

TAILS FROM THE ARK

A NEWSLETTER FOR NOAH'S WISH VOLUNTEERS

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Happy Holidays from Noah's Wish



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Share the Journey - The 2009 story of Noah's Wish

2009 was a year for the unusual – there were no major hurricanes to disrupt the Gulf Coast, fire season in the West started early and far to the North. While Noah's Wish still attained significant milestones and continued its exemplary performance, things were just a little different this year. All in all, we were again presented with incredible opportunities to display the vigor, discipline and sheer dedication of our volunteers in pursuing our singular mission to save the lives of animals impacted by disasters. And we responded!

Disaster season began early in the year for Noah's Wish, when we accepted an unusual challenge to help with the rescue and sheltering of over 300 dogs running loose on a farm in Missouri. This was a different kind of response for us, all the animals were already on the premises, and all had the same owner, consequently there was no need for detailed paperwork or to make an attempt to locate families to reunify the animals with their families. However, from the animal's perspective, the trauma was similar to that of any natural disaster. Responders had to cope with the fact that this was a man-made disaster (the fire in the house and kennels was arson). In a very short span, the animals were moved from a dire situation to where they received individual care and attention and suitable "forever" homes.

Our next two calls were to North Dakota to shelter animals evacuated from flooding in Fargo and Valley City. Noah's Wish set up a shelter in Bismarck capable of housing 500 animals. But as it became apparent that widespread flooding would be averted through the heroic efforts of residents of Fargo and that massive evacuations would not become necessary, we moved our operation closer to the affected area to help shelter animals that had been evacuated from surrounding locations. Once it was determined the immediate danger had ended, Noah's Wish volunteers closed the shelter and returned home. Volunteers had barely made it to the door, when we were requested to return to North Dakota, this time to Valley City, where we opened another shelter to care for the animals of local evacuees until flood waters receded and residents were allowed to return.

Share the Journey - continued

Through spring and summer months, Noah's Wish continued its tradition of training volunteers nationwide to care for animals displaced by disasters; this year we added over 250 more individuals to our ranks. They form the foundation of our disaster-response teams, and once trained are called upon to assist with all aspects of response.

While the official "disaster season" got off to a slow start, what with the National Hurricane Center lowering its outlook for major storms and no fires or floods. Noah's Wish was carefully watching an unusual set of circumstances that were aligning themselves in the Canadian province of British Columbia and in California. During July, unusually hot temperatures coupled with low humidity, gusty winds and dry lightning strikes started a series of wildfires that burned across the province and the state.

Starting in British Columbia, which experienced a wildfire season that saw more than 2,700 blazes burn tens of thousands of acres and kept thousands of residents from their homes for weeks at a time, Noah's Wish was busy gathering resources and planning our response. As the fires spread, many areas were required to evacuate. Noah's Wish aided Kelowna area agencies in housing and caring for a number of animal evacuees beginning on July 19. But that response was short-lived and volunteers returned home knowing the fire season had only just begun.

Within a week, a second call went out for volunteers to help, this time to the Village of Lillooet, where a Noah's Wish shelter was established. Almost immediately after the first wave of volunteers arrived, village residents were ordered to evacuate, including our volunteers in the recently established shelter. During the night, volunteers quickly arranged the two hour transport of 250 animals to safety in Ashcroft. While this proved challenging, our team was up to the task and didn't miss a beat.

Now there were two shelters, both of which required oversight, direction and a lot of hard work to maintain. After almost a week, the evacuation order was lifted in Lillooet and a reverse transfer was made. When the animals were returned to Lillooet, the owners were anxious to reclaim them and the shelter began to phase down its operation. Volunteers logged 1,770 hours in this response alone.

