

Our Featured Pet:



Baxter – Hound Dog

Baxter is a hound dog that was rescued over Thanksgiving. He is an indoor doggy because of his short hair making him cold if left outside for long periods of time.

Baxter loves people and likes to greet them with lots of enthusiasm, and show how much he loves you, although sometimes he needs to be reminded of his manners!

Baxter has a lot of potential to be a GREAT pet! He needs a home where someone has patience to work with him.

Baxter is also a HERO read about his heroic deeds inside the newsletter!

Even though wolves don't make very good pets, they're a kind of wild dog! A wolf can smell a deer from 1½ miles away! And they can hear a howl from 4 miles away!

“Happiness is not so much having as sharing. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

– Norman MacEwan

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Paw Prints

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Pals for Paws, Inc. is a local animal rescue organization run by caring volunteers in our community. We are a not-for-profit 501c3 organization. Our goals are to 1) Place abandoned and abused animals in loving foster care until “forever homes” can be found; 2) Support spay and neuter clinics; and 3) Educate the public about responsible pet care.

I.D. Tags Can Bring Them Home

Even though your dogs may not leave a fenced yard without you, mistakes can and do happen. All it takes is some one (a hired worker, perhaps) to leave the gate open, or for a “digger” to go under a fence to explore the world. Puppies may bolt out open door, seniors can become confused and instantly you have lost your beloved friend. An identification tag is vital to reuniting you with your lost dog.

Pals for Paws understands the possibility of an escape and uses metal I D tags to be assured the animal will be returned to them. Since these animals have been through enough already we want them to be as safe as possible while in the care of foster parents. It also gives the foster parents a sense of security in the case of a wandering pet. So, if you are fostering a pet, and it is not wearing a bright colored ID “bone” with the Pals information - ask for one. **Please do remember**

to take it off the pet when it finds a “forever” home. This way we can recycle the “bones” and keep expenses down.

If you own or adopt a dog and want to be able to get it back if it gets lost then get an ID tag. The dog’s name, owner’s name, address and phone number will help get your friend returned. Once you get a tag, check it on a regular basis to be sure it’s still attached and that the information hasn’t worn off or become hard to read. If so – purchase a new one. Also, each time you move the tag needs to be updated with the new information.

A wide variety of tags are available to purchase in a wide range of price tags. Several of the local pet stores have Quick Tag machines with several different tag shapes to choose from. These usually average about \$ 6-\$7. The internet gives other choices from slide-on collar tags for about \$ 7, small pet necklaces for \$9 or an eScopes LLC, for \$12.95 to \$45, which is totally different. It is a 1/8-inch long cylinder with a small magnifier at one end. People can

look in the compact magnifier and read the information. Up to 25 lines of information can be printed and accessed immediately which could be vital to a dog needing daily medicine.

Under-the-skin chips are permanent and must be inserted by a Vet or other qualified person. The number is registered through a National Data base and is great if you do a lot of traveling or your pet doesn’t wear a collar or harness all the time. Cost varies.

If you can’t get an immediate tag, temporary information can be put on the collar with a permanent marker. This actually saved the life of a dog from Georgia found in Southern Indiana. It had hitched a ride with a semi trucker who was totally unaware of it. A kind police officer saw it at a truck stop and coaxed it to him. He saw the name and phone number of the GA owners, called them, and made arrangements to get the dog back to them. They were ecstatic to get their pet back. So cost should never be a factor in being assured of the return of your pet.

Grieving Animals

Animals do grieve for their companions just as humans do. Sometimes they grieve for longer periods of time than others. The difference seems to be whether the animal realizes its companion is actually dead or just thinks it to be missing. When an owner has to take an animal to the veterinarian, and the animal dies the companions know only that their friend is gone. He/she could be lost and trying to find the way home for all they know. They do not understand us telling them their friend is dead, but they do understand death when they see it. As grisly as it sounds, seeing the deceased helps them cope with the ability to accept their friend's death and to be able to move on to a new companion sooner.

