



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

NOVEMBER 2003



Become a Foster Home

Have you wondered what being a foster home entails? In a nutshell, we ask foster homes to provide love, food, and shelter until a pet is adopted. ARPO pays for all medical costs and we ask the foster to provide high quality food, litter (for cats), and toys. Foster homes must also agree to a home inspection visit and to bringing the pet to an adoption event on Saturdays.

As a foster home, you may choose to care for a puppy, kitten, dog, or cat. Most pets are placed within 2 weeks to 2 months; however, some adult cats and dogs may take a little longer. Our current foster parents tell us they receive great satisfaction being the first stop rescued pets make on their way to a loving home.

We are also looking for short term temporary foster homes to help out our regular fosters when they go on vacation. If this sounds like something you might like to do, let us know!!

For more information on fostering, please visit our website at adoptarpo.org. Our foster home "Frequently Asked Questions" are posted for your convenience. If you have any additional questions, please e-mail foster@adoptarpo.org or call 317-774-8292.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership (ARPO) invites you to join us in our fight against animal neglect, abandonment, and unwanted companion animals by becoming an ARPO member today. Dues are tax deductible (consult your tax advisor). Thank you for your support!



- Annual Membership** (check one)
- Individual: \$ 35.00
 - Family: \$ 65.00
 - Corporate: \$ 100.00
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Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Email: _____

Please mail to: Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership, P.O. Box 6385, Fishers, IN 46038

(317) 774-8292
www.adoptarpo.org
info@adoptarpo.org

Recent adoptees in their new homes:



Pictured here are **Sierra** (left), formerly Diamond, with her new playmate Sam. Sierra was rescued from ACC this spring and promptly adopted to this wonderful home. Also pictured is **Sadie**, formerly Mary. Per her adopters, "We are enjoying her and cannot believe how much she is changing. She also changed our lives for the better." She gets to play with one of her own littermates that was adopted by relatives.

ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP, INC. is a Not-For-Profit Indiana Corporation founded in 1998. Post Office Box 6385 Fishers, Indiana 46038. (tel.) (317) 774-8292. www.adoptarpo.org, info@adoptarpo.org

There's Always Room for One More

I see by his coat he must be a stray,
The untidy look gives him away.
He's lost his will and is so thin,
Hasn't eaten since God knows when.
I know as I coax him through the door,
There's always room for one more.

The other night in the freezing rain,
That little female came again.
Matted and soaked, crying in need,
Lost and alone with babies to feed.
Her pleading eyes I couldn't ignore,
There's always room for one more.

There's a new face on the docks today,
Hungry but clean, to our dismay,
I stroked her head, her body rippled,
When she got up I saw she was crippled.
She started to go, but fell on the floor.
There's always room for one more.

There's the poor doggy standing in the rain,
I've tried to entice him time and again.
One ear is lopsided the other's been torn,
Blind in one eye, lost and forlorn.
He's coming now, so I'll open the door.
There's always room for one more.

These stories are true,
As I've said before,
There's always room for one more.

Upcoming Events



Be sure to come see us at the **Castleton Petsmart** for **Picture Your Pet with Santa**. We'll be there from 11-5 on December 6th and 7th and 13th and 14th. All pets welcome!

Also, look forward to our **Volunteer Meeting in February**, date to be announced.

Attention: Pacer Fans



We have a great fundraising opportunity working the concession stands at Conseco Fieldhouse. ARPO will receive a percentage of the total sales for the stand or stands that we work on a given night. The more volunteers we have the more money we can earn for the animals. Let us know if you would like to volunteer by contacting us at info@adoptarpo.org for more details.

Special Thanks

- ◆ Mike Wiggins at Party Time Rental for donating coat racks for our garage sale and tents for special events
- ◆ The Warren Patitz Family for many crates and carriers
- ◆ The Williams Foundation
- ◆ Haberman Productions and the sponsors and partners of Indy's Ultimate Grill Out: Union Federal, Indianapolis Colts, WFYI TV20/90.1FM, Monarch Beverage, Fosters/Black Swan, WFBQ 94.7, Bob and Tom, Ritz Charles, Kinetico Quality Water Systems, Indiana Pork Producers, Rose McKinney & Evans LLP, REI
- ◆ Petsmart and it's staff at 82nd and Allisonville Road and Petco and it's staff at 116th and Keystone for accommodating our adoption events on Saturday afternoons

We'd like to especially thank Jason and Kelly McBride and the Lumina Foundation for Education. Lumina Foundation is a private, independent foundation based in Indianapolis. Their program mission is to expand access and success in post secondary education. As an employee of the Lumina Foundation Jason and Kelly were able to make a donation to ARPO that was matched by the foundation through their Matching Gifts Program. The program encourages it's staff and directors to support the spirit and the practice of philanthropy. On top of that, Jason and Kelly are also ARPO fosters and have opened their home to several dogs this year.



