

SNIPPETS

A publication of C-SNIP

Winter 08

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

Volunteers... the Heart of C-SNIP

Ten years ago five volunteers got together to figure out what to do about pet overpopulation, and C-SNIP was born. Today, dozens of other volunteers clean the kennels, transport animals, spend their Saturdays at outreach events, respond to the hundred daily phone messages, organize fundraisers, clean and sterilize instruments, do ten loads of laundry each day, and so much more. These good people donate their time and energy so that the clinic staff can concentrate on providing safe, affordable spay/neuter surgery. Our volunteers love and respect animals, but what is so remarkable is how little time they actually spend with the pets that come to the clinic. They understand that C-SNIP's work is not to rescue, rehabilitate or shelter. It is to prevent dogs and cats from being born to a life where they need to be rescued, rehabilitated, sheltered and, of course, in far too many cases, euthanized. C-SNIP's volunteers include people from all walks of life, each with a common commitment to stop euthanasia as a solution to pet overpopulation.

Carol Gardner is the epitome of the VOLUNTEER and you deserve to know more about her. She and her husband Gene, both retired, live in Muskegon with their best friend Snugles (with one g). Carol

heard of C-SNIP seven years ago and called to see if we took animals from outside Grand Rapids. We did, of course, and thus began Carol's transport of owned animals from Muskegon to C-SNIP. At first she drove to wherever the mobile clinic was parked, then to our permanent home in Kentwood. At her own expense she advertises in Muskegon, schedules the animals, fills out the paperwork, transports the animals from Muskegon to Grand Rapids several times a month, waits until they've recovered from surgery, then returns them to their owners along with aftercare instructions. She and Snugles are shown here with her recently acquired Go Bus. You will see it soon in rural areas throughout West Michigan as well as downtown Grand Rapids, providing transportation for pets whose owners need that assistance. We thank our lucky stars for Carol Gardner.



Carol and Snugles are experienced volunteers...

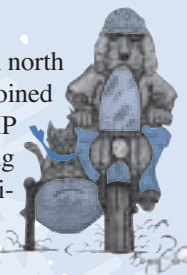


and the Delta Gems are the newest.

VROOOOOOM

August 9th was a gorgeous day for a meandering trip through north and east Kent County. That's exactly what 75 bikers did when they joined the Motorcycles for Mutts and Kitties Too Tour benefiting C-SNIP and the ASPCA. The 150-mile journey included a lunch stop at Long Lake, occasional breaks at various watering holes, and the grand finale at Famous Dave's with a delicious buffet, live auction, games and biker talk. C-SNIP appreciates Dr. Lori Vorpi for brilliantly coordinating the entire event and for choosing C-SNIP as the major beneficiary. She, her team of great volunteers, sponsors and riders know that prevention is the best "fix" for pet overpopulation. And they demonstrated this by raising \$2300 to subsidize spay/neuter surgery at the C-SNIP clinic for pets owned by people struggling to make ends meet.

Please circle August 8, 2009 on your calendar and join the fun next year as a biker, volunteer, sponsor, lunch or grand finale participant. Details will appear at www.vpchiro.com and www.csnip.org after the first of the year.



Seasons Greetings

As we enter this time of thanksgiving and reflection, the C-SNIP board is particularly aware of how much we appreciate Carol, her fellow volunteers, our superb staff, and all of you who have helped the clinic provide its life-saving services. We send you our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and a year of peace and goodwill to all.

A message from our President

I am a relative newcomer to the C-SNIP volunteer corps - first as a donor in 2003, then as a volunteer grant writer in 2005-2006; I formally joined the board in 2006, and this year I have had the honor of serving as its president. It continues to impress me how the vision of those 5 individuals who met 10 years ago has been realized. Discouraged by how our West Michigan communities were handling pet overpopulation, they came up with an effective, humane and relatively inexpensive way to end it. Simply put - prevent pet overpopulation before it happens in the first place.