Humans want closure when a loved one dies and seeing the body at the funeral helps us know and accept the death. Animals want, need, and deserve the same closure as humans in the loss of

their companions. So the next time one of your animals (dog, cat, bird, etc.) dies provide closure to its companions by allowing them to see the dead body. It does not harm and will help with the grieving process and allow them to move on sooner to accepting a new companion. (“Your Dog” Oct., Dec 2005)

Teach Your Puppy to Like Brushing

For skin and coat health, it's important to brush your pup at least once a week. Brushing stimulates her skin, distributes natural oils, and removes loose, dead hair. Puppy hair is shorter and easier to brush than an adult coat, so start brushing your pup while it's young. That way she'll be relaxed about grooming by the time her adult coat grows in. Many pups don't enjoy brushing at first: They leap and twist around and bite the brush and your hands, making it difficult to actually groom them. Brushing is an unfamiliar sensation an might sometimes be a little

uncomfortable, so start with short sessions and give frequent rewards.

Choose a brush that won't irritate your pup's sensitive skin. For short-haired puppies, try a soft nylon-bristle brush for human babies. For pups with longer hair, consider a small human brush with plastic or metal pins set in a rubber backing. Get the type that has soft round rubber tips on each pin, so it won't scrape and scratch tender puppy skin.

To start distract your pup and stroke her once along her side - not the spine - with the back of the brush. Stop, give her a treat. Do this several times then give one light stroke with the bristles. Work on this daily for 3 -5 minutes and in about a week your pup will tolerate more strokes and eventually allow you to brush her all over. Continue to keep it a pleasant experience by surprising her with treats now and then.

Remember to always be gentle as you brush a little harder as the puppy gets older.

Our Featured Pet:



Baxter – AKA “Hero” **“A Hero’s Story”**

They say I’m a “hero”! I’m not sure what that means, but it must be good because the people at Pals for Paws seem to be very proud of me. A couple of weeks ago, I was out in my kennel with my friend Renegade and I heard a puppy crying. It was a very faint sound. I don’t think Renegade could even hear it, but I could! I knew that a puppy somewhere needed my help. I started barking and barking for someone to let me out of my kennel. Then I started howling as loudly as I could, because my humans weren’t

paying attention. Finally, my foster mom’s son Mattie came outside to see why I was being such a loudmouth! “What’s wrong with you?!!!” he scolded as he opened my kennel door. I took off as fast as I could possibly go toward the sound of the puppy crying. “Hey, get back here, Baxter!” Mattie yelled as he ran after me. But I kept running! I ran across the street and across the field toward the faint whimper, and then I found him. He was a little guy, hopelessly stuck in the mud. He had long fur, and the mud on him was so thick he could barely move. I started digging frantically, trying my best to dig him out. Mattie finally caught up with me and saw what I was doing. Then I grabbed the little guy by the neck and pulled him out of the mud hole. He was cold and shivering, but he was still alive. Mattie picked him up and carried him home. “Good boy, Baxter! Good boy!” he said. When we got back to the garage, Mattie put the little guy down and called my foster mom. She came right home and gave him a bath. Then she recognized the little guy as our neighbors’ Shih Tzu. She called

the neighbors and they came right over. She told them that I saved their dog’s life and that I was a “hero”! She sure seemed happy about what I had done! The neighbors said their poor little dog is old and blind and probably had no idea where he was when he wandered off. They didn’t know how he had gotten out of the house in the first place. I’m just glad I could help him, and that he was able to go back home where he would be safe and warm.

Cats Tales

Why do cats shed? For pretty much the same reason other animals do- it’s their way of going from a winter wardrobe to their summer duds. Or, less hair means a cooler body. Cats lose more hair in summer because the increased light from longer days triggers the shedding process. The average house cat – lolling around under electric lights, or even near the light of a TV screen – also will shed more. Stress adds still another factor that will make them shed more swiftly.