Next, a number of large blazes seemed to erupt out of nowhere in Southern California, with many threatening residential areas and forcing evacuations. Through an existing agreement with the City of Azusa, Noah's Wish was requested on August 26 to assist with sheltering. This response ended four days later, but not before two volunteers were escorted behind fire lines to extract 2 dogs that had been left alone when the owner could not return home. The volunteers drove 11 miles and hiked an additional mile with sacks of cat food on their backs in 100-degree weather to remove the animals and provide food for the cats, who were safe and happy to be left alone (and in no danger). The dogs and their owner were happily reunited shortly thereafter, closing this deployment on an upbeat note.

Our 2009 disaster season concluded when Noah's Wish was asked to assist with the intake of animals being evacuated from the 49er Fire, which devastated a subdivision on August 30, just outside of Auburn, California. The fire destroyed more than 60 homes in a few short minutes with no chance of search and rescue.

All this activity reminds us that you cannot predict the disaster season based on a how it begins.

Strange – But True!

- ❖ A domestic cat can frighten a black bear to climb a tree.
- ❖ Bulls are color blind.
 - ❖ A cow's only sweat glands are in its nose.
 - ❖ Emus can't walk backward.
 - ❖ A mule won't sink in quicksand, but a donkey will.
- ❖ American's spend around \$3 billion for cat and dog food every year.
- ❖ Pigs can cover a mile in 7.5 minutes, when running at top speed.



Grand Prize Winner – Announced

At the recent Coordinators' Meeting in East Alton, Illinois the winner of this year's "Training Raffle" was drawn by Region 7 – Coordinator, Donna Campbell. Donna is the talent behind this year's prize; she designed and guided construction of the beautiful quilt pictured below.

2009 Raffle – Grand Prize



Each of the breeds depicted in the quilt were cross-stitched by volunteers from all over the country and returned to Donna for assembly into the wonderful work of art you see above.

The lucky winner is Ericka Iwinski, Region 1 volunteer, who bought the winning ticket at this year's first training in Dublin, CA.

Congratulations to Ericka and a big thank you to everyone that helped make this prize so great!

2010 Training

The 2010 training season is looking good! The coming year boasts an ambitious schedule, with 10 locations throughout the United States and Canada, and marks our first-ever training in the state of Florida. Training sessions start early this year, with the first class slated to begin on February 20 & 21st in Middleburg, Florida.

There are lots of new topics for 2010 with emphasis on safety, covering such things as; the basics of working with generators and what everyone should know about disaster driving. New this year will be a discussion on Disaster Psychology and the mental wellbeing of our volunteers. Common Viral Infections found in emergency shelters is also an item that most will want to learn more about. This year's "Species Specialties" will be pocket pets and reptiles and will be your opportunity to learn about the more unusual creatures you may find in a shelter.

The old standbys will be presented as well, there's never too much emphasis on Intake and other shelter procedures. Disaster topics will be earthquakes or hurricanes, depending on which may impact the location where the training is being conducted. Our popular hands-on exercises will be offered again this year, with both a room clearing exercise and shelter/intake. These will give attendees the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they learned earlier in the session.

Don't forget to take a look at all the locations available for 2010 and take the opportunity to register early to reserve a space in the adventure.

Holiday Tips to Keep Your Pets Safe



With the holiday season fast approaching, we turn our thoughts to entertaining friends and family, but decorations and festive feasts can also be hazardous to pets!

The holiday season is the great time of year when people get together to share meals and each other's company. However, some traditions during the holidays can be harmful to our pets.

Keep in mind the following tips to ensure the safety of your pets:

- ◆ Certain plants such as Mistletoe berries, and the leaves, stem and flowers of the Poinsettia can be dangerous to pets. Be sure to keep these plants well out of the reach of animals in your home, or consider using artificial versions.
- ◆ Foods and drinks such as alcoholic beverages, seeds and pits from many fruits, chocolate, macadamia nuts, walnuts, coffee, tea, salt, onions, and other foods can be harmful to pets.
- ◆ Never feed pets leftovers from the dinner table. Items such as chicken bones can easily shatter and choke cats and dogs.
- ◆ When cooking, be sure to move pet birds away from the kitchen area. Fumes released

