



Happy Holidays and welcome to the fourth quarter SNACK newsletter!

Another year is coming to an end! While we are a little uncertain about the new year, we're optimistic the corona virus vaccination will be safe, effective, and available in 2021. We plan to continue our monthly fix-it days at the Fredericktown Vet Clinic. We have two Rascal Days scheduled for June and September. When the weather warms again, we plan to continue the trap/neuter/return program for community cats. We hope to add activities as we gain confidence in the safety of moving about again!

Fall Fundraiser Results

Thank you to all those who entered the drawing for our group's fall fundraiser. The winners were: Prize #1, the group's quilt-Toni M-H; Prize #2, the hand-sewn quilt and wall-hanging, was won by Sue H; Prize #3 included a cat carrier, cat food, treats, toys, mugs, and cat pins and was won by Robin B. We made about \$450 which will be used for our programs.

Pet Food Safety

Many of us don't give a lot of thought to our pet food but in this country, pet food is one of the most regulated foods. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates both finished pet food products, like food, treats, and chews and their ingredients. Most states also require pet food products to be registered and for labels to conform to State regulations regarding product names and ingredients.

Another aspect of pet food safety is safe handling of the food we feed our pets. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov) offer these tips to stay healthy while feeding your pet:

- Always wash your hands with soap and water after handling pet food and treats.
- Store pet food and treats away from where human food is stored or prepared when possible. Store away from the reach of young children.

- Use a clean, dedicated scoop, spoon, or cup to scoop food. Wash bowls and utensils regularly with soap and water.
- Keep the dining area clean.
- Always follow storage instructions on pet food bags or containers. Keep the food cool and dry.
- If you empty a bag of food into another container, keep the bag. It contains contact information about the manufacturer or distributor, ingredients, feeding directions, and analysis of the nutrients in the food.

Upcoming Events

January 12, 2021 New Start 2021 Fix-it Day-Fredericktown Vet Clinic, FULL

Gaitten, one of the cats waiting to be fixed during a Fix-It Day.

If purring could be encapsulated, it'd be the most powerful, anti-depressant on the pharmaceutical market.
~ Alexis F. Hope



Winter Care Tips for Feral Cats (ASPCApro)

- Provide shelter--plastic totes, wooden dog houses, or even a cardboard box can be shelter.
- Use plywood to weigh down lightweight shelters.
- Keep shelters small so cats conserve body heat. Use multiple shelters for large colonies.
- Use straw for insulation and bedding, not blankets which absorb moisture.
- Remove snow from entrances and exits to shelters.
- Avoid salt to melt snow. It can hurt the cats' paws and can be toxic.
- Keep water available. Cold weather can increase a cat's energy/nutritional needs.
- Wet food is easier to digest so provide it to the cats if possible.