

SNIPPETS

A publication of C-SNIP

Spring 09

1675 Viewpond SE, Kentwood, MI 49508 / (616) 455-8220

50,000!!!!

Meet some of the almost 50,000 loved dogs and cats who've passed through the C-SNIP clinic, from that first day in April 2001 to the afternoon of May 12, 2009.



#50,000, Dexter (1), → a 6-month-old mixed breed, was adopted by Brad who simply couldn't afford the neuter cost at the private clinics he contacted.



We've all seen the charts depicting how one cat or dog, her offspring and their offspring can produce thousands of puppies and kittens in a very short time. More puppies and kittens than can be adopted or



Mousie Lewis #6000 with her family sheltered indefinitely. More puppies and kittens than a kind community can, in good conscience, kill.

C-SNIP, with your support, has enabled pet owners throughout West Michi-



#10,000 Mixie Sternberg with her human companion Mike

gan to choose the option that can put a humane, inexpensive, safe and common sense end to the dilemma of too many pets for too few homes. The solution couldn't be easier: PREVENT THE ANIMALS FROM BEING BORN.

To each of you who has donated money, items from the wish list, and time to C-SNIP, **thank you.** And to each of you who has spayed or neutered your pet and encouraged your friends, family and neighbors to do the same, **thank you.** There's a lot more work to be done before we reach the balance between adoptable

pets and available homes, but what a marvelous start we've all made by working together.

Sebastian Cooper was #4000



Moonbeam VonKronenberger was #3000 and her housemate S'mores was #3001

A message from our President: Easing the Financial Burden

As we celebrate the 50,000th animal to be spayed or neutered by C-SNIP, we look at some of the other ways that we affect the communities we serve. Not only do we help reduce pet overpopulation in West Michigan and help make responsible pet ownership more accessible to more people, the whole community benefits from C-SNIP's services.



As mentioned in our last issue, Dr. Paul Isely, Associate Professor of Economics at GVSU has been conducting an economic analysis of the monetary impact that C-SNIP has had in West Michigan. He began his analysis by looking at the 13,300 cats that C-SNIP spayed from 2001-2008. His preliminary conclusions are that there were 113,000 fewer cats in West Michigan in 2008; that 44% - or 49,238 - of these would have been feral; that 1,650 fewer cats entered the county animal shelters and 1,238 cats did not have to be euthanized; and finally, as a result of fewer cats entering the shelter system, there has been a savings of \$280,500 for the taxpayers in West Michigan. Dr. Isely is continuing his analysis, and we're eager to tell you about the impact our dog surgeries have had.

Despite this good news, the troubled Michigan economy is reflected in an increased number of responsible, but financially struggling, pet owners for whom spay/neuter surgery is beyond their means, even with our low fees. We receive contributions that are earmarked for our subsidy fund and last year that fund supplemented spay/neuter surgeries in the amount of \$56,000. Please consider making a contribution to this fund, so that we can continue to offer spay/neuter surgery to those pet caretakers most in need. Or, if you know someone personally who needs our help, we have C-SNIP gift certificates available. Simply call 455-8220, email us at info@csnip.org or visit the clinic at 1675 Viewpond SE, Kentwood.

As always, thank you for your continued support.
Elaine Sterrett Isely

Wish List

Our wish list is growing. Other than the items we use daily and mention in each *Snippets* (laundry detergent, Q-Tips, paper towels, etc.) we now have some bigger needs: a 20x20 storage barn; large dog crates because we're getting more medium to large dogs and are running out of kennel space to house them comfortably in recovery (about \$60 each); an electric floor and carpet scrubbing machine so our staff doesn't have to get down on their tired hands and knees to clean the kennel floor each day (\$250); a bank of portable cages (\$3500); a new furnace/air conditioner because the one we have is about to crash (\$40,000). Ok, ok, perhaps we've overdone our wish list requests with those last two items. In truth, we deeply appreciate any item or financial donation you can manage from a roll of paper toweling to a new furnace. We put all gifts to their best use.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wyoming Dog Park

Wyoming Dog Park will soon be a reality and C-SNIP is delighted to be a supporter! Please visit the park at its celebration on June 20. And if your pet is not yet microchipped, plan on having that done at our booth. It's painless (relatively) and costs only \$15 for sterilized pets. If your pet has not yet been spayed or neutered, you'll pay \$25 but receive a \$10 certificate off the cost of surgery at C-SNIP. See you there!