Eighteen months after that first meeting, the C-SNIP mobile clinic was traveling throughout an 8 county region offering spay/neuter surgeries for reduced fees. Five and a half years later, in May 2006, C-SNIP moved into its current clinic - a building generously donated by Lois Levy. This move from a mobile to a stationary clinic has allowed us to increase our surgery days from 3 to 5, and sometimes 6 days a week, and to increase the number of surgeries from an average of 22 per day to 60. By the end of this year, our staff - with the help of our volunteers - will have spayed or neutered over 45,000 dogs and cats, puppies, and kittens that otherwise would have produced an unimaginable number of offspring, many of which would not have found their way into good, safe homes.

However, during these trying financial times where we're seeing record unemployment, home foreclosures, and a national credit crisis unmatched in most of our lifetimes, more and more people are having difficulty affording their own veterinarian's spay/neuter fees. This means that the demand for C-SNIP's services is growing. In addition, we receive requests nearly every day asking us to subsidize more and more surgeries. As you know, C-SNIP turns no one away because of inability to pay our fees. Thanks to the donations of a few extraordinary humanitarians, we have what we call our "subsidy fund", which we use when clients cannot afford some or all of the surgery costs. This fund is currently dwindling as rapidly as the economic crisis in Michigan escalates.

So, we're asking you to dig deep and contribute what you can so that C-SNIP can continue to make spay/neuter surgery available to every pet that needs it. In return, we will continue to operate C-SNIP in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible. We'd also like to ask those of you with special skills in finance, education, marketing, accounting, real estate, construction, fundraising, community organizing or Spanish language to consider joining us on the board or a committee to help us meet the needs of today, and to prepare for the needs of tomorrow.

I'd be delighted to talk with you about C-SNIP and how you can help us reach the day when every kitten or puppy born has an excellent chance at a loving, life-long home. The staff, volunteers, board members and clients of C-SNIP join me in thanking all of you for your continued support and wishing you a joyous, safe and peaceful holiday season and new year.

Elaine Sterrett Isely



A Hot Time!!!

Once again Sandra Wanzer and her staff at the Nighthawk Bar and Grill picked a perfect weather day in late April for the Second Annual Chili Cook-Off for C-SNIP. The parking lot was abuzz with cooks chopping onions, sprinkling chili powder, and tending pots simmering with beans, meats, spices and tomatoes. Thank you Sandra, Nighthawk staff, contestants, and visitors for raising \$2700 for C-SNIP's reduced cost spay/neuter clinic. It is these community-wide, grass-roots events that keep the C-SNIP clinic running at high speed.



Top row, L to R: Ramee TenHave, Sandra Wanzer and Emily Brods. Bottom row, L to R: Deana Hane, Kelly Schmidt and Sheri Rowland.



Pam Olsen, Pat Schoen and Karen Holt surround their chief chef Pete Pullen at this year's cookoff.

Does C-SNIP make a difference?

Absolutely, says Dr. Paul Isely, GVSU professor of economics. Paul is conducting an analysis of the monetary impact that C-SNIP is having on the West Michigan community. The preliminary results show that the 2,605 female cats that C-SNIP spayed in 2007 will save West Michigan tax payers several hundred thousand dollars over the next seven (7) years in animal control costs. Look for more information in upcoming editions of *SNIPPETS*.

Our Hat's Off To

Christie White, from Noah's Project in Muskegon, for tactfully suggesting some yard condition improvements at the clinic and then spending two entire days making those improvements all by herself.

Delta Gems for sending 24 volunteers to help at our PetFest.

Cats and Dogs, a monthly magazine produced by longtime *GR Press* reporter **Janet Vormittag**. It was Janet who wrote the article about C-SNIP outgrowing its mobile clinic that was read by

Lois Levy who subsequently donated the wonderful building that now houses our new clinic. We appreciate Janet for caring about C-SNIP and for giving us and all other humane groups much needed attention in *Cats and Dogs*.

Cindy B. for a new washing machine, and for spending hour after hour putting it to good use in the clinic laundry room.

Artisans for Animals for choosing C-SNIP as one of the beneficiaries of their August Art Sale at the Farmer's Market.

All the clients who notice our *Wish List* and bring paper towels, distilled water and much more when they return to pick up their pets.



Pat's Thoughts

Simply put, I feel honored to be part of C-SNIP. I've been in the workforce for over three decades and can emphatically state that I've never been associated with such an amazing staff. While diverse in other areas of their lives, all have the same mission and focus when it comes to working at C-SNIP. Their respect for each other, skills, good humor, enthusiasm, hard work over an entire 10 hour day, and the care they show for each pet make it a joy to come to work each day. Working at C-SNIP isn't just a job, it's a passion.

