



A Second Chance

An Inspirational Journey

Through the Eyes of an Animal Shelter Volunteer

5 Ways to Make a Positive Difference in the Lives of Animals in Your Community

1. Volunteer at a Shelter or Rescue – Spending time and socializing with the animals is important to help them cope with the stress of shelter life. If you do not wish to be directly involved with the animals, but still want to volunteer your time, you can help out with marketing, fundraising, or speaking to the public on various topics related to animal welfare.
2. Donate – Lack of money is the biggest obstacle for shelters and rescues, as most are 501 ©3 non-profit organizations and receive no funding other than donations from the public. The money needed to spay/neuter, vaccinate and provide flea and heartworm prevention is barely covered by adoption fees. This does not include food, shelter and other necessities needed to run a facility or non-facility rescue. Even the smallest donation is appreciated, so give what you can. Also donating supplies is a big help too. Check with your local shelter or rescue and see what their needs may be.
3. Spay/Neuter - Spaying and neutering is the only 100% permanently effective method of birth control for dogs and cats. Not only will this prevent over-breeding and unwanted litters; but it also has health benefits for both cats and dogs. Spaying and neutering can curb aggressive behaviors, cut down the risk for certain cancers, decrease the urge to roam and also reduces the risk of spraying and marking territory. It has also been stated that it can increase the life expectancy of both cats and dogs.
4. Training your pet (and the owner) – Training classes provide pet owners the skills and knowledge for dealing with normal pet behaviors. Training builds your mutual bond, enhances the partnership and enriches the relationship you have with your pet. Also, it has been shown to be one of the most important things that keep a dog in their “forever” home.
5. Visit your Veterinarian – Make sure to visit your veterinarian to keep your pet up to date on their vaccines. Remember, behavior issues can be a direct result of an underlying health issue. A healthy pet is a happy pet.

Visit our website, www.asecondchancemedia.com, to view our resources for training your pet, low cost spay/neuter programs, locating a shelter near you, questions about your pet’s health and much more.