Thorough Exam for Contacts & Glasses

DR. AMY D. WALDEN, O.D.

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From Edward and Yvonne Utter

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“My Dog Just Bit a Child!”

Warren G. Patitz

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This article may be a “hard pill” to swallow, but *swallow it we must* if we are going to advocate for the health and well being of the animals and children. Dog bites to children can be chilling. They can range from a simple nip to facial disfigurement to death. Having worked in emergency health care I have had the opportunity to observe my share of dog bite injuries and appreciate their cause. The purpose of this short article is to enhance knowledge of this issue and to aid in the management and prevention of potential dog bites to children.

This is a message that needs *high priority* in animal advocacy: Dog bites are not a *dog* problem; they are a *people* problem. Dog bites occur because of human complacency and negligence. Guess who takes the ultimate fall?

“Dog attacks are the No.1 public health problem of children, with more than half of children bitten by age twelve.” (Dr. Freeman, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association). The CDC reports that dog bites to children “exceed the total number of cases of measles, whooping cough and mumps each year.” Most often it is the family pet that bites a neighborhood child.

I have lost count of the number of times I have received a call and listened to the panic in the anxious exclamation, “*My Dog Just Bit a Child!*” If I didn’t exercise restraint with these calls, I might respond with something like... “Imagine that!” “What a surprise!” It used to be when a child was bitten, the response was, “Well, what did he do to the dog?” Now the response is something like, “That dog’s not right. We need to get rid of it.”

O.K. We bring a dog into our home, the dog has teeth and under inviting circumstances the dog will bite. It shouldn’t be that surprising. A dog biting is as natural as a person making a reactive swipe at a stinging insect hovering around their face, (which I would suggest you do, not) or taking a swing at someone assaulting us. Some people use guns, knives or fists.

Dogs have teeth. What should we expect? Here is the heart of the issue: Expecting dogs to act like dogs will save their lives. Expecting a dog to act like something *other* than a dog will get them relinquished and killed. This is the bottom line.

How does this happen? It happens because we have become so disconnected from the intuitive ability to observe and listen to the animals around us that we are unable to recognize the messages they are telling us with their behavior. On this same side of the coin, we have lost the thoughtfulness to behave in a non-threatening way around them that respects their inherent nature to perceive threats and intimidation.

Two adult women entered through a gate into their brother’s fenced-in backyard at night (each wearing a fox coat - I am saddened to say) in which there are 2 barking German shepherds warning them to stay out. They were startled that the dogs lunged and ripped at their coats. Imagine that.

A neighborhood child comes over to your home to play and is allowed to hug your dog. Although your dog is familiar with your own children hugging him, the dog is not familiar with another child doing so. Does a little child recognize the wide open eyes, the stiffening body, the sound from deep in the throat, if any, or even the notion that dogs get nervous when their space is invaded by other unfamiliar animals?

A newly adopted and unsupervised dog is in a home with strange children at the screen door staring through at the barking dog. Do they know that their staring, sounds and movements appear threatening to the dog who reacts by biting at them to get them away?

Acquiring a dog is a huge responsibility and too often the romance of bringing the dog home fades quickly and their presence becomes incidental and the monitoring becomes casual. Living with a dog requires realistic expectations; much needed education and *vigilante* supervision.

Larger dogs, especially, require more boundary management with younger children primarily because their faces are at equal levels. Little dogs bite ankles, big dogs bite faces. Big and little dogs bite and nip at other dogs’ heads and faces in natural and ritualistic interactions. They are condemned and it is unacceptable when this behavior is demonstrated at the face or hands of a child. We want our dog to have human cognition and be able to differentiate between one little animal and another. When a dog is nervous or uncomfortable with the proximity of another dog or a child, their behavior will not differentiate between the two.

Two major indicators that influence a dog’s biting are: 1) If it is spayed or neutered (an unsterilized dog is three times more likely to bite than a neutered animal) and, 2) the degree of training and socialization. The second is more significant than the first. There is no difference between the bites of a sterilized vs. an unsterilized dog. Calculated and thoughtful socialization is absolutely imperative for a safer dog. It means getting the dog out to meet *lots* of different people and managing the dog’s experiences so that all these encounters are as positive and enjoyable as possible. It means taking the responsibility to protect the dog from having to defend itself from what it perceives as a threatening experience. It also means taking the precautions of not allowing the dog to rehearse the behaviors that, (although they are normal dog behaviors) will get them relinquished and/or euthanized.

Training programs that specifically emphasize the development of a dog’s survival skills and the person’s awareness of this necessity should be encouraged upon the first acquisition of the dog.