From the frequent notes we receive from clients, we know they also sense the special dedication that permeates the clinic.

"Dear C-SNIPPERS,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Today our "boys" arrived home after being neutered. You provided a box carrier and gave them little toys that they love. We are a one-income family and I have not been able to find work after recovering from breast cancer surgery. Your service was invaluable to us. Both our cats were rescued from severe neglect and horrible abuse. I am serious when I say I have tears when I write this because you provide a selfless act to help the innocent. Our family thanks you."

We're not the only ones who think C-SNIP is great. MSU vet students have interned at our clinic. GVSU pre-vet students and Baker College vet tech students regularly work or train with the C-SNIP staff. Veterinarians and staff from other clinics throughout the Midwest come to C-SNIP to study our protocols and practices and next month our staff is spending the day working with a clinic that is opening soon in the Detroit area.

We're eager for you to find out what the excitement is all about. You may check us out at www.csnip.org or better yet, visit us in person to see first hand the good work C-SNIP is able to do with your help. But be forewarned: You may be so impressed that you'll find yourself joining our extraordinary team as a volunteer.

Pat Schoen

Executive Director

Fore... C-SNIP

Scott Lake was the scene of some brilliant weather, occasional great golf, excellent food and exciting bidding in the silent auction, all of which made up the C-SNIP Spring Golf Classic held on May 17. Thanks to the golfers, major underwriter PETCO Foundation, all the sponsors and volunteers, and to Jeff and Kathy of Scott Lake. This was great fun and best of all, the \$13,500 proceeds covered the surgery cost for about 270 animals. That means that 12,000 puppies and kittens were NOT added to an already existing surplus awaiting an uncertain fate. It was a day well spent!



PETCO team members from left to right: Rob Dyke, Kevin Splese, Shane Moore and Jake Cannon.



Monique DeMaagd, beloved companion of Pete and Tuti for 18 years passed away this fall. The three DeMaagds have been good friends and supporters of C-SNIP since we opened our doors.

Purrs and Tail Wags

Memorials and Honorariums

Donations were made in loving memory of

Monique from Lou Educato, Pete and Tuti DeMaagd, Pam Olsen, Louis Vander Have

Jasmine Emdin from Nancy and Frank Castiglione

Megan Carpenter from Kaytu Kimball

Foxy Lady and Scout, beloved companions who died six months apart at age 16, from **Carol Carlisle**

Allie, a feisty but devoted canine companion of **Mitch and Deb Milhoff**, from **Sandra and Ron Carlton**

Kay Lindgren, mother of **Pat Lindgren**, from Pat's students at **Crestwood Middle School**

Lucky, a kitten who captured the hearts of the many people who cared for him, from **Christine Armbrecht**

Jasper, whose likeness graced the side of our mobile clinic, and **Soldier**, rescued by **Pete Pullen** twenty years ago from people who burned him with firecrackers, from **Ann Sullivan and David Soet**

Ge Ge from **Ellie Whitfield O'Brien**

Carol Carlisle, thoughtful supporter of C-SNIP and life long volunteer on behalf of all animals, from her dear friend **Pam Olsen**

Al Peck from the Peck family, **Linda, Julie, John and Barb**

Maurice "Pete" Pullen, husband of C-SNIP founder

Betsy Pullen. Pete was a 22-year volunteer and ambulance driver for the Humane Society, and lifelong advocate for animals, justice, peace and the environment.

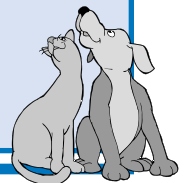
...from **Pete and Louise Beekhuis, Jessica Oldham, Lori and Russell Haeuser, Melanie Anton, Julie Morris, Kim Intino, Pam Burney, Helen Morsink, Ann Hedberg, Susan J. Carl, Sandy and Ron Carlton, Jerry and Judy Kirsch, Dorothy Hazlett, Marcia Palmer, Joyce Hartsell, Mary Doering, Penny Mercer, Don and Marilyn Long, Marcia Miller, Marjorie Quint, Rozella Kipp, Ed McDonough, Presto Print, Carrol Cook, Pam Olsen, Cindy Mader, Maggie McCrystal, Jan Lunquist, Kathleen Makolinski, Ann Sullivan and David Soet, Mary L. Cox, Penny Harvey, Virginia Oliver, ASPCA, Dan and Doris Anderson, Minerva Hawkins, Karen Olsen Holt, Eleanor Gorman, Jeanne Marshall, Christine Armbrecht, Shirley Boyle, Betty Linck, Janet Vormittag, Lisa Lamancusa, Janel Hafer, Sandy Ward, Roberta Troughton (ASPCA National Outreach), Louisiana SPCA and Linda Reider & Karl Stevenson**

