

Vote Now-Pawsitively Fabulous Calendar Photo Contest

The Humane Society is publishing our very own calendar and we want YOU to decide which pictures will be published in it! Entries will be judged via online voting and also by votes tallied up at the Burgoo Festival. Twelve cats will be chosen, and twelve dogs will be chosen. These calendars will be for sale at our Giant Rummage Sale and Pet Portraits in November, and will also be available at the animal shelter. Winners will be notified via e-mail after the close of the contest, and they will receive a calendar at no charge. This is our first year doing this fundraiser, and we really hope to raise a lot of money. Please help by placing your vote now!

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October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month

The ASPCA and your local animal shelter will be celebrating October as Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month to encourage Americans to turn their houses into homes by adopting a shelter dog. Each year millions of dogs enter our nation's shelters, yet of the approximately 59 million owned dogs in this country, less than 20% are shelter adoptees.

"Nothing adds more warmth to a home or offers a better greeting after a hard day's work like a wagging tail and a pair of big brown eyes," says Dr. Larry Hawk, ASPCA President & CEO. "Make Pet Adoption Your First Option" is a message that the ASPCA encourages throughout the year in order to facilitate our ultimate goal, an end to the euthanasia of all adoptable animals. Helping us to achieve this goal and supporting Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month, is our online partner Petfinder.com. Equipped with a searchable database of over 4,000 animal shelters and rescue groups, potential adopters can view thousands of adoptable animals ranging in age, size, breed and location.

Halloween Pet Safety

While you are getting ready for Halloween, planning your costumes, buying the candy and stringing up the cobwebs, it's a good idea to take a few minutes to make sure your pets are protected. Halloween can be a dangerous time for pets!

First and foremost, remember that chocolate is poisonous! If you plan to give out chocolate treats this year, try to place them in a sealed container, and keep them out of the animals reach. Also, take the goodies gathered trick or treating and seal them up, away from the pets too. Make sure children know not to feed candy to the animals. We all know the sad and sorry faces our dogs can make when we don't share with them so keep some doggy treats handy if you have a begger pooch. Resist the urge to give him just one little taste. Depending on your dog's size, chocolate can kill. Also, watch out for choke-able sized candies, elastic strings on candy necklaces and plastic wrappers that can choke your pet or cause intestinal blockages.

Cats have it particularly hard this time of year, but even dogs are not immune to the animal cruelty that happens around Halloween. If you own an indoor/outdoor cat or a completely outdoor cat, you may seriously want to consider keeping the cat inside, or locked in your garage or basement for the weeks surrounding Halloween. The same holds true for dogs that are allowed to wander unattended. If your cat or dog bolts for the door to get out, or demands pleadingly to go outside, consider crating your dog, or investing in a kitty cage to keep them safe inside (and also to prevent damage to your home if the pet is not used to being inside). We don't even want to mention the horrible things that happen to pets at the hands of suspicious and cruel people around Halloween. Let's just agree that it's a good idea to keep your pets close to home and outside only under supervision.

If you have a high-strung pet, like a dog that is afraid of strangers, take time now to try to acclimate the pet to the rigors of Halloween night. Doorbells ringing over and over can drive a dog wild. Lots of squealing children can scare any pet! Decide what you will do with your pet on Halloween night; will they stay in the living room with you, will they do better in a crate or closed into a room they feel safe in? Extremely sensitive dogs may do better with a mild sedative or perhaps a night out at the kennel or the vets office. Use your knowledge of your pet to decide what to do. In any case, keep a leash handy or attached to your dog for the first few visitors. See how they react to the noise and intrusion of gaggles of little ghosts, goblins and Teletubbies. If they are ok you can remove the leash and let them enjoy the fun. Also remind your children and your scare visitors that even a pet familiar with you may bite and they should not approach any animals unless they have your permission first.

Now, on a happier note, a lot of people like to dress their pet up and bring them trick or treating with the family. What a fun tradition and source of great pictures and memories! But, just as we check the strings and buttons on our kids costumes, a little thought into a pets costume can go a long way for safety. Keep a pets costume lightweight, unless you have a chilly pet by nature; most pets have sufficiently warm fur coats and can get too hot in a stuffy costume. Remove loose buttons, strings or other bits that could be chewed or swallowed. Make sure that the costume doesn't interfere with your pets vision or ability to walk or breathe, also be very sure that your collar and leash are not obstructed so you will always have control of your pet. Even dogs who are normally sedate can get spooked by the noise and costumes on Halloween, so be sure you can keep a hand on them all the time, and if they aren't having fun, bring them home. Don't force a scared pooch to stay outside, or to wear a costume they don't like.

SPOTLIGHT ON:



#292 Robbie

Domestic Long Hair - orange

"Well, I gotta tell ya, whoever made up the phrase BIG AND BEAUTIFUL must have been talking about me. I mean, I'm not trying to be vain or anything, but AM I GORGEOUS OR WHAT? Who wouldn't want a cat like me? I could make a shack look like a palace, baby! Come on out and see me, and if I like you, maybe I'll let you adopt me."

#185 Jonah-Sponsored Shepherd,Hound Mix

"Do you have kids? Oh, I love kids! Wish I had some kids of my own-the HUMAN kind anyway! They picked me up at the Middle School trying to find some kids to play with. For some reason though, they don't allow dogs in school! Can you believe that? Well, hopefully my new home will have some kids for me to play with. I'm only nine months old and if my guardians don't come out to get me, I'll be up for adoption on September 5th." Thank you to anonymous donor, who sponsored a portion of Minnie's adoption fee. Now she can go home at a reduced rate!



#276 Manny

Domestic Short Hair-black and white

"Hello there. How are you? I'm okay, I guess. My name is Manny. I'm here with my mom, Sara. We've been here since September 6th. She doesn't really like it here, but I don't think it's so bad. Better than being out on the streets, scrounging for food and dodging cars. One thing I'd love to have though, is a family of my own. If you think you'd like to make me part of your family, please come out and visit with me."

#70 Minnie-Sponsored Beagle

"I'm a full-blooded Beagle girl who was picked up hanging around Lovers Leap Winery. I'm only about three years old and I love to sniff, sniff, sniff. Guess that's the beagle in me! I love other dogs and I'd love to be the newest member of your family!" Thank you to anonymous donor, who sponsored a portion of Minnie's adoption fee. Now she can go home at a reduced rate!



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"We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare, and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made." - M. Acklan

"You can say any fool thing to a dog, and the dog will give you this look that says, `My God, you're RIGHT! I NEVER would've thought of that!'" - Dave Barry

"Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well." - Bonnie Wilcox

"The more people I meet the more I like my dog." - Unknown

"To err is human, to forgive, canine." - Unknown

"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." - Louis Sabin

"Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job." - Franklin P Jones