



June 2002:

- What's Your Kitty Count?
- Molly, Happy at Home
- Fun to Do This Summer
- Adult Volunteers
- Do the Math
- Georgetown Animal Outreach

Forget Your Cholesterol Count: What's Your Kitty Count?

Studies have shown that the mere act of stroking a cat for several minutes helps to release "feel good" endorphins in the brain, producing the feeling of tranquility in the stroker.



But petting alone is not the only stress reliever. Depression and sadness are heightened by loneliness or a sense of isolation. Pets offer constant companionship and unconditional love. For instance, when the kids have gone off to school or a spouse is lost, being home alone can be overwhelming.

But if you have a kitty or two to keep you company while reading the morning paper, loneliness isn't all encompassing. Their presence helps to contribute to a complete home.

Nurturing a cat is soothing and fulfills that certain need for humans to be caregivers. Shopping takes on an additional dimension when you have a cat at home. Food, litter and toys need to be added to your cart. What fun awaits when you have new treats and toys for the loyal kitty!

Cats love to explore and see what is in that shopping bag or behind that most fascinating closet door. Joining in on some interactive cat play with a new feather wand or kitty fishing pole lightens up your mood. Laughter and smiles seem to come when they usually wouldn't.

In order to protect our health, studies have shown friends and family support is essential. Pets help us sustain that healthy emotional balance when we treat them as family or friends. Having a cat around contributes to the feeling of family, therefore contributes to a healthy balance

Pet owners enter hospitals less frequently than non-pet owners; and when hospitalized, pet owners have shorter stays. Pet keepers have a reason to get better. They have to get home to the cat!

Adapted from *The Cat in Your Life*,
Laily A. Hardy
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June is
Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month
but remember
it's a
fifteen-year
commitment!

The Georgetown Animal Shelter is located at 1107 N. College Street, across the street from the San Gabriel Low Water Bridge (follow the signs.) (512) 930-3592
jcarey@georgetowntx.org
www.georgetown.org/city/animal.html



Shelter News & Views

Molly: Happy at Home, a Success Story

We bought our last dog from a breeder. She was a poodle and we had her for 16 years. To say that we were devastated when she died is putting it mildly. Finally, we decided that we would like to have another pet, but felt that it was important to “save a life”. There are so many dogs in the shelters...

We went to the shelter just to “look” to see if there were any dogs that were right for us. She was 6.5 pounds of terrified, shaking, raggedy black fur when we first saw her.

Picked up as a stray, she had been there for 3 weeks. When I sat down on the sidewalk outside the cage, she promptly climbed into my lap, and we were hooked!

That was 3 years ago and now Molly is a healthy, (11+ pounds) happy and playful dog. We feel so fortunate to have her: she adds great joy to our lives.

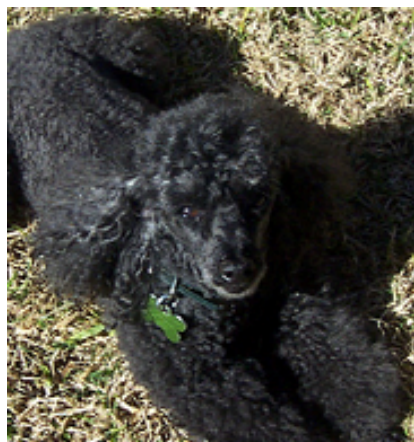
We found that she was housebroken, leash-trained and crate-trained. She’s quiet and very fastidious (we think Molly might have been raised with a cat because she cleans her eyes with her paws just like cats do).



Sometimes, if I take an afternoon siesta, I’ll ask Molly if she wants to take a nap. She runs to the bed and waits to be picked up and placed on the bed. Once there, she sleeps without moving until I get up.

Around 10:15 p.m. she starts staring at my husband. She waits for him to say, “Are you ready, Molly?” Once she hears that, she jumps down and heads for the door. She goes out to potty, then heads straight for her crate for the night. She doesn’t lie down until we say “good night”.

We fully support the Georgetown Animal Shelter and their dedicated, hardworking staff. They do an outstanding job. J.A. of Georgetown



June 22nd
is our 3rd annual
garage sale

to be held at the

Community Center.

Donations

of good usable items
(no clothing, please)
may be dropped off at our
shelter.



Georgetown Animal Services

Shelter News & Views

Fun to do this summer...

Up to 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats reside under Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge from the middle of March to November. It's the largest urban bat colony in North America. When they fly out near dusk, it's quite a sight!

The Austin-American Statesman has a Bat Observation Area nearby. Parking is free, and you may bring a blanket and a picnic basket. Guides are available on summer weekends. Call the Austin American-Statesman and Bat Conservation International's Bat Hotline: (512) 416-5700 (Category 3636) for updates and best times for viewing.

Did you know...

Bats are a good thing! Some of our upside-down friends can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes per hour. They eat agricultural pests, too.

The problem is...

Some people want to handle bats. This is the only time a bat is dangerous. They are wild animals, and they could have rabies. If you see a bat on



the ground or in a low place, it may be sick. Call animal control to have it removed.

If anyone has touched the bat, animal control will have it tested for rabies.

Getting annual rabies vaccines for every pet protects the pets and their owners.

Adult volunteers!



Even **two hours a month** would make a big difference. Be a trained shelter guide, transport cats to Petsmart, help out at events... Or just come by and walk, entertain, or comfort some of our temporary residents, like these Southwestern University students.

Do the Math...

If two cats and their surviving off-spring are allowed to breed for 10 years, how many cats can they produce?

Would you believe eighty million, three hundred ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred eighty (80,399,780), says the American Humane Association (assumes two litters per year and 2.8 surviving kittens per litter).

Georgetown Animal Outreach

Please check out Georgetown Animal Outreach, (www.pawprintpress.org/gao) a volunteer non-profit agency formed to "support and enhance the Georgetown Animal Shelter and other local organizations dedicated to the welfare of animals."

Call 863-6006 or email them at gao@pawprintpress.org.