

# Elburn Animal Hospital Newsletter

## Oct. 2011

### Welcome

October is "Adopt a Shelter Dog Month". Today more than ever our shelters are crowded with dogs and cats that need a loving home. With the economy being unstable over the past few years many people have lost jobs and have been forced to give up their pets. Did you know that over half of the dogs in shelters today are pure bred? Many people have a specific breed in mind when looking for a dog. There are also breed specific rescues for most breeds of dogs.

### The History of Animal Shelters

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or, the ASPCA, was founded in 1866 by a man by the name of Henry Bergh.

Henry Bergh was born the son of a prominent ship builder in 1813. In 1864 he was appointed to a diplomatic post at the Russian court of Czar Alexander II. This was where he first took action against mans inhumane treatment of animals.

Once back in New York at a town meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1866, he pleaded on behalf of animals, or as he called them "mute servants of mankind". Fortunately protecting animals was a subject that crossed all class boundaries and party lines. He had the support of many of Manhattan's most powerful business and government leaders. Due to the success of his speech and the many signatures obtained by dignitaries for his "Declaration of the Rights of Animals", Bergh brought a charter for a proposed society to protect animals to the New York legislature. He was a very convincing and expressive speaker, and convinced politicians and committees of his purpose, so the charter incorporating the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was passed on April 10, 1866. Nine days later an anti-cruelty law was passed and the ASPCA was granted the right to enforce it. This was exactly what Henry set out to do, with a staff of 3 he staked out slaughterhouses, dog fighting pits, inspected saddles and collars of horses for raw flesh, and lectured in schools and to adult societies.

Henry reached many milestones for animals during his years after starting the ASPCA. In 1867, the ASPCA operated the first ambulance

for injured horses, advocated humane alternatives to live pigeons at shooting events, and supplied horses that pulled carts and streetcars in Manhattan with fresh water daily.

The earliest years of the ASPCA were focused on horses and livestock, but soon afterwards they began to speak up for dogs and cats as well.

In the late 1800's canines were used by the blue collar class to pull carts and turn treadmills as their owners could not afford a horse. In many cases they were provided no food or shelter and were left to scavenge for food. In 1867, Bergh helped pass a law that prohibited the use of dogs to pull carts without a license.

In the earlier city run shelters, dog catchers sometimes caught up to 300 dogs a day, and then threw them into cages and in the river to drown. In 1894, the ASPCA was put in charge of New York City's animal control duties. To cover expenses, the ASPCA collected revenues from dog licensing fees. For those animals that were left unclaimed, a more humane method of euthanasia was implemented.

Henry passed away in 1888, and by this time the idea that animals should be protected from cruelty had touched the heart of America!

At the turn of the century, the ASPCA shifted its focus from horses and livestock to small animals. This introduced the beginning of the field of Veterinary medicine involvement in humane work.

In 1912 the ASPCA opened a hospital for animals.

The ASPCA was the beginning for all the shelters we have today. The people that run the shelters have such a heart for animals and give as much time and effort as they can. Unfortunately, this is not enough as it takes money too. If you can't adopt a pet, perhaps you can help your local rescue with a donation of your money or your time! Also most shelters have a want list on their website of supplies that are needed.

When you are thinking of getting a new pet, please check out the pets at the shelters first. Typically they are already spayed or neutered, have necessary vaccines, and are heartworm

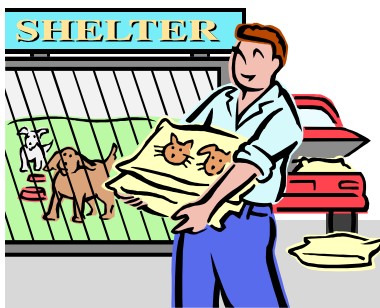
test or in the case of cats, feline leukemia/feline aids tested.

If you have access to a computer, please log on to [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). At this website you can specify what type of pet you are looking for, as well as the age, gender, and size, and you can also specify how far you are willing to travel. You will then be supplied with a list of suitable pets at shelters near you along with a picture and short biography of the pet.

### Local Area Shelters

- 1) Anderson Animal Shelter – [andersonanimalshelter.org](http://andersonanimalshelter.org)
- 2) Rover Rescue – [roverrescue.org](http://roverrescue.org)
- 3) TAILS – [tailshumanesociety.org](http://tailshumanesociety.org)
- 4) HELP – [helpinganimals.org](http://helpinganimals.org)
- 5) Dire Straits Companion Animal Rescue – [direstraitsanimalrescue.org](http://direstraitsanimalrescue.org)
- 6) Animal House Shelter – [animalhouseshelter.com](http://animalhouseshelter.com)

Darlene Adams



### National Wildlife Refuge Week October 10 – 16, 2011

Did you know that there are 7 wildlife refuges in Illinois? That some are within a 2 – 3 hour drive from Elburn? That there is at least one refuge in every state? If not, that is what National Wildlife Refuge Week is all about, getting the word out about these areas that are protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each year since 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has set aside the second week in October to celebrate and educate people about the country's 552 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 wetland management districts.

