resident cats. Region 4 volunteers stepped up to help with the project; it was truly amazing how all this came together.

Sabrina, the property owner, explained they didn't have flood insurance. Furthermore Aslan's Cats' had used up a majority of their existing funds fixing the new cat sanctuary earlier that summer. They didn't know what they were going to do! Fortunately many Noah's Wish volunteers wanted to help in person, and many that couldn't be there in person sent supplies or made monetary donations. Volunteer Nick Freed donated funds that bought sheetrock, insulation and other supplies for the project. He also donated a new copy/printer/fax machine! Lori Trahan on behalf of Good Mews donated a mega air filter, Colleen Goff an air conditioner, Patti Vandia, a computer and monitor, the Cimmino family a washing machine, Melinda Plasse a giant Tupperware tub full of cat items including, medical supplies, Tractor Supply of Amenia, New

Tails from the Ark

Region 4 (continued)

York, let us put out a donation box and in one weekend we had a good supply of much needed cat supplies. Veterinary Pharmacies of America donated some compounded chicken flavored dewormer and gastro medications, Pet Safe Coalition made a monetary donation to help with the recovery project.

On the first weekend the team worked diligently to repair fencing and install a new anti-escape fence topper to keep the cat population contained. The work crew split into two groups; one side taking down a portion of the old fence material, while the second crew worked to install the new system. We also helped sort and unpack donations of supplies that were now arriving daily. The second weekend was partly rained out, but the team managed to secure the bottom of the fence line, and assist with ongoing cat chores. Patty Burckhardt, a friend of Aslan's Cats, stepped in to help with coordinating inside repairs. Patty put together a team, found a contractor to do the sheetrock/taping and spackling of all the downstairs walls. After the walls were up, she stayed on to prime and paint all them.

Phases 1,2,3 were now complete. The next phase was the Cat Wellness Program that would need to be done in two parts.

This special needs cat population had everything from upper respiratory issues complicated by breathing mold, bad gastrointestinal issues from drinking stagnant, contaminated flood water in their fenced yard. These were just a few things that needed to be addressed. A local veterinarian quoted the sanctuary over \$5,000 for a house call to come out and care for the cats over a two day period. While that was greatly needed, it was a tough situation as there were so many things the Cat Sanctuary had to replace before winter; like the whole oil burner/tank and air duct work, if they were going to have heat/water, and healthy air to breathe. Noah's Wish was able to come through with our network of veterinary care. The first "Cat Wellness Weekend" was supported by Dr. Danielle Schilpp. All but 5 cats were caught and examined. Sick cats were treated, with various medications, and healthier cats were dewormed, had a dose of Revolution applied, vaccinated for rabies, if they were due.

Donated Noah's Wish medical records were started in a binder on every cat that was cared for. On the second "Cat Wellness Weekend", we were joined by Dr. Linda Mittel, who reassessed the cats, and overall found them to be in much better shape. It was a great feeling to see the cats were definitely more relaxed and feeling better on the second trip.

Not all cats were keen on being caught and sometimes cat wrangling skills were required. Nothing a good net, thick towel and gloves couldn't handle, although I must admit I was really glad there were not any cameras around when I had to play "Kitty Toilet Twister". Luckily our veterinarians have a good sense of humor helped us to catch a few of the more challenging kitties. Imagine if you will two people crouched low, contorting bodies in different directions, hugging the toilet bowl, and not exactly showing off our best sides... butt I am happy to report everything turned out fine in the end (yes, pun intended).

The very last project that was completed was the "Cat Memorial Garden", a rock garden surrounding a Weeping Willow tree (it would serve a second function to help with drainage issues in the backyard). It was rewarding to see all the phases of the recovery project complete.



Special Thanks to Region 4 Coordinators, Paul, Marge and Dianne and our volunteers, Colleen, Mary, Katie, Shelley, Barb, Eric, Mitch, Nick, Patty, Beverly, Paula, Melinda, and everyone who helped with the recovery effort.

Submitted by Jo Ellen Cimmino

Around the Regions

Region 5

For the past two years, UC Davis Veterinary Medicine, and CAL EMA along with other sponsoring groups conduct conferences to help communities become better prepared should disaster strike. These no-cost workshops allow subject matter experts to discuss their roles in emergency management as first responders, and share their knowledge with those that may not have the "field experience" they have.

The experts share their experiences with rescuing animals during disasters and they explain how stakeholders can get involved.

Attendees participated in breakout sessions throughout the day that provided more information about "Animals in Disasters" and how you can become part of the team.

There were also static displays showing us some of the county's disaster equipment and teams, which was very interesting to see. San Diego has a lot of useful equipment and the people who know how to use it.



