

February 2007

THE PAW

Volume 7

Newsletter for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Area Humane Society

~A dedicated Animal Control officer~

You may have seen the blue animal control truck patrolling the city of Pierre on occasion. The animal control officer's job is the first step in giving homeless animals in our community a second chance at life. This isn't an easy job as it takes a lot of determination and patience on the officer's part.

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview the Pierre Animal Control Officer, Orie Bramblee. Orie has been involved with the police department for a number of years. After taking a 6 year break, Orie became the animal control officer for Pierre in February, 2005.

Orie now works a 40 hour work week. His main responsibilities and duties entail enforcing city ordinances. This includes responding to calls for animals running at large, picking up dogs and cats off the street and taking them to the pound, or responding to possible animal neglect calls. Since he is a Certified Law Enforcement officer he may also do any other job that is assigned to him that might not be animal related such as parking and traffic issues, etc.

As you may know, Pierre has city ordinances to follow. After asking Orie, I found out more about the ordinances pertaining to animals. You may read more about city ordinances on City Hall's website at www.ci.pierre.sd.us.

One important ordinance is under section 10-3-103; **Unlawful to allow any animal to run at large - impoundment.** Referring to this ordinance Orie responded, "We will be stricter with the leash law. You have to keep your dog on a leash." Once your dog or cat has left the yard or your vehicle without a leash this is considered 'running at large'. If you don't have your animal on a leash, chances are you will have a fine to pay which is determined after appearing in front of a judge.

When an animal is found running at large, it is picked up and taken to the pound where it is held for a 5 day holding period. Orie said, "You can tell they are someone's animals, so scared of you but friendly at the same time." Sadly, if the animal hasn't been claimed during these 5 days (3 days for Ft. Pierre) and there isn't any room at the Humane Society for this animal it is euthanized by the city. This is why it is so important if you are missing an animal to call the non-emergency police phone number (773-7410) or the Animal Clinic of Pierre (224-1075) to see if your animal has been taken to the pound.

Also, falling under the 'Allowing any animal to run at large ordinance' is picking up your animal's pet deposits. The following is stated under the ordinance: if such animal does defecate upon public or private property, the owner or other person having custody thereof, must immediately and thoroughly clean the fecal material from such property. Again, not doing so will result in a fine.

During the summer months, Orie gets a lot of complaints about people not cleaning up after their dogs. He has even gotten complaints about dog deposits on sidewalks.



Pierre Animal Control Officer, Orie Bramblee

Another very important ordinance falls under Section 10-3-115; **Unlawful to maltreat, abuse or neglect any animal or fowl.** Orie said, "I can seize a dog if I believe there is neglect involved." A follow up visit is required for every neglect call he receives. Many factors are involved in neglect cases. For example, an outside animal is required to have shelter, food and water. In Pierre, Orie says there are 10 – 15 neglect cases a year. With neglect cases, the owner or person in charge of the animal has to appear in court in front of a judge.

If you witness a neglected animal in Pierre, Orie says to call the police department at 773-7410 and report it. If it is during night hours and Orie is off duty, a street officer will go on any animal calls that may arise. If Orie is not working, street officers will pick up animals and check on traps as well. He also urges anyone outside the city limits to call their police department if they witness a neglected animal.

I asked Orie what the most popular call was and he said they were calls relating to cat problems. "There are 3 cat calls for every 1 dog call." He said certain areas of the town have trouble with stray cats. He's set traps in these areas to try to catch them. Orie's even had complaints about cats bothering people's bird feeders! And the classic, 'Cat on the Roof' call. He actually went up on a roof to help a cat down but he was just sunning himself and ended up coming down on his own.

Orie feels that the number of animals being picked up in the community is staying the same. He has noticed during the cold weather there have been more dogs at large. He figures, when it's cold, owners open their doors and let their dogs outside without a leash and they run off. Orie says "People need to be more responsible for their dog. If they want a dog, they have to take care of them."

Not only does Orie receive cat and dog calls he also handles deer, raccoon, bird, snake, skunk and whatever other animal there may be. One call Orie talked about was especially admirable. It happened during late spring near

the beach at Griffin Park. The call involved a distressed baby robin in a tree. The little bird got caught in fishing line, snagged a tree branch, and was stuck upside down from the branch. Orie decided to get the 'OK' to have help from the fire department. They brought a ladder fire truck for him to climb up so he could rescue the baby robin!

With Orie and the police department's efforts, many animals are being helped every day. Some are taken off busy streets and possibly reunited to their owners or brought to the Humane Society to be given a second chance at a new loving home and family. Others are being rescued from dangerous and neglected situations.

Thank You Orie for all you do!!

2007 Officers/Board Members



(From left to right) Front row: Kathy Hammond and Lindy Bouchie; Back row: Christopher Cressy, Amanda Ames, Teddi Martell, Julie Kongslien and Tim Kongslien.

