



Donation Letters

Dear Friends:

As you know, I'm crazy about animals. That's why I'm on the board of the Wayside Waifs animal shelter—because I'm grateful for the work they do, and for connecting me with two of my own dogs, Buddie and Holly. I think of all the shelter animals as part of my extended family. If I could, I'd take home each and every one. But I can't. So I'm sending you a special letter because I know you too care passionately about the welfare of my friends at Wayside.

Everyone knows that these are tough times. The newspapers are full of hardship stories. What they don't tell you is that pets are the innocent victims of those stories. More layoffs and foreclosures mean more families are forced to give up their dogs and cats. The result? Wayside Waifs, Kansas City's largest shelter, is bursting at the seams—and facing a tight budget, just like everyone else.

Knowing this, of course I wanted to help out. So this year Don and I are excited to co-chair the Fur Ball, Wayside's biggest fundraiser of the year. Why the Fur Ball? Because without the money raised at this event, the shelter would be unable to continue the vital work it does, including

- **Finding loving homes** for cats, dogs, and other animals—over 5,000 were adopted last year alone.
- **Fostering pets** that need extra care before they're ready to be adopted.
- **Educating children** through the Violence Prevention program.
- **Providing care** for the thousands of pets that will come through their doors.

Already the shelter population is high, and it's growing every day. It's a crucial year for Wayside. That's why I'm urging you to help us make this year's Fur Ball the most successful ever by purchasing a table at this fun-filled event. Tables for ten start at \$1,750—a sum that will go toward helping not only those pets already needing homes but the hundreds of animals that will be born this spring and summer. Other packages are available as well, so please call Marla Svoboda, Director of Development, at (816) 986-4401, for more information. Thanks so much for your time. I personally appreciate your concern for my friends at Wayside Waifs.

Sincerely,

Adele Hall
co-chair of the Fur Ball

Don Hall
co-chair of the Fur Ball

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting Wayside Waifs Humane Society. Your organization's gift of Amount helps us with continuing operations on behalf of our animal friends.

You may not realize how much your gift impacts people as well. We'd like to share a story that illustrates why what we do matters so much.

Kirby Holden's family came to Wayside looking for a puppy to play on their five acres and swim in their pond. Kirby sure hadn't bargained on a full-grown dog with medical and emotional issues. But then he met Kiefer, a cocky-eared mutt with an irrepressible spirit. A police detective had rescued Kiefer from his previous owners, who had hit him over and over with a hammer, blinding him in one eye. Traumatized and weakened, Kiefer sounded like a handful. But Kirby couldn't get the little one-eyed dog out of his mind.

In the end, the Holdens took a chance on Kiefer. He seems to know how close he came to being lost; he shows his gratitude in every wiggle and leap, in every sprint he makes to the water. His joyous rehabilitation and love for his newfound family are a testament to his courage. Kiefer, like so many animals, shows us the potential we have in ourselves.

Your contributions help us create happy endings for dogs like Kiefer. We appreciate your generosity. If you would like to know other ways to assist us in our efforts to help our animal friends, please contact us at (816) 986-4401. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Patti Glass
President
Wayside Waifs, Inc.



Marla Svoboda
Director of Development
Wayside Waifs, Inc.



Melanie Hepperly
Board Chairman
Wayside Waifs, Inc.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting Wayside Waifs Humane Society. Your organization's gift of Amount helps us continue to give Kansas City's homeless animals a better life.

You may not realize how much your gift impacts people as well. We'd like to share a story that illustrates why what we do matters so much.

Ken was an elderly man living with his wife in Overland Park. He was never without a dog—sometimes old dogs, sometimes young dogs, always mutts and mongrels. His last dog was Ginger, a golden retriever mix from Wayside Waifs.

Ken and Ginger were a fixture at their condo. Every morning, noon, and evening saw them strolling the grounds. Even the residents who didn't know Ken knew his dog, because she greeted everyone with a lick and a tail wag, followed by Ken's assurance: "That's Ginger. Don't worry—she's friendly."

A few years ago, Ginger and Ken suddenly disappeared. Even the postman, who always greeted Ken and Ginger on his noontime rounds, wondered where they'd gone. Finally one day he saw a young woman walking Ginger on her usual leash. The postman couldn't help asking what had happened. "I'm taking care of Ginger now," said the young woman. "Dad has been sick."

In fact, Ken was facing his last illness—an aggressive cancer that he fought at home with hospice care. Ginger knew, of course, that he was ill; dogs always seem to. She followed him around the apartment, anxious, whining, until he was confined to bed. Ginger never strayed from his side.

Ken died peacefully in his sleep one night with Ginger beside him. He was a man who valued kindness, loyalty, and unconditional love—all of which Ginger gave in abundance.

