

Madison County Animal Care & Control

NOVEMBER 2018



Lets Talk Turkey!

Thanksgiving is a time for friends, family and holiday feasts, but it can also cause possible stress on our pets.

Holiday food should be kept away from pets. Overindulging in a family feast can be unhealthy for humans, but it can be extremely harmful for animals. Fatty foods are hard for animals to digest, bones can damage your pets digestive tract and sweets can contain ingredients that are poisonous .

Remember to keep the feast on the table –not under it. Foods that are healthy for humans can be poisonous to pets. They include onions, raisins, grapes and chocolate. Also anything with the artificial sweetener xylitol can be deadly to dogs and cats.

A few small boneless pieces of cooked turkey or a taste of mashed potato shouldn't pose a problem. However, don't allow your pets to overindulge, as they could wind up with a case of stomach upset, diarrhea or even worse. It's best to keep pets on their regular diet during the holidays.

DISTURBING WILDLIFE

Removing nuisance animals



Whether you live in a city, suburb or small town you can be sure that wildlife is living nearby. Many species of wildlife are welcome visitors to our properties, but some individuals quickly wear out their welcome.

Preventing problems with wildlife is much simpler and less aggravating than dealing with problems after they occur. So what happens when you have tried to prevent wildlife damage and you still end up with a wild bird or animal that is causing a problem?

Despite best efforts to exclude them, wildlife may still cause property damage. If wildlife have damaged your property, it is important to make repairs quickly so that the animal does not return. However, before beginning any repair project, take steps to avoid sealing animals or their young inside your home.

If exclusion is not possible, it may be necessary to trap and remove the animal (and the young if present). Keep in mind that if an animal is using your home as a den site, particularly during the breeding season, it will be very persistent about returning, even if this means chewing or tearing a new opening into your home. Once you are sure that the animal is gone, make repairs quickly before another animal moves in.

Preventing problems with wildlife is much simpler and less aggravating than dealing with the problems after they occur.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and University of Illinois Extension created a website to provide residents with information about how to coexist with wildlife, especially in urban areas.

By Illinois law, a property owner needs a Nuisance Animal Removal Permit to trap and remove most species of wildlife. To determine if a permit is needed visit [Living with Wildlife in Illinois](#).





Be Spaytacular!

"Come on down..." is probably the most popular catch phrase from a game show. Did you know that the host of *The Price is Right* began signing off with a message that became his mantra?

"This is Bob Barker reminding you to help control the pet population – have your pets spayed or neutered." Starting in 1979, these words became Barker's rallying cry to get people to become responsible pet owners.

What happened and why do we need to let people know to spay and neuter their pets?

In the 1930s, pet populations started rising as people began moving from rural areas to urban centers. Dogs and cats running loose on farms was the norm and when folks started moving from the country to the cities, they allowed the practice to continue.

Because the animals weren't neutered, they began doing what comes naturally, leading to a growing population of animals and packs of dogs that worried people. Although there had been city pounds and dogcatchers in the United States since the 1880s, they took on new roles and prominence in the early 20th century.

The pounds held the animals and if no one claimed them, they were euthanized. There were no adoption programs and as the street populations increased, so did the pressure on the pounds.

A dog that arrived at a pound was given an almost automatic death sentence. The system was about getting dogs off the streets – cats seldom were brought in – not about taking the next step and getting them into homes.

The people who ran the pounds did not like killing so many animals, so in the 1970s they launched the first efforts to promote spay and neuter. At the same time, pounds were renamed shelters, and animal advocates began emphasizing that dogs and cats have significant value and should be treated with respect and love.

When the movement first started, fewer than 10 percent of dogs and cats were spayed or neutered, and the kill rate at shelters was almost 90 percent. The drive, backed by shelters and animal welfare groups, flipped the conversation, making spay-neuter the most common procedure performed on our pets.

Today, 83 percent of dogs and 91 percent of cats in the United States are now spayed or neutered, and fewer animals are finding themselves in shelters.

Why Spay and Neuter?