Personally, I would rather have a well-trained and well-socialized pit bull or rottweiler than an untrained and unsocialized poodle. *It is not the breed of dog that is dangerous; it is the attitude of the person responsible for the dog.*

For the health and safety of children and dogs, let’s make an effort to educate both ourselves and new dog adopters that expectations should be realistic, that dogs exhibit dog behavior and *all* dogs will bite under the right circumstances. In our behavior-

training program, one of the first habits we get adopters to embrace is how to answer this question that is often posed by children and others, “Does your dog bite?” We encourage either of two answers, 1) “All dogs bite,” or, 2) “He has teeth.”

If we have a dog who is nervous and tentative with children, we need to be sure that the dog is not re-exposed to this seemingly threatening scenario and protect him from children who would cause him the need to re-experience that defensive emotion.

We will have come a long way in our maturity when we hear the voice on the other end of the phone saying, (instead of, “My dog just bit a child,”) rather, “I am responsible for allowing a child to be bitten by my dog, I am at fault.”

The *best* message, of course, on the other end of the phone is, “I have made a special effort to socialize my dog with all kinds of people. I not only have made sure he hasn’t been assaulted or intimidated by little children, I’ve made a special effort to be sure that his experience with children has been only positive ~ and he’s doing great!”

Warren’s interest is to help people understand how dogs learn so that people and dogs can enjoy a relationship of mutual trust and respect and to reduce the number of abandoned and relinquished animals.

*For information on training classes, please visit:
www.doggoneconnection.com*



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Reminder to ARPO Adopters

Please be sure to keep ARPO informed if you move or change email addresses so we can keep our records up to date. If the unexpected happens and your pet should be lost, our microchip will probably be the key that brings them home to you.

Also, if you are having problems with an ARPO pet, don't wait until you just have to "get rid of it" to take action. We have resources that may be able to help. Several good articles are listed on our website under the Articles and Newsletters section and we have many knowledgeable resources to help solve your dilemma. Give us a call and let us try to help!

We have had recent occasions where adopters have given their ARPO pets to other people. This creates problems in a couple of ways. First, it is a violation of the contract you have signed with us which states that any animal you cannot keep must be returned to us for re-homing. Secondly, if the pet becomes lost, we do not have the correct information on file to contact the owner if it is found through our microchip.

If it becomes apparent that the pet is not going to work out in your home and you have a friend or relative who wants the animal, please just let us know so we can change our records. We will not require a second adoption fee; we just want to keep our records as accurate as possible.



Leslie Davis at Petsmart with Vinnie.
Leslie has been ARPO's longest term volunteer!
Thanks so much for all of your help over the years.

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Pet Food Pantry

The Pet Food Pantry at IPS 78 is in full swing again. 3rd grade teacher and ARPO Vice President Stephanie Clancy collects food for the kids to take home to their pets who are sometimes not so fortunate to get a meal everyday. We are looking for donations of dry dog and cat food in small bags or baggies that the kids can carry home with them. You can bring donations to the Castleton Petsmart on Saturdays from 12-4 or call or e-mail us to make other arrangements.

Help Needed Overseas

The animal welfare movement has spread throughout the world. In many places the need for basic animal care is even greater than in the United States. Yet, due to the economic hardships in these countries rescue groups can expect little monetary support. Should you wish to donate to a group that can put your money to work for animals who have little hope for survival, consider one of the following organizations. Of course, we hope your first thought will be for ARPO. We count on your generous support to continue our work in central Indiana.

People for Animals Calcutta-this group establishes animal rescue facilities in India, runs mobile vet clinics, conduct school education programs which address cruelty free animal care and promotes vegetarianism. They also lobby for animal friendly legislation and are working to become a part of the official regulatory agencies.

People for Animals Calcutta
c/o Roy Tai
2020 S. Independence Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
debasischak@vsnl.net

The Cat Welfare Society of Israel-has spay/neutered over 40,000 cats during it's lifetime. They offer low cost spay/neuter to the public, medical clinics and a shelter.

P.O. Box 1503
Even-Yehuda 40500
Israel
www.cats.org.il

Let the Animals Live-has spayed/neutered over 60,000 cats during the last 17 years. Runs a shelter that cares for cats, dogs, horses, farm animals, camels and wildlife. Provides an emergency call center which send pet ambulances where needed in Tel Aviv. Also, leads the animal legal welfare front in Israel.

P.O. Box 57238
Tel Aviv 61573
Israel
www.letlive.org.il

All three organizations are equipped to receive US drawn bank checks.

Fundraising Update

Our annual Ivy Hills Garage sale brought in over \$600, special thanks to all who donated and helped out during the set up and sale.

Ticket sales for Indy's Ultimate Grill Out brought in over \$500, special thanks to all who sold advance tickets and volunteered at the event.

And finally the Yankee Candle Sale! Hold on to your seats: All of you selling maniacs raised almost \$3000 for ARPO! WOW! And many many thanks!

Help ARPO and the earth. Save your empty ink jet and laser cartridges and donate them to ARPO to raise money. You can drop off cartridges at our adoption events or call us to make other arrangements. ARPO will get anywhere from \$1 to \$12 depending on the style of the cartridge.



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