- ◆ From non-stick cookware and self-cleaning ovens can be deadly.
- ◆ Decorations such as tinsel, glass ornaments and garlands can easily attract pets, but are dangerous choking hazards. Electric decorations such as stringed lights can give your pets a shock should they chew on the wires. Keep decorations out of their reach. Please don't use "angel hair" (spun glass) to decorate - this can cause irritation of the eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract.
- ◆ The unusual commotion of the holiday season can be stressful on animals as well as humans. Put your pets in a quiet room or quiet area of the house when guests are visiting.
- ◆ When traveling on airlines with your pets, make sure they are properly secured and don't fly them in the cargo area on airplanes unless absolutely necessary.
- ◆ Before guests arrive, exercise your dog. A tired dog is well-behaved and less stressed or excited by new visitors. Also, watch to make sure they don't escape as guest arrive and leave. Consider securing cats in a separate room.
- ◆ Increased activity and visitors can upset your pet's routine. Try to keep your pet on his regular schedule for feeding and exercise and be sure to provide plenty of positive attention.
- ◆ Lastly, pets DO NOT make good gift!!

*Keep your pets happy and health
by acting wisely during this
holiday season and following the
tips for holiday safety*

Pets and H1N1 Flu Virus

Yes, it is true – you can give the H1N1 flu virus to your cat!

It first occurred in Iowa, then Utah and now in Oregon – a cat has actually died of the H1N1 virus. There are probably more cases that are very mild and not accurately diagnosed. For the most part, serious infection in cats is very low. It also appears that other cats in the Oregon household had symptoms but did not shed the virus in detectable amounts.

Because influenza viruses can mutate and infect multiple species (the new canine influenza virus “jumped from horses”) the best policy is to be very careful about exposing your pets to your illness. If you have flu like symptoms, minimize your pet’s exposure, just like you would for another person in your household. For more information check: <http://oregonvma.org/news/h1n1>

Slidell Shelter

Work is going well at the new Animal Control Shelter in Slidell. As you can see from the pictures, walls are up, the roof is on and lots of progress has been made since our last update in September. Ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new shelter are scheduled for February, March of 2010.

This fall will mark five years since hurricane Katrina roared ashore and devastated the shelter in Slidell. Noah’s Wish and Slidell Animal Control are planning a reunion in Slidell to celebrate the rebuilding of the shelter and to bring volunteers together to see what has been accomplished since 2005. Watch our newsletter and website for more details as they become available.

Isolation area



Inside Isolation Runs



View from outside - the lobby area



Holiday Disasters

Submitted by JoEllen Cimmino LVT

Your house may have a wonderful calming affect as a safe haven for you and your pets, but opening your home to family and friends or traveling to them during the holidays may not be so joyous a season for all. Hence my latest tale for the holidays...

You've heard of Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen? This is more of an awareness piece about avoiding the nightmare of the holidays in a very different way- First, let me give you a new definition of the little dears...

Dasher – the 8-10 year old child running in and out of your house every few minutes without properly shutting the door or gate.

Dancer – the teenager, who has I-Pod or MP3 player earphones permanently attached to their head, they look like they might hear and understand you what with their head bobbing up and down, but after you utter words or suggestions you get no reply – like please take the dog out for a walk, or take out the garbage so the dog isn't tempted to get into it.

Prancer – the individual that tries to walk or prance unnaturally by your pet because they are afraid of them, but has no issue with throwing them food to as a peace offering, which only makes your pet follow them all the more, and later adds to your holiday clean-up issues.

Vixen – the little dear that won't stop pulling or tugging on your pet even though you explained nicely, "your pet doesn't like that". "Yes they do, they are smiling".

Donner – who dresses up your pet in their doll clothes or any other article of clothing that is festive and cute, and when you ask them not to they say, "But they really like it, see".

Cupid – who simply is in love with your pet and must put their face down to your pet's face and hold tight and kiss them. Or can also be your daughter's boyfriend that visits and that your spouse and the dog do not approve – they both growl loudly at Cupid.

