

# Save Neglected and Abused Pets

## Critical Care Fund

Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society

February, 2007

The Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society is announcing the creation of the Save Neglected and Abused Pets critical care fund. Money in the fund is reserved to pay for the veterinary care of seriously ill, injured and abused animals.

The SNAP fund was created after four animals in critical condition were brought to BENCHS. Each of the animals required extensive medical care and surgery.

### **APOLLO**

Recently, a family came to the shelter with a small, orange kitten they had named Apollo. While playing in Rasmussen Woods, their children found the kitten alone in the woods and desperate for help. Someone had used duct tape to bind the kitten's hind legs together, then released the kitten into the woods. Mankato experienced some of the coldest temperatures of the year that week.

The family brought Apollo to an area vet, who attempted to remove the tape. Much of his skin was ulcerated from the tape, some of it to the bone. The family who found Apollo tried to provide the care he needed, but it became too overwhelming for them. Eventually, they brought Apollo to BENCHS hoping we could provide the necessary care.

Apollo is suffering from frostbitten ears and paws. The skin on his feet are peeling and the frostbite on his tail was so severe that his tail eventually had to be removed. The duct tape on Apollo's legs left huge sores that were so extensive his left leg had to be amputated. Doctors think his right back leg can be saved, although he will need several weeks of careful attention and rehabilitation.

### **OSCAR and FELIX**

The morning before Valentine's Day a BENCHS volunteer was transporting an animal to a veterinary clinic when she saw a man setting a bag of dog food and two carriers next to the garage at BENCHS. When she brought the carriers inside, she discovered two dogs inside of them.

The carriers were rushed to the vet and two male Shih Tzus in terrible condition walked out. They were malnourished, their coats had been matted to their skin with urine and feces, and it was difficult to determine where their eyes were and if they could see properly. Based on their condition, we suspect they came from a puppy mill.

The older of the dogs, Oscar, is about seven years old and has a canine condition known as dry eye. Because it had not been treated, Oscar has lost some of his vision and will now need daily eye drops for the rest of his life. Oscar also has a hernia, which can be treated. He suffers from ear canal irritation and will probably have intermittent need for eardrops in the future.

Felix is about three years old and is also suffering from a hernia and an ear canal irritation similar to Oscar's. Because Felix was so malnourished, he cannot have the necessary hernia surgery until he has gained weight.

**HOPE**

A female Rotweiller puppy, Hope, was surrendered to BENCHS by someone who claimed his “friend” had moved and couldn’t take her with. A veterinary check-up revealed that she had fractured her hip about a month ago and had extreme hip dysplasia. She had not been treated for either. Veterinarian’s suspect the fracture was the result of abuse.

Hope will need surgery that can only be performed at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center or the Lloyd Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Iowa State University. Rehabilitation and recuperation could take weeks.

All animals coming to the shelter receive routine veterinary care, including flea control, vaccinations and spay and neuters. The daily operating fund has the budget for these routine costs. However, these animals require extensive medical care that the BENCHS budget cannot afford: the cost of Hope’s surgery alone is \$5,000. In an effort to generate money for cases like these and help animals like Hope and Apollo, BENCHS has created the Save Neglected and Abused Pets critical care fund.

Money in the fund will be reserved to pay for the veterinary care of seriously ill, injured and abused animals. All SNAP fund donations can be sent to BENCHS at 517 Madison Ave., Mankato, MN, 56001 or BENCHS, care of Susan Kroon, 503 Cornelia St., North Mankato, MN, 56003.



**Save Neglected and Abused Animals Critical Care Fund**  
DONATION FORM

All donations to the SNAP fund go toward the care of critically ill, neglected and abused animals.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

DONATION AMOUNT:

Cash \_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_

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