

“ALIVE FOR FIVE”

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

FEBRUARY 2008

MAILING ADDRESS: Post Office Box 5354 • Columbia, South Carolina 29250 • (803) 783-2119 • www.aplsc.org

It's not their fault.....

Approximately 47 million pet births occur in the US each year and although 61% of households own pets, over 12 million unwanted dogs and cats will be turned into shelters in 2008.

The statistics are staggering and for 86% of these unwanted companion pets, the results will be **deadly and it's not their fault!** With over 2000 puppies and kittens being born every hour compared to about 415 humans, it is impossible to even visualize finding a loving home for every pet. Municipal shelter employees constantly face the daunting task of saving as many innocent pets as they can and suffering the heartache of destroying those they cannot save. Animal welfare volunteers burn out from the overwhelming responsibilities of trying to finance the rehabilitation, housing, and medical needs of rescued pets until loving homes are found.



Why, we ask, does a civilized society like ours have to resort to destroying innocent pets? The answer is simple..... irresponsibility and ignorance. In just 6 years, a single female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies. An unspayed female cat and her offspring can swell the cat population by 370,092 in just 7 years.

Procreation is a natural thing in the animal world but there are humane and inexpensive ways of preventing unwanted pet births. Low cost spays and neuters are available at our own local humane society spay/neuter clinic and most vets will work with clients who are economically deprived. On the front end, a simple cat neuter can cost less than three “Big Mac Combo” meals or a tank of gas. On the back end, it can save thousands of tax dollars and untold suffering.

The blame needs to be placed where it lies and the perpetrators held accountable. It is unfair to hold innocent but unwanted pets accountable for actions they cannot understand nor help. It's not their fault. We are stewards of the earth and its resources and appointed caretakers of the animals and it is our responsibility to set things right.

“The righteous know the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”

(Taken from the NRSV of the Holy Bible; Proverbs 12:10)

APL Matchmakers bring sunshine to FCAS pets

The APL Matchmakers, under the direction of board member and adoption team leader, Joyce Dillon, are bringing sunshine to the lives of many pets taken in at the Fairfield County Animal Shelter. With the assistance of the Fairfield County Animal Shelter employees working shoulder to shoulder with APL's Matchmakers, pets like Champ are being transferred into the care of APL's Sunshine Project.



Since the APL shelter is always filled to capacity, foster homes are used to house the Sunshine Project pets and private donations are used to give them the highest level of medical care. Once they are ready to go, they make their debut back into society at the APL Matchmaker adoption events held every Saturday at Petsmart in Lexington.



Champ was in the initial group of pets transferred from FCAS and he found a permanent lap on his first trip to Petsmart. Way to go, Champ!

If you would like to be on the Sunshine Project team that brings hope and opportunities to pets like Champ, please call Robert Adams at 351-3536 (cell) anytime.

Senior Pets for Senior Citizens

APL's *Senior Pets for Senior Citizens*, a community outreach program, is up and running. If you are at least 62 years of age, young at heart, loving in spirit and would like to have a companion pet, APL is at your service! Here is how the program works:

- Interested senior citizens wanting a pet companion are screened by APL. The prospective pet is also carefully screened to insure a good match that works for the pet and the person.
- There is no cost to participate in this program. The APL will even pay for the pet's food and medical care if the senior citizen cannot do so.
- When the senior citizen is no longer able to keep the pet, the APL will take it back and find another living arrangement for the pet. Similarly, should the pet die, the APL will handle arrangements as appropriate.



**Interested? Call APL at 783-2119.
Leave a message and someone will call you back very quickly.**

APL is plugged in

APL plugged into PetPoint Animal Management Systems, a centralized animal tracking database, in mid-December. PetPoint is the computerized program of choice for over 800 animal shelters across the country and



makes animal profiling and tracking accurate and easy. APL animals are now computer tracked at intake and once entered, the pet's information can be updated and is always available, even beyond adoption. One of the program's outstanding features is its constant uploading of pet information and pictures to www.petfinder.com. and the registering and tracking of microchips through 24PetWatch.