- A spay is the surgical removal of a female animal's reproductive organs so she cannot become pregnant.
- A neuter is the surgical removal of a male animal's testicles so that he cannot impregnate a female.
- The surgeries are performed by a veterinarian while animals are under general anesthesia so that they do not feel pain. An animal may experience some discomfort after the surgery, but medication is provided to help ease the soreness.
- When someone says an animal is "fixed" or "altered" that means the animal has been spayed or neutered.
- Animals as young as eight-weeks-old can be spayed and neutered. Animals, especially cats, can get pregnant as early as five months old.

Benefits for you and your pet

- Your companion will live a longer, healthier life and you will experience fewer headaches if you get him or her spayed or neutered.
- Spaying and neutering reduces or eliminates:
 - The odds of breast cancer and dangerous uterine infections in females and prostate problems and testicular cancer in males.
 - Frustration in resisting the natural urge to mate. Your companion will be less distracted, more easily trained, and a more contented member of your family.
 - The animal's need to roam in search of a mate, decreasing the chances that your pet will become lost, get into fights with other animals or be hit by a car.
 - Messy heat cycles in females and attracting unwanted males.
 - The tendency to bite. However, your pet will still be protective of his home and family even after being altered. Aggression is different from protectiveness.
 - Spraying, wailing, marking territory, or making inappropriate sexual approaches toward people or objects.
 - The extra expense for food or veterinary care in the event of an unexpected litter of puppies or kittens.

Benefits for your community

- Spaying and neutering helps reduce the number of strays and unwanted animals in a community.
- Stray animals get into garbage cans, scare people, cause car accidents, and damage property.
- Irresponsible or accidental breeding contributes to dog attacks and bites.
- Some stray animals kill or injure wildlife.
- Communities spend millions of tax dollars every year to provide care for unwanted, abandoned and neglected animals.

What is the cost?

The cost of a spay or neuter surgery depends on the weight and sex of your pet, whether or not your pet requires vaccinations and a number of other variables. It is important to remember, however, that it is a small, one-time cost compared to the numerous benefits it provides, and the number of unwanted issues that it will help you and your pet avoid.

There are low-cost clinics for residents and there are also programs for low-income pet owners.

Here is of places that offer low cost spay/neuter clinics throughout the year.

- SNIP Alliance –Glen Carbon, 618-660-4910
- Spay Clinic Society –Bethalto, 618-377-2420
- HARTZ Second Chance – Collinsville, 618-975-4434
- Metro East Humane Society –Edwardsville, 618-656-4405
- Hoof and Paw –Belleville, 618-233-2800
- Carol House Quick Fix Pet Clinic –St. Louis, 314-771-7387



NOVEMBER EVENTS

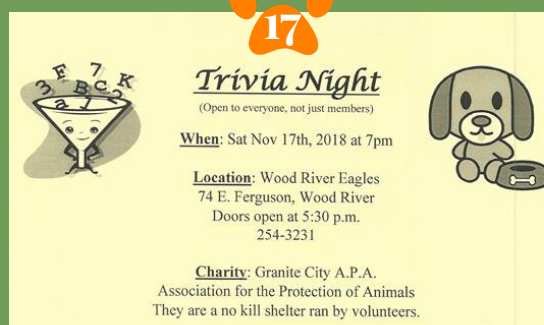
click on a picture to find out more



TUXES AND TAILS CHARITY GALA
6:30 to 11 p.m.
Lewis & Clark Community College
Leclaire Room
LCCCN.O.Nelson Campus in
Edwardsville
\$85 per person



PICTURES WITH SANTA
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Metro East Humane Society &
Four Muddy Paws
Call 618-692-4729 to make your
appointment



ADVENTURES in babysitting

Name: **Jolene & Jemma** Age: 1 & 7

Breed: **English Bulldog & Chocolate Labrador**

Occupation: **Fill in mascot for college football
teams & Babysitter**

Owner: **Rob Schmidt, Director of Facilities**



Favorite Place

Jolene: *I like
being in the
middle of
everything.*

Jemma: *I
enjoy being at
the foot of the
bed.*



Squeaky or bouncy?

Jolene: *Squeaky, because I
like the noise it makes
when I chew on it.*

Jemma: *Bouncy! I love to
play fetch. Actually I'm
obsessed with it because it's
the only thing I do that gets
Rob's attention.*



Guilty Pleasure

Jolene: *I love to eat the remote
controls. During the past year I've
had three. I also like shoes.*

Jemma: *I don't really have any,
unless you count playing fetch as
one.*

Favorite Food?