Comet – who speeds around the house making a mess wherever they go, leaving a trail of goodies and toys all over the place for you to clean up or your pets to find.

Blitzen – the name given to the family member whose name is synonymous with an obscenity, this person will always find a way to get under you or your pet's skin, by saying or doing something inappropriate.

Here are some Holiday preparedness tips:

1. If visiting others for the holiday with your pet, make sure to pack an extra temporary tag made out of paper with clear packing tape double sided. Write the date and temporary can be reached number and your cell phone. This will help get you contacted faster than waiting to get home and get your messages, just in case Dasher didn't close the door, or lock the gate.
2. Make sure to pack your pets medical records including rabies certificate, if anyone should accidentally provoke the pet and they are bitten, you will have proof of the vaccine.
3. Crate training works great, but not at the last minute – as a last minute fix-it can fail. Closing off a bedroom that is familiar to the pet or an area to restrict access by utilizing a baby gate, may be a better temporary alternative. (Though there are many of you that would rather see any of the "dears" crated before your own pet has to be confined – let's not go there this holiday season shall we.)
4. Be sure to talk to your veterinary support staff about medications you may want to pack in your pet first-aid kit. Anti-nausea medication given at least 30 minutes before a car trip on an empty stomach. If your pet is overly anxious when people come to visit having a sedative may be handy. Two things to remember in order to be effective, it must be given before guests arrive and don't

5. expect it to be a cure all. Bear in mind it will not keep your pet from biting little “Vixen”. Also “Ace Promazine” is an animal tranquilizer, it is not meant to keep little Comet or Blitzzen quiet – no matter how much you are tempted!

5. Keep a bottle of hydrogen peroxide handy to give orally in case “Prancer” feeds your pet something they shouldn’t have. Dose – 1 teaspoon per 10 lbs of body weight. If you have a big dog, using a bulb syringe or turkey baster may be indicated. Getting your pet to eat a little canned food with the peroxide may induce vomiting faster. Vomiting may take 15 minutes or repeat the dose; it usually subsides in about 10 minutes. Don’t give anything orally for 2 hours.

6. Diarrhea – Okay, holiday stress or you didn’t catch the family member slipping your pet the off-limit food items. What do you do? Again before the trip, check with your vet staff and find a suitable dose of an over the counter anti-diarrheal that is safe to give your pet. Put it in your first aid kit. If your pet should have an issue with gastric upset, as long as it is not vomiting, the next day feed a small amount (only ¼) of what you would normally feed. Provide a bland diet mixture of either boiled chicken or chopped meat mixed 50/50 with cooked white whole grain rice, feeding 2–3 times a day for 24–48 hours, plus the indicated anti diarrheal medicine. If you have access to a probiotics such as Fortiflora by Purina, Benebac by Pet Ag or a similar product by all means give it, it will only help reestablish the good bacteria in the intestines.

7. If your pet is choking on “Dancer’s” chewed-up MP3 player ear plugs or “Vixen’s” Barbie doll’s head remember the 5–5–5 shown at training 2006 & 2009 5 breaths– 5 back blows – 5 abdominal thrusts if

unconscious – repeat; or do second and third steps if pet is still conscious.

8. Keep the emergency Animal Poison Control Hotline number handy; 800–213–6680 and don’t forget to have your credit card ready, if you need assistance with poison control.

9. Don’t forget to pack your pet’s food, medical records and the above items in your pet first-aid kit, and also a package of baby wipes to wipe salt off your pet’s feet.

Okay, remember the ultimate responsibility of keeping your pets out of trouble still is with you the pet owner. Taking precautions to avoid a disastrous holiday get together requires some planning on your part. Make sure to pack your first-aid kit with all the essentials before your trip. (Warning any similarities between your relatives and friends and the above aforementioned “dears” is strictly coincidental, all those named above are strictly fictitious).

Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season



A first for Noah's Wish 2010 LA Marathon

Submitted by Catherine Dudman, Region 5

Noah's Wish an Official Charity of the 2010 Los Angeles Marathon!

After chatting with Region 5 Coordinator, Thea Martin, I suggested – as a challenge, that we raise money by running the Los Angeles Marathon. As a marathoner, I know that you can pick charities to raise funds for, so I thought I would see how to get Noah's Wish listed as an official charity of the 2010 LA Marathon.

End result, we are one of two animal charities participating (the other is a rescue organization for adoptions) – so there isn't anyone else like us, but we already knew that!

As we all know times are tough, and trying to get people to raise funds is difficult. So, for a place in the Los Angeles Marathon on Sunday March 21st, 2010, we are asking runners to raise \$350 – in return you'll receive a Noah's Wish technical shirt and all our gratitude!! I will be running the marathon, along with my husband Tony.

Can't do the entire marathon? Then how about taking part in the "New Performance 5K" on Saturday March 20th? This is going to be a great event!! Thea is heading up the Noah's Wish team, and would love your support. For a pledge of \$150 – we guarantee you a place and a technical shirt.

We have given ourselves a fundraising goal of \$10,000. Right now we have 6 people running, if we can get 10 more we will be over our goal!

So please run/walk for us, or sponsor one of our committed participants. Instead of buying a holiday gift, sponsor instead, you know your money will benefit so many animals that can't speak for themselves!

I'll Show You A Volunteer

Poem by Foley

Submitted by Thea Martin

Show me a person who spends endless hours in
training without pay,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person where a cry for help brings split-
second dispatch,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is devastated when lives are
lost or maimed,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is graciously welcomed as a
next-door neighbor,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who takes ridicule more than
compliments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person whose car is garaged with the
grille facing out,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who sacrifices home life, TV...
even tender moments,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person visibly moved at the strains of our
National Anthem,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who may be asked to give more
than just dedication,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

Show me a person who is asked to give more... and
more... and more,
And, I'll show you a volunteer.

*Volunteers aren't paid
because they're priceless*

2009 Note Cards are Available



Note cards featuring the top 10 “vote getters” from this year’s Pet Photo Contest are available on our website www.noahswish.info for only \$12.50 a set. These will make a unique gift for the pet lover that is so hard to buy for. Order now, quantities are limited.

Help for the Holidays Auction

It’s often surprising how something that starts off small turns into something big. Well that’s what happened with our Help for the Holidays fall auction.



Over the past few months, volunteers and board members have been gathering “things” for the auction and by the time they were ready to post the items on eBay, they had more than 50 of them, many one-of-a-kind signed pieces. Like the guitar (pictured above)

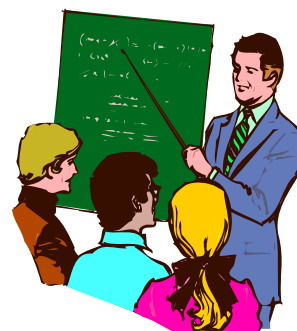
donated by “Starship” and signed by members of the band. There were pet bowls decorated and signed by

footballs greats, books from authors like Dean Koontz and CDs from Three Dog Night, and even a pair of tickets to the 2010 Westminster Dog Show in New York City!

The competition was fierce and the results were very satisfying to those that dedicated so much time and effort to the event and helped Noah’s Wish raise well over \$2,000 as a result.

A Reminder for Noah’s Wish Volunteers

Volunteers are required to complete ICS training courses ICS 100a, 200 and 700. These classes are available online at no cost.



Once you have completed the course, don’t forget to download the certificates and either email to info@noahswish.info or fax to 916-939-9479.

