

## Letter from the CAAP President

*Dear Readers,*

Ignorance about the need to spay and neuter pets, puppy mills, and the lack of money are the three biggest contributors to pet overpopulation. CAAP tries to help with the first and last of these.

It is difficult to imagine, but many of our clients report a household income of less than \$6,000 per year. We hear from people who even have trouble scraping up the gas money to bring their animals in to be altered. We've had instances at our mobile spay/neuter clinics where out-of-town clients could not afford to drive home and back, so they chose to wait at the clinic all day while their pet had surgery and recovered.

A common misconception is that people who can't afford to care for their pets are irresponsible. But, a lot of the dogs and cats that end up with these families are strays that turned up on their

doorstep and these people were too kind-hearted to turn them away. They try to take care of their pets as best they can on a limited income.

Many of our clients are elderly, as well, and just get by on social security. A lot of times, their pets are the only daily contact they have with another living being.

CAAP depends on the kindness and generosity of the public in order to offer our spay/neuter programs to people in need. Would you consider donating whatever amount you can afford so that we can continue to help those in need and to aid the animals?

Thanks,

*Rhonda Robinson*, President CAAP

## Spay Day

### at the Library



On February 26th, CAAP participated in a Spay Day event at the Stillwater Public Library. The day was aimed at children with lots of pet related books to review and giveaways such as bandanas, frisbees, and pet food samples. Activities included making cat toys, making scrap books and making balloon animals. Visitors to CAAP's booth received information regarding our spay/neuter programs. As a result, several visitors to our booth learned about our mobile spay/neuter clinic on March 5th and scheduled their pets for it.

CAAP has also recently donated 2 books to the library, *From Baghdad to America* and *A Home for Dixie*. Check these out the next time you are at the library!

### Our Goals

Provide low-cost spay/neuter clinics a minimum of three times each year in Stillwater and surrounding communities, utilizing mobile surgical units, local veterinarians, and CAAP volunteers.

Continue program to insure that all animals adopted from Stillwater Animal Control cannot reproduce, thereby preventing even more homeless animals.

Continue to offer spay/neuter assistance on an individual basis to low-income pet owners in the Stillwater area through our network of six local veterinarians.

### Our Mission

To promote the health and welfare of companion animals through education, spay/neuter assistance and support of the human-animal bond.

# Volunteer Training

On February 15, CAAP's President, Rhonda Robinson, hosted volunteers and board members at her home for a training session on post-operative care for our spay/neuter clinic patients.

Missy Magnotta, with the assistance of Brittany Myers, both OSU veterinary students, provided the training. Brittany's dog, Hank, was there as well. Hank was a good natured "prop" as volunteers learned how to feel his pulse. He had great fun as he was passed around the room to each volunteer. Rhonda's Cat, Patrick, also participated in the training and enjoyed lounging on any and every lap.



Missy and Brittany talked about monitoring techniques and demonstrated how to properly hold and restrain cats and dogs. They also talked about pet CPR and handed out informational literature on post-surgery recovery.

CAAP's spay and neuter clinics depend on the help of volunteers and their knowledge of animal care! If you missed February's volunteer training, there will be more training sessions in the future! We'll

keep you posted!

## I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY

(Author unknown but appreciated)

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.

A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today

## Announcements

- **CAAP spayed or neutered 25 cats and 30 dogs at our March 5, 2011 Mobile Clinic. This brings our total since we started in 2002 to over 6300 animals.**
- **Next mobile clinic is July 9th**
- **Check out our web page at [www.caapok.org](http://www.caapok.org) and find us on Facebook.**
- **Make a donation to CAAP and receive one of our pet treat cookbooks, Bone Appétit. These can also be ordered for \$5.00 each by emailing [info@caapok.org](mailto:info@caapok.org) or by calling 405-377-0887.**
- **CAAP can only offer our low-cost spay-neuter programs because of your donations. So, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us end the cycle of pet overpopulation.**
- **Mail your donation to CAAP, P.O. Box 14, Stillwater OK 74076, or Use the secure PayPal "Donate" button on our web page**

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Jason Nord

One night back in February 2007, I was watching the local evening news on Channel 4 in Oklahoma City. That night they had a segment by Linda Cavanaugh called 'Silent Slaughter'. What I saw in the next few minutes was very disturbing. The news piece began by reporting on the huge companion animal overpopulation crisis that plagues Oklahoma City and, in general, Oklahoma as a whole.

Next, they showed a scene that I will never forget. It was at the Oklahoma City animal shelter and someone standing next to a dog that was wagging its tail as it was being euthanized. The person made the statement "This is a perfectly nice dog. It's a real shame we have to euthanize it, but we have no choice". The camera then panned out to the building's floor, where the bodies of 25 lifeless dogs were found. This was just one day at one particular animal welfare complex in Oklahoma City. The story finished up

by explaining how these scenes could be prevented by simply spaying or neutering pets and it reported how one Oklahoma town had cut their euthanization rate by 90% through spay/neuter programs.

I have always believed in animal causes, but this segment profoundly affected me to the point that I wrote an opinion article in both the Stillwater Newspress and Daily O'Collegian papers. In the articles,

I said that readers could help efforts to curtail the suffering of companion animals by supporting local spay/neuter groups, like CAAP. Someone from CAAP read one of these articles and invited me to be a volunteer at their spay/neuter mobile clinic that April. I enjoyed myself so much that I came back to the next clinic and the next and the next, until such time that they couldn't get rid of me, so they decided to put me on to the board of directors.

Let me just say that CAAP is a great organization with top-notch people. CAAP has helped facilitate more than

6400 spay/neuters and it's definitely making a difference in Stillwater and the surrounding areas.

Although it was sad to view the senseless euthanization in the news segment and to know that it happens far too often every day across the country, it's also impor-

tant to realize that each of us can help eliminate this tragedy by supporting groups like CAAP either financially or by volunteering one's time.

I am grateful that I can personally help to end the cycle of pet overpopulation through my involvement in CAAP.



## Volunteer Spotlight

# Missy Magnotta

Missy is one of our OSU student volunteers. She was raised in Connecticut, but has lived in Boston, Orlando, and the Caribbean island of St. Kitts.

Missy got started in the veterinary field as a volunteer at the Connecticut Audubon Society and continued her work with wildlife by being a part of marine animal rescue teams.

Missy joined CAAP as a volunteer in 2009 when she came to OSU to finish her veterinary education. She enjoys educating volunteers and bringing new ideas to the CAAP table. This fall, Missy will be starting her last year of vet school and is excited to finally become a veterinarian.

In her free time she has fun exploring Oklahoma's Wild West with her coconut retriever, Roo, and Garfield look-alike-cat, Hubbard.

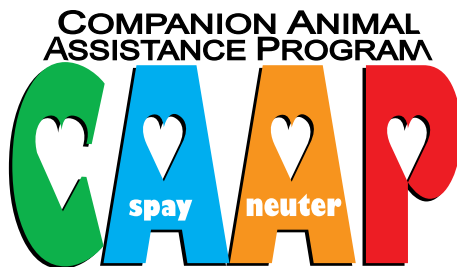


## OUR VETERINARY PARTNERS

All Pets Veterinary Hospital - (405) 624-8622  
Baker Animal Clinic - (405) 372-4525  
Cimarron Animal Clinic - (405) 372-3200  
Pet Care Clinic - (405) 372-0963  
Veterinary House Services - (405) 377-3838  
Western Veterinary Hospital - (405) 743-2800

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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