Sip 'N' Snip Pub Crawl



Snippy, a teetotaler, will be leading C-SNIP's first ever Sip n' and Snip Pub Crawl on Saturday June 27. We'll start at Z's at 6 pm and crawl our way through Flanagan's, J. Gardella's, Hop Cat, McFadden's Saloon, Ritz Koney and the Black Rose. The entry fee is \$25,

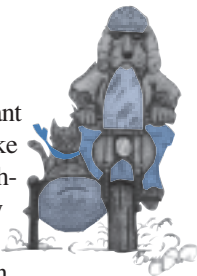
which includes a commemorative shirt, a scavenger hunt, drink specials, prizes, and the heartfelt thanks of all the pet owners who will be able to spay or neuter their pets because of your participation. Gather your pals and sign up now at csnip.org, email csnip@gmail.com or mail your fee to C-SNIP Pub Crawl 1675 Viewpond SE, Kentwood 49508 with your name, address, phone number and shirt size. All proceeds will be used to pay for "snip" surgeries for pets whose caretakers are struggling to make ends meet. And check our website for news on an up-coming Yappy Hour at Hop Cat in July.

2nd Best Sale

Mark July 18 on your calendars for the C-SNIP yard sale. Great bargains, microchipping and tours of the clinic. If you have interesting and useful items (no clothing, please) to donate, please call 455-8220 or email us at www.csnip.org or drop them off at the clinic or Presto Print, 3409 Plainfield. Otherwise, bring your checkbooks, get the treasures you've always wanted and help C-SNIP prevent pet overpopulation at the same time. Further details on www.csnip.org.

Motorcycles for Mutts and Kitties too

If you're a biker (motorbiker, that is), you won't want to miss this event. On August 8 dozens of bikers will take off from Rockford on a 150 mile tour through lovely northern Kent County in support of C-SNIP. You'll enjoy lunch, prizes, raffles, silent auction, and beverage stops along the way, with a grand finale at a restaurant back in Grand Rapids. Non bikers can enjoy every bit of the day by following the parade in the comfort of their cars. All the details, plus photos and stories, can be found at motorcyclesformutts.com.



Pet Fest

Another date for your calendar is October 10 for our second annual C-SNIP Pet Fest. We'll have prizes, refreshments, microchipping, contests and games for your pets, clinic tours, vendors, give-aways, and popcorn. Great food and beverages will be available at Sam's Joint next door. More details coming soon at www.csnip.org

Pat's Thoughts

It was a busy month at C-SNIP. Our medical staff set a record of 1,198 sterilization surgeries. Unfortunately, due to the terrible economic conditions in our community, many of those surgeries were performed at less than our normal low fees. We have many of you to thank for subsidizing them.

This year our staff decided to forego our regular holiday gift exchanges and instead contribute to an account we call the Pet Assistance Fund. In fact, our staff has insisted for years on regularly donating to this fund which is used to help our clients with pet needs other than spay/neuter surgery, such as pet food, boarding costs in foreclosure cases, flea prevention medicine and additional emergency vet care beyond what C-SNIP can provide.

The biggest news is that we've added two new members to our client service staff. They are cheerful, never late to work and ask for no pay. On the other hand they steal their colleagues' food, don't clean up after themselves and tend to sleep on the job. They are Murphy and Nixon C. Snippet.

We resisted clinic kitties for years but, due to special circumstances, Murphy and Nixon managed to find a way into our hearts.

And they're great company for Snippy



Murphy (L) and Nixon (R) sleeping on the job.

Our Hat's Off To

Matt White for staining the clinic doors and cupboards and replacing ceiling tiles.

Aunt Kay for contributing to a fund to help seniors pay for spaying or neutering their pets

Janette Tazia and her crew from TLC Lawn Care for a major spring clean-up of the clinic grounds

Petya Dodova for her many hours of research on grantmakers

Sara Jane Bigelow for her custom designed dog and cat cards, the sale of which benefits C-SNIP

Sara Stein for contributing her excellence in market research

Nancy Eardley for a laptop computer

Jim Payne and Char Kruzich for painting the interior of the clinic

Jerry DeBlaay for laundry supplies, about \$2000 worth!!!!

Amway Corporation for donation of computers and servers

Jennifer Pope for purchasing our banner. Finally we can be seen!