"The workshop was a great learning experience and I would highly recommend it to everyone"! (Chris Smelser)

Submitted by Kris Smelser Region 5, Senior Volunteer

Special Offer for Region 5 Volunteers!

Centinela Feed has partnered with Noah's Wish to offer our volunteers in Region 5 the opportunity to save on every purchase in any of their area stores. Not only will volunteers receive substantial savings, but will also benefit Noah's Wish through Centinela's generous pledge to contribute one percent of sales made by our volunteers to Noah's Wish.



Earn money for Noah's Wish just by shopping!

Centinela Feed & Noah's Wish are happy to offer you our **Paws Up Loyalty Card!**

- You save 9% on any purchase of \$35 or more, and 14% on any purchase of \$65 or more at any Centinela Feed location!
- 1% of your purchase will be donated to Noah's Wish
- Enjoy additional special promotions throughout the year, where you'll have the chance to earn even more for Noah's Wish



We hope to see you at your neighborhood Centinela Feed Soon!

Please contact Noah's Wish administration for more info.

For a list of our locations and directions, please visit www.CentinelaFeed.com

See page 15 for full ad

To participate in this offer you must have a special identification card, which is available by contacting Thea Martin by email at quatromeow@hotmail.com

Won't you sign up now and start saving on those pet supplies you always need and at the same time support Noah's Wish?

Around the Regions - Region 5 (continued)

Noah's Wish Volunteers Show the True Spirit of Giving!

Region 5 volunteers here in the Southern California area showed they had the "Holiday Spirit" this season and gave to our "Furry Friends" Christmas!

Items were collected far and wide: Glendora, Pasadena, Sunland, Burbank, Van Nuys, Vista, and San Diego! We collected 85 canned and 100 plus sample size bags of dry cat and dog food. Several bags of dog and cat treats, 5 pet beds, more than ten pet blankets, three "pet carriers", tons of cat and dog toys, five boxes of "poop" bags, and Noah's Wish donated a number of leashes, harnesses and collars for Lutheran Social Services Community Care Center (LSS-CCC) in Van Nuys, California.

We all had a good time collecting items and anticipating what these things will mean to the homeless and needy families that will surely appreciate them for their pets this "Holiday Season".

The director of LSS-CCC, Jan Meseda, was pleasantly surprised when my truck drove up to the Lutheran Church/Community Center filled to the brim with all of this stuff! Jan is a typical director of a nonprofit, spending more than 60 hours a week at her job working tirelessly to meet the needs of needy families and the homeless in the community.

Jan explained that that LSS-CCC provides a food pantry, clothes closet, community courses, family counseling, and portable shower trucks to more than 3,500 people a month. We gave Jan Noah's Wish Region 5 contact information and asked her to feel free to call, when they run low or if there comes a time when they receive a need for a specific or unusual pet item. We told her that we would rally the troops to see what we can do again.

A Big Thank You to all the Region 5 "Elves" who helped out with this generous Community Outreach Project: Amanda Baldinelli, Patricia Brenton, Tina Montes, Babz Rowe, Kris and David Smelser, Cindy Sanchez and Planet Doggy, and Alissa Silva. All pictured on the right.



Babz Rowe



Cindy Sanchez & Planet Doggy



Pat Brenton



Tina Montes



Kris & David Smelser



Amanda Baldinelli



Alissa Silva

Submitted by Thea Martin, Region 5 Coordinator

Noah's Wish - Marathon Team Updates

2012 is shaping up to be a big year for our charity running teams. In the coming four months, we will have dozens of runners and walkers putting their feet to work to raise funds for Noah's Wish. We hope to shatter last year's \$28,000 that our runners were able to raise through their training and dedication.



Honda Los Angeles Marathon March 18, 2012



For the third straight year, Noah's Wish has been designated an official charity of the Honda Los Angeles Marathon. On March 18th, among the 25,000 runners and walkers, who travel from the Dodger Stadium to the Santa Monica Pier, will be

a number of runners and walkers who are raising money and awareness about Noah's Wish's vital services. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our marathon team, we still have plenty of slots available, and can even offer discounted registration fees for a few lucky runners. Contact our marathon co-coordinator Dave Avery dave@teamnoahswish.com for more information, including fundraising opportunities and our coordinator led course preview runs.



2-Person Charity Marathon Relay - March 18, 2012



Last year, we heard from a number of potential runners who were interested in raising money for Noah's Wish through their runs, but were not yet ready to complete a full marathon. This year, the LA marathon is hosting its inaugural 2-person charity marathon relay! 500 teams of runners will split the marathon course in half and conquer the "Stadium to the Sea" as a team! The only way to participate in this relay is through an official charity, and Noah's Wish has 15 team slots available. But act now, as we only have until mid-January to fill our teams! Email info@teamnoahswish.com for more details.