Donations were made in honor of

Michelle Turner and Diana Turner on their birthdays, from **Martha "Jane" Anderson Beach**

Jane Beach on her birthday, from her nephew and niece **Patric and Diana Turner**

Dewey and Cocoa "proudly guided by **Elaine and Paul Isely**," from **Landon Bush**



BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Haslem
Treasurer

Elaine Sterrett Isely
President

Pam Olsen

Betsy Pullen

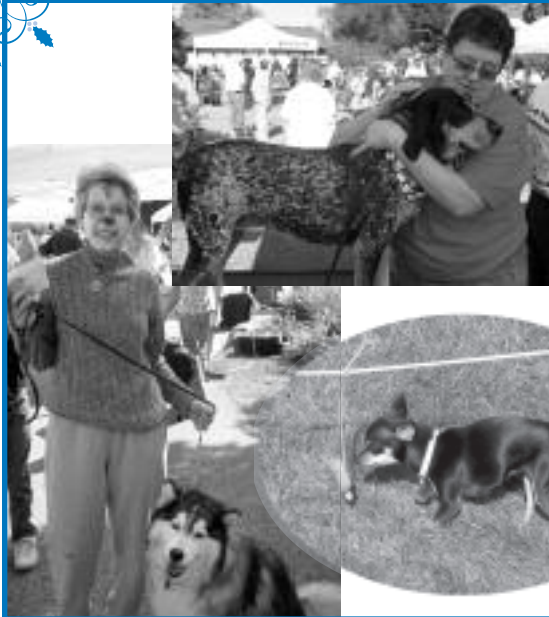
Cindy Reamsma

Kristie Swan
Secretary

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.

Design & Printing
by Presto Print Inc.



PetFest 08

There was a lot going on... musical chairs, hot dog leap, treasure hunt, agility contests, psycho-analysis, massage, costumes, biscuit eating race, microchipping, tricks, chewies. And that was just for the dogs. The people enjoyed popcorn, cookies, tips from our vet, prizes, music, giveaways, clinic tours, training tips, fantastic weather, laughter, and goodwill. It all came together at the 2008 PetFest held on the clinic grounds on October 11. Lori Lockyear, Laurie Witucki, Pat Schoen, Michelle Smith, Cindy Reamsma and Pam Olsen had as much fun planning this event as the 300 guests who participated. Check our website www.csnip.org for news about next year's festival. Thanks to all the volunteers, especially the Delta Gems, who got everything ready in the nick of time.

Thoughts from the Hydrant

I'm told that I turned 10 years of age this month. My first memories are of riding in the mobile clinic through deep snow to a church somewhere near Greenville and watching while 24 dogs and cats I had never met before had surgery that prevented them from having babies. I wondered at the time if these babies could have gone to good homes, but, as I grow older and wiser, I know that this is not always the case.

When I was 7, I moved with my family, Dr. Jeff, Ms. Pat and lots of human brothers, sisters and cousins, to 1675 Viewpond, SE. Since then I have spent time at the clinic with thousands of dog and cat friends (even cats can be friends if you treat them right). I reassure them in pre-op, sit with them in post-op, read stories to those who stay overnight, and wave

a paw at each of them as they go home in the arms of their loved ones. I've waved almost 45,000 times so it's lucky I have 4 paws to work with.

My job at C-SNIP is to look after my friends and to remind you that, even though things are very tough right now for humans, these dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are still very special and deserve to be right up there with other important things. My C-SNIP family will always be here to help. If you need us, call us. If you can help us, please, please do.

Yappy Holidays!
Snippy



www.csnip.org

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