Jolene: *Anything I can eat, but
like I said I love remote
controls.*

Jemma: *I only eat my dog food.*

It's the weekend, what are your plans?

Jolene: *To see what trouble I can get
into. I want the attention so I will do
whatever it takes. I'm cute you know
so it helps.*

Jemma: *I watch Jolene and try to
keep her out of trouble. Babysitting
her is a full-time job and sometimes I
have to put her in her place.*

Do you have any special talents?

Jolene: *I shake hands and I'm cute.*

Jemma: *I play fetch, does that
count as a special talent?*



What's something annoying that your person does?

Jolene: *He
tells me "No!"*

Jemma: *He
gives all the
attention to
the puppy.
Ever since she
came to live
here it seems
that she gets
all his love.
Even his wife
thinks so.*

Homemade Peanut Butter Bacon Dog Treats

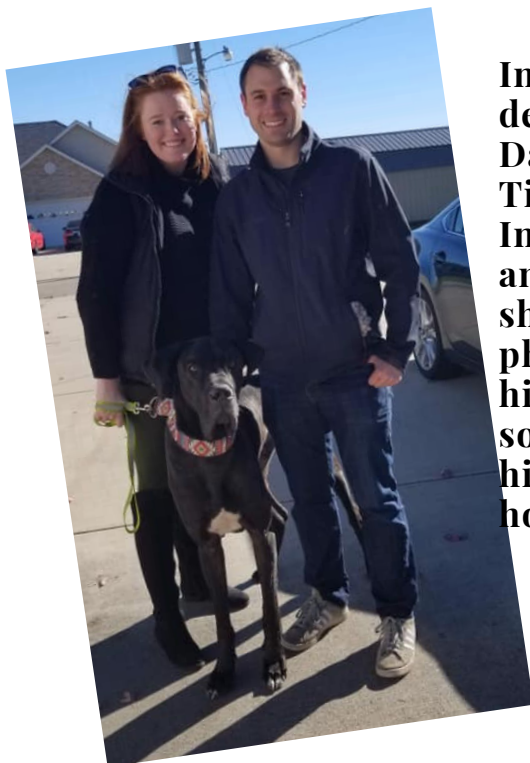
2 pieces bacon, thick cut, cooked and crumbled
1/8 cup bacon grease
2 cups whole wheat flour
1/4 cup ground flax
1/4 cup wheat bran
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 cup natural peanut butter
1 egg, lightly beaten
3/4 cup water



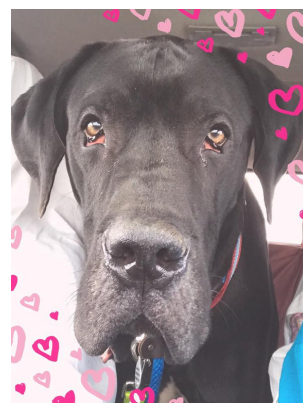
Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Cook bacon until crispy and drain grease into a glass measuring cup. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, ground flax, wheat bran and baking powder. Crumble the bacon, once cooled, and stir into the flour mixture. In a microwave-safe bowl, warm the peanut butter approximately 30 seconds. In a medium bowl, lightly beat the egg. Then pour in the peanut butter, water and bacon grease. Use a fork to whisk together the wet ingredients until completely combined. Make a well in the dry ingredients, and pour in the peanut butter mixture. Stir until combined. Knead lightly in the bowl with your hands. Lay down one large sheet of parchment paper, roll your dough onto it, then lay another piece of parchment on top. Roll out to 1/2-inch thickness. Lightly spray a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray.

Cut shapes out of the dough and place on your prepared baking sheet. Gather the extra dough, knead into a ball and repeat the process of rolling and cutting until there is no more dough. Bake for 15 minutes. Turn off the oven and leave the treats there to cool for two hours or overnight. Keep them in the refrigerator for up to two weeks or in the freezer for up to six months.



In October, I delivered a Great Dane (Jack) to the Tiny N Tall Rescue Inc. in Bartlett, Ill. and I wanted to share with you the photo he took with his new family. I'm so happy he found his "furrever" home.



Katherine Condor

Madison County Animal Care and Control Manager

visit us