David and Rebecca Behrens for stripping the parking lot

Christie White for helping with landscaping and painting the clinic's interior

Nancy Muller, Kalinda Scott, Heaven Can Wait, Pound Buddies, Harbor Humane Society, Noah Project, Jean Gervais,

Pat Baxter and Carol Gardner, our volunteer transporters who bring pets to C-SNIP from near and far.

Mark Boguszewski for patiently and creatively designing and maintaining our website.

Lori Lockyear for her enthusiasm, patience and persistence as our volunteer coordinator



A Hot Time in Alto

We had rain, chopping, dicing, stirring, spicing, wind, buckets of beer, raffles, door prizes, more rain and laughter all culminating in the best chili cook off ever at the marvelous Nighthawk Bar and Grill on Saturday, April 27th. Sandra Wanzer and her staff responded to the unexpected storm with grace, calm and drink specials and C-SNIP benefited to the tune of \$3100, enough to subsidize the surgery cost for over 500 animals, preventing at least 2550 unplanned, unwanted offspring from being introduced into an already overcrowded community. Thank you



Red Hot Chili Peppers win the popular vote!

Nighthawk
Food & Spirits

• CATERING

Sandra, Nighthawk, volunteers, judges, all 22 teams and brave supporters for showing uncommon commitment to great chili and C-SNIP. You must mark April 24, 2010 now so you won't miss the next and best chili cook off in the world!

A Chip in Time

Pawformance Grooming in Greenville and Alpine Petco recently hosted C-SNIP microchip clinics. We conduct these clinics from time to time to help pet owners and to bring in a bit of financial support, which is needed to subsidize every surgery we perform. The next clinics will be at the Wyoming Dog Park celebration on June 20 and C-SNIP's yard sale on July 18. Details soon at www.csnip.org.



Snippy accompanies Jennie Bristol who, with her son, brought 3 dogs to Pawformance Grooming for chips.

Purrs and Tail Wags

Memorials and Honorariums

Donations were made in loving memory of

Anne Meistas from **Joyce Gillis, Gerard Uzas, Marcia Miller and Pam Olsen**

Joyce Pierson and Charles Lawrence from **Dr. Danette Martin**

Monique Wanzer from **Cindy Mader and Pam Olsen**

Donations were made in honor of

Kim Southwick from **Ken Schmidt Productions** in lieu of a holiday gift

Laurent Bernard in lieu of a holiday gift from **Steelcase Human Resources**

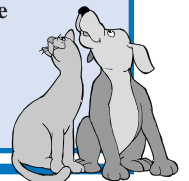
Gloria Parker from **Betty and Greg Pierce**
Pam Olsen from **Heather and Erik Holt**

Jane Pierce and Gloria Parker from **Linda Powell, Barb Loveland, Mary Hoiles and Pauline Lackie**

Patric Turner for his birthday from **Jane Beach**

Pam Olsen from **Sarah Gooden**

Barb Loveland from **Dale and Enid Loveland**



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MISSION STATEMENT

C-SNIP's mission is to significantly reduce the overpopulation of dogs and cats in West Michigan by providing low-cost spay and neuter services and by supporting all efforts that promote humane population control.

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by Presto Print Inc.

From the hydrant

The things I do for C-SNIP! I got drenched at the chili cook-off (but all the free samples made it worthwhile.) I'm learning to play the piano so I can participate in the talent show at Pet Fest. I had to look at hundreds of photos to pick out my best friends for the front page article, but that was fun and brought back some very good memories. I can't talk about them because it's best you not know what goes on in the clinic when I'm there alone with all those cats. And I ordered a special helmet for Motorcycles for Mutts and Kitties too because they don't make one for dogs, much less a dog with a head as big as mine. And I understand I'm now responsible for seeing that all of you who come to our pub crawl stay sensible and on track. It's a huge responsibility to be Snippy but, in truth, I love every minute. Where else can I do so much good for my fellow dogs, my pals the cats and all the people who take care of them?



C-SNIP continues to be a training facility for vet and vet tech students. Pictured are MSU externs Nichole Shear (B) and Molly Wiersma (T).



Monthly newsletter on line

There is too much going on at C-SNIP to cover in our twice yearly *Snippets*. So we're starting a junior version soon, which you'll be able to read on-line. We'll have news from the clinic, helpful hints and upcoming events. Check us out at www.csnip.org.

We are also on Facebook (C-SNIP Grand Rapids). And we're starting to develop an electronic distribution list for those of you who wish to hear from us on-line rather than by mail. Please send us your email address (info@csnip.org) and let us know if this is your preference.

www.csnip.org

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