2012 Virgin London Marathon - April 22, 2012



Continued on page 12

The London marathon is one of the most respected races in the world, and one of the most difficult for any runner to gain entry into. This year, Noah's Wish has been given the honor of being named one of the official US Charities of the Virgin London Marathon. Nearly 50 runners applied to represent Noah's Wish in this year's London Marathon, and between now and April 22, 5 dedicated runners have pledged to raise \$15,000 for Noah's Wish. We will be proud to cheer on these runners as they make their way through the streets of London wearing their Noah's Wish blue!

LA Big 5K - March 17, 2012



If 26.2 miles or even 13.1 miles are out of reach, but you want to put your feet to work for Noah's Wish, consider joining our team for the LA Big 5K on Saturday, March 17th, 2012. Last year, 24 Noah's Wish volunteers and friends ran or walked 3.1 miles around historic Dodger Stadium in downtown Los Angeles, while raising nearly \$8,000! We will again be participating in the 5k, so put on your best Noah's Wish blue (or even your dog outfit if appropriate) and join us for this fun run. You can register online at www.lamarathon.com and contact Dave Avery for more details and information on fundraising incentives - dave@teamnoahswish.com



All of our runners are looking for encouragement and support. More information about our runner's activities can be found on our marathon blog <http://www.teamnoahswish.com> and you can support our runners through the Noah's Wish Crowdrise fundraising site (<http://www.crowdrise.com/noahswish>).

Submitted by Dave Avery – Region 5

2012- Will be a benchmark year for Noah's Wish and its training program

2012 marks Noah's Wish 10th year in the disaster field including a decade of training. Each year I wonder how it can get any better. To date we have trained over 1600 volunteers with over 400 from ten trainings of this past training season. I have personally presented at forty trainings since 2006 not including the one day training courses we now offer.

I remember my first training in 2002 sitting in a circle on the fairgrounds in Front Royal, Virginia. I was a newly appointed coordinator, and I had never pitched a tent, or had to be self-sufficient for three days and I only had one disaster response under my belt with 9/11. My only other formal training was with EARS in 1999, but when I took that training I knew in my heart this is what I wanted to do. Back then I was still working full time as a licensed veterinary technician, and had a good deal of organizational experience under my belt, I was sure I could make a difference, but I had a lot to learn. Every year either at training or on the occasional deployment I learned new and exciting things and I remember wanting to do more.

Today as I look back over the past ten years it was split into two time zones in my mind before 2005 and after the "Katrina Era". When I was hired in December 2005, I was able to apply my background and knowledge to the training and incorporate my professional experience besides addressing numerous things on the animal health side of the job. In 2007, it was the year of uncertainty and survival for the organization and in 2008 it was time of revival. I was given a chance and a second job title to fulfill as the Director of Education. It was a huge task, and I am thankful for the education committee members that help me stay on track over the years. Shelley Hamill, Tammy Hann- Harlan, Michele Lee, Alex Reynolds, Susan Haraway, and Christina Kallay.

This past year I was fortunate enough that despite a very full training season, I was deployed five times. I have not been deployed since 2008, but it was important for me to know if what we are teaching is really pertinent. Are we on track with what our volunteers need to know to be prepared and safe when out on a disaster deployment? After Hurricane Katrina, I

Tails from the Ark

made numerous updates to animal shelter protocols, and while things look great on paper, how do they work out in the disaster field. It is not a controlled environment so to speak like an animal shelter or a veterinary hospital, and for those of you that work in those jobs, I'm sure to some of you, there is a snicker and question about "controlled environment"???. With all due respect, look at what our staff/coordinators and volunteers face at any given moment on a disaster - finding and setting up a shelter from scratch, having to do animal intake on any animal that comes through the door, being able to handle different types of pets in the disaster, being knowledgeable enough to understand the basics about the type of disaster we are responding to, how to think outside the box, and succeed when faced with a problem. It isn't always easy or simple.

