

Tail-WAAGin News

September 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

Coming events:

WAAG will also be at the following events:

- 10/3/09: The NCSU Dog Olympics
- 11/7/09: Mutt Strut – a dog walk benefiting the Wake County Animal Center



Upcoming adoptions:

WAAG brings adoptable cats and dogs to a different location on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

- 9/12/09: Petsmart in Knightdale
- 10/10/09: Petpourri in Cary
- 12/12/09: Petco on 6231 Triangle Plantation Drive

We have a new Web site!

Visit us at:

www.waagnc.org

The newsletter of the:
Wake Animal Advocates Group



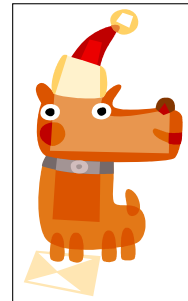
Collecting toys & cans for pets

The Youth Group at Angier United Method Church is partnering with the Wake Animal Advocates Group (WAAG) on two important projects this year.

The Youth Group will be collecting aluminum cans for recycling. They will donate the money earned from this activity to WAAG.

Our 2nd annual Holiday Toy Drive begins Nov. 1st.

The Youth Group will help us collect toys for the homeless pets at the Wake County Animal Center.



We need new cat and dog toys that are non-fabric and dishwasher safe.

Anyone can donate toys at one of our adoption events (see left), at the Animal Center or at Petco on 6231 Triangle Plantation Drive in Raleigh.

Thanks to the Youth Group for all their help!

Not ready for a big commitment? Foster!

The Wake County Animal Center is looking for animal foster families to temporarily care for animals until they are ready for adoption.

If you are an animal lover, but cannot commit to providing a permanent home for a dog or cat, consider becoming a foster parent.

A foster parent provides temporary, in-home care for friendly kittens,

puppies, cats, dogs, rabbits or other needy animals until they can be placed for adoption.

The Center needs foster parents today for orphaned kittens and puppies, animals recovering from major surgery, or dogs needing one-on-one behavior rehabilitation, socialization, or a break from the shelter.

For more information, see

www.wakegov.com/pets





These are just a few of the animals that have found new homes this year, thanks to the efforts of WAAG.

WAAG adoptions continue

The Wake Animal Advocates Group (WAAG) is continuing to hold monthly adoption events, to try to increase adoptions of cats and dogs from the Wake County Animal Center.

WAAG also sponsors harder-to-adopt animals from time to time, to provide a financial incentive for families to adopt them in to permanent homes.

WAAG adoption events take place at different locations in Wake County (see page 1 for details).

We bring several friendly dogs and cats to every event so come out and see us!

And if you can't come to an event, be sure to consider the Wake County Animal Center when looking for your next companion.

What's next for WAAG?

We have some exciting things in store for WAAG this year.

We will be participating in some upcoming events, including the dog olympics at NCSU and Mutt Strut, the annual fundraiser for the Wake County Animal Center.

We will continue to sponsor adoption events every month at a location

near you (see page 1 for details).

At these events, we increase awareness of the Center and provide educational literature on a variety of topics, including animal cruelty and disaster preparedness.

We hope to apply for 501c3 status soon. Right now, WAAG is a recognized nonprofit

organization, and 501c3 status will provide us with additional benefits and opportunities for grants and other funding.

We are also looking to fill some board positions and expand our marketing, education and fundraising efforts.

Contact WAAG to find out more about how you can help at info@waagnc.org

WAAG members help drive positive change

In July 2010, the number of animals brought into the Wake County Animal Center is anticipated to increase by 50%, as Wake County consolidates the sheltering system. To prepare for the 16,000+ animals a year that will be

coming through the Center, a facility expansion is taking place.

In addition, workgroups are forming to address specific ways to decrease the euthanasia rates and improve animal care at the Center. The Volunteer

workgroup is being chaired by a WAAG board member, and another board member is participating in the Adoptions workgroup effort.



Help us spread the word...

WAAG is pleased to announce the creation of the first-ever

Wake County Pet-Friendly Housing Guide

Available at www.wakegov.com/pets/guide



Causing a chain reaction in Raleigh

Did you know that the Raleigh City Council passed an anti-tethering law in July 2009?

It is now illegal for Raleigh residents to tether their dogs for more than 3

hours a day, using a rope, chain or other line for restraining a dog.

Violators face a civil penalty of \$100 per day for each day of violation.

The purpose of the law is to prevent the possibility of dog strangulation, exposure to harsh weather conditions, and the inability to reach a supply of food or water.

Some people chain their dogs because they feel like they don't have another option and cannot afford to build a fence.

Well, now there's hope. A local nonprofit organization call the Coalition to Unchain Dogs has been building fences in Durham for several years and has now expanded their efforts to

Raleigh. They are supported by individual donations and their goal is to build fences for chained dogs (which they spay or neuter before the fence is built).

A WAAG board member is the Spay/Neuter Coordinator for the Coalition.

Learn more at www.unchaindogs.net.

The new law in Raleigh, and the efforts of the Coalition to Unchain Dogs, are already having a positive impact on the lives of chained dogs.



Spay/neuter: mythbusters

MYTH: *It's better to have one litter first.*

FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

MYTH: *But my pet is a purebred.*

FACT: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters

around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed and purebred.

MYTH: *But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.*

FACT: A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Professional animal breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee they will get just what they want out of a particular litter. A pet owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, an entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of

a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

MYTH: *It's too expensive to have my pet fixed.*

FACT: Whatever the actual price, spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost—a relatively small cost when compared to all the benefits. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter and ensuring the health of the mother and litter; two months of pregnancy and another two months until the litter is weaned can add up to significant veterinary bills and food costs. Most importantly, it's a very small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

MYTH: *I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.*

FACT: You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.





How you can make a difference

Many animals at the Wake County Animal Center in Raleigh are in need of our help.

With your contributions, WAAG can make a difference in the lives of the animals. Become a member today!

Levels of membership are:

- Bronze: \$25
- Silver: \$50
- Gold: \$75
- Platinum: \$100+

WAAG is also looking for committed volunteers and

officers. Officers must be volunteers in good standing with the Wake County Animal Center.

There are many ways to get involved, and we welcome the opportunity to talk with you about joining our group.

P.O. Box 58766
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E-mail:
info@waagnc.org

**Supporting
the animals
at the
Wake County
Animal
Center**

We have a new
Web site!

Visit us at:

www.waagnc.org

Looking for the perfect gift?

To help raise funds to support our efforts, WAAG will be selling specialty hats and decals.

The hats are a great gift idea for kids - and kids at heart. Each ball cap is designed to look like a dog, and they come in a

variety of colors and styles and breeds.

The Pet Alert Window Decals could save your pet's life. You put one on your front window to alert emergency services personnel about your pets. So, if there is a fire

or similar emergency, they will know to rescue your pets from your home.

To purchase decals or hats, you can see us at our upcoming events – Mutt Strut and the Dog Olympics (see page 1).

About Our Organization...

The purpose of WAAG is:

- To support the adoption efforts of the Wake County Animal Center (WCAC)
- To prevent cruelty to animals
- To increase the adoption of homeless animals into permanent homes
- To educate the public on pet care
- To increase retention of pets in their adoptive homes
- To support spay/neuter programs