We at Noah’s Wish hope each of you has a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Ten Reasons to Check Out Training in 2010

1. Separate track for returning volunteers that includes; information on “Vehicle Safety”, “Generator Basics”, and “Responder Safety–Blood Borne Pathogens”, while new volunteers get an introduction to Noah’s Wish policies and procedures.
2. Disaster Psychology– Disasters are stressful, learning what to expect from victims, and how to take care of yourself mentally is crucial.
3. Surviving the Disaster Diet – An interactive lunch, focusing on food items volunteers commonly choose bring with them to a disaster, to be followed by suggestions from Noah’s Wish Coordinators/staff.
4. Common Animal Shelter Diseases – An outbreak from the most common diseases can cause havoc in a temporary animal shelter. This topic will cover the most common, and how they spread from animal to animal in a shelter environment. It will also cover what role volunteers should take in preventing or containing an outbreak.
5. Are you too busy or does the lingo of Incident Command, or the National Incident Management confuse you, so that you put off getting your FEMA 100 and 700 courses completed? Well don’t fret Noah’s Wish will help you get at least one of them done during this training – if you haven’t already done so.
6. Disaster Topics – Earthquakes or Hurricanes. Brush up your disaster response knowledge with these topics, and make sure you get in the know with common terminology, as well as, learning the most common hazards associated with these types of disasters.
7. Double Creature Feature focusing on Pocket Pets and Reptiles. We would like our volunteers that have experience with these
8. animal focus areas to participate in this year’s animal topics for more information and to find out how you can participate, please contact nwjovettech@charter.net to arrange a 15 minute presentation on your specialty pet.
9. Animal Intake and Sheltering Basics – How familiar are you with Animal Intake procedures, and Basic Animal Disaster Sheltering? Take a refresher on these two topics and then get ready to test your skills with a “Shelter Set-up” exercise later in the weekend!
10. Search and Rescue – How to clear a room safely and systematically utilizing the buddy system, and proper PPE (personal protective equipment). Then get ready to actually have the opportunity to apply your new found skills during the “Clear a Room Exercise”, while working with your buddy, dressed in gear. Make sure to check our website for what to bring to training this year for the updates.
11. A two-day training reasonably priced with... Fabulous Raffle Prizes, Great Giveaways, Discounts on Disaster Gear, all rolled into a fun and action packed weekend. Don’t forget there are ten terrific locations to choose from: Middleburg, Florida, San Diego and Auburn, California, Leicester, Massachusetts, Indianapolis, Indiana, Arnold, Missouri, North Bend, Washington, Quesnel, British Columbia, Cheltenham, Maryland and Petawawa, Ontario.



The Story of Noah's Wish – LA Marathon Flyer

The singular mission of Noah's Wish is to save animals during disasters with our rescue and recovery services and to mitigate the impact of disasters on animals through our educational outreach programs; *it's as simple as that.*

What We Do – Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains

The skies were thick with acrid brown smoke as a wildfire raged in the Santa Cruz Mountains around Bonny Doon. Dubbed the Lockheed fire, the blaze torched more than 7,800 acres after dry conditions caused what had been a relatively small fire to explode in size. With residents and their animals evacuated, and the fire spreading rapidly, local animal control officers asked Noah's Wish to help care for the livestock housed at the Watsonville fairgrounds early Friday morning, August 14.



Sixteen volunteers were onsite within 12 hours. There was a major shift in the weather pattern and by Saturday things on the fire front were looking up. Noah's Wish volunteers began the demobilization process on Saturday and closed the response early Sunday afternoon. The volunteers, many of whom were just trained in March of this year, found the response to be an excellent exercise, giving them experience without the stress normally attributed to disaster response work.

How you can help

The Lockheed Fire is only one of many incidents that Noah's Wish responded to in 2009. Once a shelter is established the animals are provided exemplary care; all their needs, food, shelter and medical attention are provided at no charge. By supporting Noah's Wish in the LA Marathon you will be helping us help the innocent and often forgot victims of disasters. All funds go to continuing our mission – to save the lives of animals impacted by these disasters by providing emergency supplies, crating, food and shelter.



Be Part of the Solution!

Sign up to Run/Walk Today!!

Support "Team Noah's Wish" at www.noahswishdisasterrescue.org

A not-for-profit 501(c) 3 charitable organization



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