I marvel at the magnitude of relevant topics that came through while I was out on deployment this year that have been taught over the past three years alone. How was I supposed to know we would have a stellar year with tornadoes (2011), or have to put up livestock fencing and temporary livestock shelters (2008). How about dealing with effective communications and conflict resolution (2011), dealing with shelter disease issues and appropriate sanitation, (2008, 2010, 2011). Dealing with rabies issues (2009), animal first aid and CPR (2009, 2011), navigating in disasters, and vehicle safety (2010, 2011). The variety of animals that we had in our care this year from pocket pets to camelids, horses to birds (2010/2011). Dealing with grief and bereavement (2009), safety in the post disaster environment (2008/2009), dealing with the Incident Command Structure and NIMS (2008-2011) search and recovery, mass casualty and triage. It really is all so very pertinent. It is just difficult to cram everything you need to know into just one training. This is why Noah's Wish rotates topics, reads suggestions on evaluations, and stays on top of what is current and needed for our responders to know. We really do want to offer the best services we can for those disaster survivors. We really do care about the safety and welfare for all, and we want to be recognized by emergency management that we really are professional in how we handle the disaster situation.

So what does next year bring to training? We are planning a reunion and potluck get together on the Friday before the training; bring your favorite

story/picture or poster of a deployment or trainings from the past 10 years with Noah's Wish. Animal wise it is time to go back to basics dog behavior and animal handling techniques, what to do with wildlife at disasters, wildfires thunderstorms is the disaster focus topic, Emergency Shelter Evacuation, our Psychological impact topic Critical Incident Stress just to name a few. We are looking for wildlife rehabilitators and dog trainers that might be interested in presenting at our trainings. Dates and locations should be on the website in January. So far locations look like NY, GA, CA, IL, OR, and MD.

If you are interested in helping with any of the above items please, contact me directly 860-350-6624 or nwjovettech@charter.net

Dig and Delve into Training 2012!

Submitted by Jo Ellen Cimmino LVT

Winter Sale at Noah's Wish Store *Take advantage of special pricing while you can!*

Noah's Wish offers a wide array of quality items specially printed with our logo or pictures of animals from our disaster responses. For a limited time we are offering "Sack Packs" for \$2.00 off and special pricing on our wall calendars. These discounts are available in the sale section of the website.

Here is a link to our store:

http://www.cafepress.com/noahs_wish/3719942

\$2 Off on Sack Packs:

http://www.cafepress.com/noahs_wish.598659664

and wall calendars:

http://www.cafepress.com/noahs_wish.172489123

Sign up for Noah's Wish new Yahoo groups by clicking the address below.

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/NoahsWishDisasterResponse/>

A Cat's New Year's Resolutions



1. My human will never let me eat her pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
2. I will not puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has finished watching a horror movie.
3. I will not slurp fish food from the surface of the aquarium.
4. I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and puke them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.
5. I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then pelt right for the box of clumping cat litter. (It took FOREVER to get the stuff out of my fur.)
6. I will not stand on the bathroom counter, stare down the hall, and growl at NOTHING after my human has finished watching The X-Files.
7. I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.
8. I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she screams.
9. We will not play Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stampingeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti over any humans' bed while they're trying to sleep.
10. Screaming at the can of food will not make it open itself.
11. I cannot leap through closed windows to catch birds outside. If I forget this and bonk my head on the window and fall behind the couch in my attempt, I will not get up and do the same thing again.
12. I will not assume the patio door is open when I race outside to chase leaves.
13. I will not intrude on my human's candle-lit bubble bath and singe my bottom.
14. I will not stick my paw into any container to see if there is something in it. If I do, I will not hiss and scratch when my human has to shave me to get the rubber cement out of my fur.
15. If I bite the cactus, it will bite back.
16. When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.
17. Birds do not come from the bird feeder. I will not knock it down and try to open it up to get the birds out.
18. The dog can see me coming when I stalk her. She can see me and will move out of the way when I pounce, letting me smash into floors and walls. That does not mean I should take it as a personal insult when my humans sit there and laugh.
19. I will not play "dead cat on the stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
20. When the humans play darts, I will not leap into the air and attempt to catch them.
21. I will not swat my human's head repeatedly when she's on the family room floor trying to do sit ups.
22. When my human is typing at the computer, her forearms are **not** a hammock.
23. Computer and TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.



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- 1% of your purchase will be donated to Noah's Wish
- Enjoy additional special promotions throughout the year, where you'll have the chance to earn even more for Noah's Wish



We hope to see you at your neighborhood Centinela Feed Soon!

Please contact Noah's Wish administration for more info.

For a list of our locations and directions, please visit www.CentinelaFeed.com



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Burbank, California – March 29, 2011

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Our **Canine Survival Kit** is the pet
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Thank you Noah's Wish, for choosing our survival
kits and recommending our pet survival, first aid and
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supporters know that **we are donating 10% of
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We are a small, family-conceived and owned
business, located in the heart of California's very
active earthquake and fire country. Our company
President just completed the February Volunteer In-
Field training session in Pomona, California and is
now onboard as a new Noah's Wish volunteer in
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Coordinator - Michele Cutler
mcutler00@gmail.com

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