Your contributions help to make friendships like Ken and Ginger's possible. We appreciate your generosity. If you would like to know other ways to assist us in our efforts to help our animal friends, please contact us at (816) 986-4401. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Patti Glass
President
Wayside Waifs, Inc.



Marla Svoboda
Director of Development
Wayside Waifs, Inc.



Melanie Hepperly
Board Chairman
Wayside Waifs, Inc.



Blog Posts

(no longer archived online)

Harmless Bambi or Suburban Menace? The Fight for Deer in Johnson County

by Claire M. Caterer

Last week, the Kansas House of Representatives breathed a collective sigh of relief. Bill 2342 was tabled in committee. No one would be taking a direct hit on it—yet.

Bill 2342 is a resolution to cull the deer herd in Johnson County's Shawnee Mission Park by instituting two controlled bow-hunting seasons. If you're picturing archers fanning out over the park, aiming arrows at majestic creatures shielding their fawns, you're right. If you're picturing ridding the park of a population explosion that poses the menace of Lyme disease, herd starvation, and highway accidents, well ... you're also right.

Shawnee Mission Park is currently home to eight times more deer than the ecosystem can handle. Supporters of a bow hunt claim the method has been used successfully in many areas, but public outcry against this cruel practice has been strident.

Animal rights activist Susan Bennett has started a petition to save Johnson County's deer. Her 350 signatures have come from as far away as South Africa, Spain, France, and Serbia. Activists argue that people encroach on the deer's habitat, not the reverse, and then propose to solve the problem by killing off the surplus to cater to sporting enthusiasts. "We should help these animals find food and shelter rather than slaughter them due to our own lack of foresight," wrote Georgia Mueller in a letter to the Kansas City Star. She suggests green corridors be created to help the deer migrate and spread out.

Another idea involves sterilizing the deer with a drug called PZP. At the National Institute of Standards and Technology campus near Gaithersburg, Maryland, the deer population was reduced by about 30 percent using sterilization darts over a period of several years. Deer-vehicle traffic collisions were subsequently reduced as well.

Bill 2342 isn't gone for good. The committee is giving Johnson County Parks & Rec a chance to craft its own recommendations, a move the district applauds. District Director Michael Meadors told the Kansas City Star to expect a public hearing on the district's study May 11. Stay tuned for further developments.

Let's See Your ID

by Claire M. Caterer

April 18–24 is National Pet ID Week! We've all heard fantastic stories about pets who journey miles to find the owners who lost them, but the reality is that many pets who are lost never find their way home. You can take measures to prevent a tragedy by making sure all your pets have complete identification.

For a mammal, a collar with a tag is a must-have. The collar should include the pet's annual rabies tag, if applicable, as well as a tag with your own address and phone as well. At the very least, even if your pet is found far from home, local authorities will know the animal is not a stray and will work hard to find you.

Collars and tags are mandatory, but they can also be lost or wriggled out of. Microchipping your pet, and registering with a national database, is a more permanent form of identification. The identifying chip—about the size of a grain of rice—is injected under the skin and can be scanned by a vet or shelter. Microchipping is not foolproof, however, as a local shelter may not have a scanner that will detect the specific brand of microchip your pet has. The Humane Society of the United States, as well as other groups, is working to standardize microchipping to avoid this problem. In the meantime, always rely on more than one method of identification.

Whatever method you choose, don't leave your animal's safety to chance. Make sure your pet has ID and is registered to ensure it can always find its way back home.

Please, No Pets for Easter

by Claire M. Caterer

Every spring, just in time for Easter, the rabbit population begins its annual explosion. Some can't resist tucking a real live bunny in the basket along with the jelly beans. But animal welfare groups across the country, from the Missouri House Rabbit Society to shelters nationwide, issue the same plea: Don't give in.

First of all, a holiday is no time to get a pet. A new pet will be frightened and disoriented; it deserves a calm, even boring debut, not barking dogs, a houseful of strangers, and frenzied children darting around looking for eggs.

But more important, bunnies—and this goes for chicks and ducks, too—are more high-maintenance than you might think. They can't independently roam your house, unless you don't mind them gnawing down the dining-room chair legs or tattering your curtains. They need a lot of attention and interaction (kids are great at this part ... at first). They need a large indoor cage, exercise, and grooming. And fowl of any kind will need some sort of coop, feed, possibly a water source to swim in, and protection from predators. And did I mention the mess?

A rabbit or duck's lifespan is ten-plus years. The commitment is the same as for a cat or a dog, and these animals cannot be abandoned to the wild and expected to "make it." Without the defenses and street savvy of their wild cousins, they're sure to fall victim to predators.

A rabbit can make a wonderful pet—if you've done your research, have the space and time necessary, and have readied your home and family for its arrival. You may be ready for the joys of a pet bunny. But please, wait until after Easter.