Every January means election time for the Humane Society. On January 8th the new 2007 officers and board members were decided upon. President, Lindy Bouchie and Secretary, Amanda Ames were reelected for a second term. Kathy Hammond is our new Vice President and Tim Kongslien is our new Treasurer. Board Members include Christopher Cressy, Julie Kongslien, and Teddi Martell. Congrats everyone and thanks to the 2006 officers/board members for all their hard work and dedication!

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language." Martin Buber

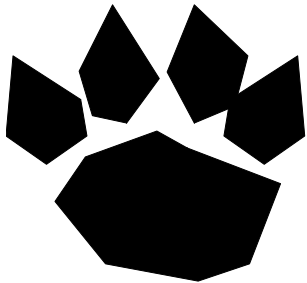
Dog Vaccinations:

One responsibility that comes along with being a dog owner is to help prevent health conditions and diseases. Just like children, all dogs should have a routine vaccination schedule. All Humane Society dogs and cats are administered age appropriate vaccinations prior to adoption.

Some of the vaccinations your vet may administer your dog include; Canine Distemper, Parvovirus, Bordetella, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and of course Rabies. Most vaccines must initially be given over a period of time and require multiple vet visits.

Many of these diseases, if contracted, can be fatal to your dog and very contagious to other dogs. Rabies can be a fatal infection to both animals and humans.

Please visit with your veterinarian and make sure your dog's vaccinations are current. This will help your dog live a long, happy and healthy life.



Donation Wish List:

The Humane Society could always use donations of the following:

- Purina Kitten Chow
- Cat Litter
- Purina Dog Chow
- Paper Towels
- Bleach

A dog named FLIP.....

Flip is an 8 month old black lab puppy getting along great at his foster home. He enjoys spending time and hanging out with the kids. He also likes to play with the resident dogs in the household. He yearns for a car ride to watch the scenery go by. Overall, Flip is your sweet loving young dog eager to learn and ready to please.



Only one thing makes him different from your average young dog. Not too long ago Flip started to limp and favor his left shoulder. His foster mom took him to the vet to try to figure out what was wrong. It was there Flip was diagnosed with OCD (Osteochondritis Dissecans).

OCD occurs when the cartilage is damaged or grows abnormally in the shoulder joint. Instead of being attached to the bone, the cartilage breaks off and floats free in the joint. The pieces of cartilage continue to grow and can increase in size. OCD causes great pain and discomfort for the dog.

The good news is OCD can be treated with surgery. The joint is opened and the defect is removed. There is a very high success rate for surgery and most animals recover with no complications.

Dr. Carpenter, at the Sturgis Veterinary Clinic, was recommended to complete Flip's surgery. The procedure will cost \$1500.00. He is scheduled for a consultation in Sturgis on the 27th of February and the surgery is scheduled for the 28th – spending a few post operation days as well.

Flip will have a special high protein diet post surgery to help with tissue repair. For the rest of his life, Flip's diet needs be watched carefully to prevent overfeeding. He should be ready to go to his permanent home within days of surgery.

If you would like to help with this brave little dog's expenses, please send donations to the Humane Society at PO BOX 954, Pierre - in Flip's name or send your donation to BANKWEST– HS Special Needs Fund. Thank you for your support!!

Check out our web address or Call (605) 223- CATS!

www.pets4adoption.org



Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- **Sat. & Sun., Feb. 24 – 25th** – The Farm and Home show at the Ramkota – we will have a booth advertising our animals for adoption and selling calendars, t-shirts, dog biscuits, etc.
- **Monday, March 5th** – We are having the monthly general membership meeting at 7 pm located at our facility on Pierre St. in Pierre.
- **Saturday, March 17th** – **St. Paddy’s Day Parade** – we will be walking HS dogs in parade. Sign up sheet will be available during March’s monthly meeting.
- **Monday, April 2nd** – We are having the monthly general membership meeting at 7pm located at our facility on Pierre St. in Pierre.

~2007 CALENDARS FOR SALE!!! 1 FOR \$15.00/ 2 or more FOR \$10.00 EACH!!!~

I hope you enjoyed your issue of ‘THE PAW’. A big thank you goes out to Orie for taking time out of his busy day for an interview and picture! Thank you to Lindy Bouchie for donating the expenses of copies for the last PAW’s issue. This was very much appreciated! Also, thank you to those that signed up to volunteer at the Farm and Home Show and those that baked dog biscuits for the occasion! You will be making some dogs really happy! If anyone would like to become a member of the Humane Society please fill out the attached form and send it back to the address provided. Look forward to Volume 8 in April!

~Amanda Ames, Secretary of the Humane Society~

PIERRE-FORT PIERRE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 954, Pierre, SD 57501-0954

Yearly Membership Categories:

Student \$5 (under 18) Senior \$5 Individual \$10 (1, over 18) Family \$20 (2+) Business \$50

I cannot become a member at this time; however, I am enclosing a donation of \$_____ to further assist the Pierre-Fort Pierre Area Humane Society.

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Date _____ New Renewal Email _____

Please indicate whether you would be willing to be an active member:

Yes, Call me when needed.

No, I’d rather not be actively involved