The first wildlife refuge was established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt with the designation of the three acre Pelican Island in Florida, now there are over 150 million acres that are federal lands devoted specifically to wildlife. These lands house migratory birds, endangered species and support primary fisheries. Activities offered at the refuges are fishing, wildlife photography, wildlife observation and environmental education.

The Upper Mississippi River Refuge is as close as Rock Island, IL. This 261 mile refuge was created by Congress on June 7, 1924 as a refuge and breeding place for migratory birds, fish, wildlife and plants. The refuge starts near Rock Island and ends at the confluence of the Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers near Wabash Minnesota. It contains 240,000 acres of wooded islands, marshes and backwaters. In the last 20 years this strip of the Mississippi has seen an increase of active eagle nests go from 14 in 1990 to 159 nests in 2010. This area is a great place to go in January to see the eagles feeding on the fish in the Mississippi.

Two other refuges that are only about 3 hours away are the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, located west of Havana, Illinois on Route 97/78 and Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge that is situated in the middle of the Mississippi Flyway 8 miles north of Havana.

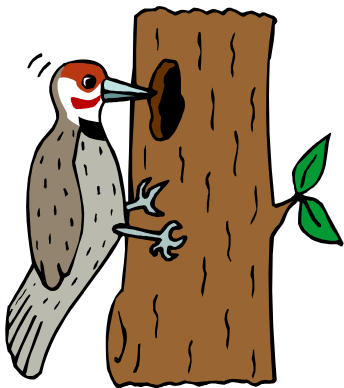
Emiquon is a work in progress. It was established December 29, 1993 with the purchase of its first 284 acres. The purpose of this refuge is to protect, restore, and manage migratory bird, fish and wildlife in the Illinois River Valley, and provide increased public recreational and educational opportunities. About 95 percent of the land within the Emiquon Refuge that is slated to buy and restore its cropland.

The Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge is a 6,200 acre refuge that is a major food source and sanctuary for waterfowl, shorebirds and nesting eagles. The refuge has the distinction

of being named a Globally Important Bird Area and a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers have worked hard to restore the habitat of this refuge. They completed their work in 1999 and because of these improvements they have the capability on both the north and south pools to mimic the historic flood cycle of the Illinois River. Because of these improvements, a diverse wetland habitat has resulted that benefits the fish and wildlife population.

Get more information on all of the National Wildlife Refuges in our country at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), grab your cameras and get out there and enjoy the fall weather, and our diverse wildlife.

Kathy Grozis



## Trick or Treat – Happy Halloween!

Halloween is just a few short weeks away and we have just a few tips for you!

The top 10 safety tips for pet parents from the ASPCA:

- 1) No tricks, no treats: That bowl of candy is for trick or treaters, not for your cat or dog. Chocolate, especially dark can be very dangerous as well as artificial sweeteners like xylitol.
- 2) Popular plants such as pumpkin or corn are not necessarily toxic, but can produce stomach upset.
- 3) Watch out for wires and cords from electric

light. Make sure they are out of your pets reach.

4) Don't put your pet in a costume if he doesn't like it, it can cause unnecessary stress for your pet.

5) Exercise caution if using candles, as you risk your pet knocking them over or possibly catching on fire

6) If you do dress up your pet, make sure the costume is not unsafe. Your pet should be able to move about and breathe freely.

7) Take a close look at your pets costume and make sure there are no little pieces that can be easily chewed on.

8) Dogs and cats should be kept in a different room during peak trick or treat hours.

9) When opening the door, make sure your pet doesn't dart outside.

10) Always make sure your pet has on proper I.D. If for any reason your pet escapes and becomes lost, there is a good chance they will be returned to you.



## Dr. C's Corner

Our first question comes from Beverly Thomas and it is a good one.

Why do dogs eat grass?

It is thought that dogs eat grass for a variety of reasons.

The most common answer is to make themselves vomit, but there are a few other trains of thought also!

The first is that they are looking for certain nutrients present in the plant. The second is fiber present in the grass.

Something you can do to help your pet if he is exhibiting this symptom is to feed green beans. If you use canned, make sure to use low sodium, otherwise use frozen or fresh are fine.

Thanks for the question Beverly!

Dr. C

**October special – come in with a new pet adopted from a shelter and receive a free stool check for parasites – 32.00 value!**

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information, visit our website at [www.elburnanimalhospital.com](http://www.elburnanimalhospital.com), or give us a call at (630) 365-9599. If you would like to opt out of receiving our newsletter, please send an email to us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net).

We would also like to thank those that came out to our open house last Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. The weather was bad, so the turn out wasn't too good, but one puppy did get adopted from our friends at Rover Rescue, and we still had a lot of fun, especially with all the puppies from Rover Rescue, Dire Straits and the kitties from HELP!

### COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

**We are going to be at the Chicago Pet Show at Kane County Fairgrounds on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, come and check out our booth and the many other great booths and exhibits there!**



Do you have an idea for a newsletter? A question you'd like answered about caring for your pet? Email us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net) and let us know! We are always interested in what you have to say, and what you want to know.