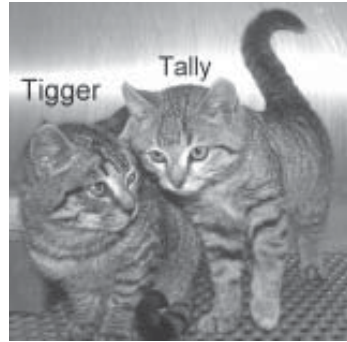
Special thanks to Kristine Priede and her staff for getting all of the APL records loaded and keeping the data fresh and to Christine Brouwer, APL's PetPoint Administrator for overseeing the program and training the staff and volunteers.

Valentine's Day was a sweet treat for APL pets

The employees of McAngus, Goudelock & Courie, LLC turned Valentine's Day into a sweet culinary extravaganza for the APL pets. Under the leadership of Dana Podolak, the MGC gang sponsored a bake sale on Valentine's Day and all the proceeds were donated to the APL pets. Delectable sweet treats of every description were offered for sale from 11:00 until 2:00 at their office on Gervais Street. Participation was overwhelming and the results swelled the APL coffer.



APL volunteers Bob Adams and Betty Davis brought a couple of Sunshine Project kittens and Sonya LaRose, APL Animal Care Specialist, brought Guy, a big beautiful black lab who is one of APL's original Black Pearls. The kittens entertained everyone and Guy, in his mannerly and majestic way, showed just how great APL's Black Pearls really are.



What a day! It was almost too sweet to be true. Great desserts prepared by someone else, wonderful camaraderie that made time fly by, an outing for Guy and the kittens, a promise for

some baseball concession volunteers, and at the end of the day, a very generous donation for APL. It doesn't get any better than that. Thanks Dana and the MGC gang for all of your sweet support!

Free pet insurance given with every adoption

The ShelterCare Pet Insurance Programs, underwritten by Praetorian Insurance Company, makes a 30-day free pet insurance policy available to the new pet owner for each pet adopted through APL.



Elaine Parker recovering from fall but her USC Concessions Fundraiser goes on

APL's own Grand Dame, Elaine Gressette Parker, is recovering in a local rehabilitation center after taking a nasty fall in her home. Elaine has supported APL with donations and thousands of hours of volunteer work for the past 25 years.

One of APL's major fundraisers, USC Baseball Concessions, under Elaine's direction has been bringing financial support to APL for many years. Elaine has not only recruited the volunteers for this project but has trained and inspired them as well. Elaine will probably miss most of this year's baseball games but she will be there in spirit and the rest of us need to be there in person.

Sign up today to work the games of your choice by calling Judy Kinney at 782-5728 or Chappie Vardell at chappievardell@bellsouth.net or APL at 783-2119. You can also go to www.uscsports.com and then click on "baseball" for more information on game time and opponents.

Do it for the animals.....do it for Elaine.

USC HOME BASEBALL GAME SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME(pm)	DATE	TIME(pm)	DATE	TIME(pm)
02/22	3:00	03/19	7:00	04/18	7:00
02/23	1:30	03/21	7:00	04/19	4:00
02/24	1:30	03/22	4:00	04/20	12:00
02/27	3:00	03/23	1:30	04/23	7:00
03/01	1:30	03/25	7:00	05/02	7:00
03/04	7:00	03/26	7:00	05/03	4:00
03/05	7:00	03/28	7:00	05/04	1:30
03/07	7:00	03/29	4:00	05/13	7:00
03/08	4:00	03/30	1:30	05/15	7:00
03/09	1:00	04/02	7:00	05/16	7:00
03/11	7:00	04/08	7:00	05/17	4:00
03/12	7:00	04/09	7:00		

Join Alive for Five Today

If you are looking for a way to help homeless pets but time and money are a factor, APL has a great option for you. Join the APL "Alive for Five" club. Your donation goes straight to the heart of the problem and helps get the medical and physical needs met for the more than 150 pets currently in APL's care. Just a small donation of \$5.00 will give more than just hope to abandoned and abused pets. It will give LIFE. Use the enclosed green envelope for your donation and know that you are helping in a BIG way.

If you would like to sponsor a mailing, please call Robert Adams at (803) 345-6634.

APL thanks Judy Kinney for sponsoring the printing and mailing of this newsletter.