

# Within Our GRASP

Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets, Inc.

March 2007

## Keep Pets SAFE At Home

Each year Greece Animal Control picks-up and admits an average of 200 dogs and 150 cats, according to Animal Control Officer Pete Braggins.

Fortunately, close to 70 percent of the dogs that wind-up in Animal Control are promptly reclaimed by their owners. Of the remaining dogs, approximately 15 percent are deemed healthy and friendly enough to be released into GRASP's care, but the remaining 15 percent are euthanized.

Statistics pertaining to the approximate 150 cats picked up by Greece Animal Control each year are not nearly as encouraging. Of those cats, a mere five percent are ever reclaimed by their owners.

Although 45 percent of the remaining cats are lucky enough to be turned over to GRASP, a staggering 50 percent are ultimately euthanized.

GRASP is committed to caring for all the dogs and cats that do make it into our rescue system. Additionally, GRASP strives to educate pet owners about the importance of keeping their beloved pets safe at home so that they don't eventually become part of these somber statistics.

There are several things pet owners can do to prevent their pets from getting lost, or increase the likelihood of being reunited with their pets if they do stray.

Most experts agree that keeping dogs and cats primarily indoors is one of the best ways to prevent them from becoming lost or strayed.

While some people feel that keeping cats confined to the inside of a home is unnatural, it's actually safer than allowing a cat to roam free. Cats kept indoors are usually healthier and often live 15 years or more, compared to their free-roaming counterparts' average life-span of three to five years.

According to information provided on the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm's Website, dogs of all sizes and breeds are also happier, healthier, and safer when they're kept primarily indoors with people. Dogs thrive on social interaction, which they don't get if they're alone in a backyard or garage. Outdoor dogs also have an increased risk of straying or being stolen, hit by a car, or injured by another animal or a disgruntled neighbor.

If a dog must spend time outdoors, it should be kept behind a secure, safe and escape-proof fence with a locked gate. Within this confined area, the dog must have access to adequate food, water, shelter and shade at all times.

The Humane Society does not recommend keeping a dog chained or tied outdoors, as a chained or tied dog is more likely to become entangled or develop aggressive behaviors.

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GRASP, Inc. is a nonprofit, pet rescue and adoption group run by volunteers and funded by public donations.

GRASP's primary goal is to give animals recovered by Greece Animal Control a second chance for a safe, happy, and healthy life.



# Dogs Deserve Better

**D**id you know that many dogs live on a chain or in a pen for their entire lives? That's right, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with no human socialization and sometimes without shelter, food or water. Dogs are social pack animals which means nature has hard-wired them to be part of a group. The isolation of being chained up away from their pack is completely contrary to their nature and causes intense boredom, loneliness and frustration which leads to territorial and aggressive behavior. From Oct. 2003 through Jan. 2007, there were at least 112 children killed or seriously injured by chained dogs in this country.



Beyond food, water, shelter and veterinarian care; responsible pet guardianship requires providing dogs with exercise, discipline, socialization, and affection ... a chained/penned dog gets none of these. Enjoy real companionship and protection (not aggression) by properly socializing and training your dog to be a member of the family.

Dogs Deserve Better is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to freeing the chained/penned dog and bringing them into the home and the family. There are solutions and alternatives to confining dogs to chains/pens for life! For more information, please visit [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org).

## Where are they now?

Ever wondered what has become of some of the special pets who come through our rescue system? Here is one "happy tail" of a successful GRASP adoption.



**Then**

In April, 2006 Greece Animal Control officers notified GRASP about the alarmingly-thin Rottweiler they picked-up after receiving calls that the dog was running freely around town.

Marshall Henry, director of GRASP's dog team, evaluated the Rottie's temperament and quickly determined that he was very gentle and highly-adoptable. Marshall named the dog Heinz and promptly had him checked by

a veterinarian. In addition to being grossly underweight, it was determined that Heinz was infested with hook and whip worms, and would require several weeks of veterinary care before he could be placed up for adoption. Once Heinz was worm-free and had received all other necessary vet care (including neutering), he was placed up for adoption.

It wasn't long before Annie MacDonald, applied to adopt Heinz and hoped that he would get along well with her existing dog, Touche (a ten-pound Toy Poodle). A visit to Annie's home made it clear to everyone that Heinz and his new companions would interact well together, and Heinz became a permanent member of Annie's household.

Now named Bubba, the sick and nearly emaciated Rottie pup that came into GRASP less than one year ago is a healthy, thriving member of Annie's family!

For more information on adopting or fostering a GRASP pet, visit our website, [www.graspinc.org](http://www.graspinc.org) or call 585-234-1953.

Within Our **GRASP**

Greece Residents Assisting Stray Pets, Inc. (GRASP)—a nonprofit, pet rescue and adoption group—is run entirely by community volunteers and funded solely by public donations.

GRASP's goal is to give animals—primarily those picked up by Greece Animal Control—a second chance for a safe, happy, and healthy life.

Within our GRASP is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December each year.

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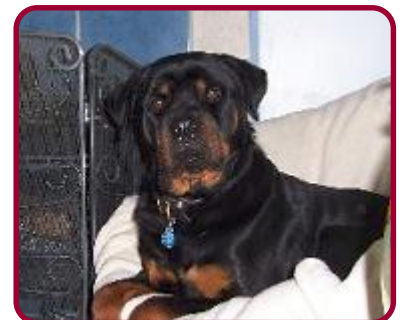
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**& Now**

# Protect Pets from Household Hazards

Most people probably know that chocolate can be poisonous to dogs and cats. But did you know that your house or yard probably contains many other products that can be just as deadly to your furry friends?

Many families keep antifreeze handy during the winter months, but they may not know that certain types of antifreeze can be deadly to their pets.



The Humane Society of the United States recommends pet owners check their antifreeze to see whether or not it contains ethylene glycol.

If it does, it has a very sweet taste that attracts animals but is very deadly even when consumed in small quantities. In fact, one teaspoon of antifreeze with ethylene glycol is enough to kill a seven-pound cat, according to the HSUS. Pet owners should use antifreeze that is made with propylene glycol instead, since this is safe for animals if it is ingested in small amounts.

Antifreeze is not the only hazardous substance pets frequently come in contact with during the winter and early spring. De-icing chemicals and road salts are commonly found in

driveways, sidewalks, roads, and yards during these months, and these substances can irritate animals' paws, according to the HSUS. They can also be poisonous if they are licked off and ingested, so pet owners should wash and dry their animals' paws after walking them outdoors. Pet owners can also prevent their pets from coming in contact with these substances by keeping cats indoors.

The coming of the spring months signals an end to winter's bitter cold, but that doesn't mean pets will no longer be exposed to hazardous substances.

Plant food and lawn chemicals and fertilizers can also be poisonous and even fatal to dogs and cats, so pet owners should never let their pets wander outdoors without supervision, the HSUS says. Citronella candles; fly, slug and snail baits containing metaldehyde; cocoa mulch and swimming-pool treatment chemicals can also be hazardous to pets, reports the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Dogs and cats should also be supervised when they're indoors, as many common household products can be just as dangerous to pets as things found outdoors. Aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, cold medicines

and vitamins can be toxic to animals, so pet owners should keep these and other medications in places where pets can't reach them, and be careful to pick up any pills that may fall onto the floor.

Pet owners should take many of the same precautions they would if they had a small child in the house. Besides keeping medications out of reach, they should also keep string, yarn, rubber bands, dental floss, and pet toys with small removable parts picked up, because animals can easily choke on all of these things.

Even things that seem harmless, such as a common box of crackers, can sometimes present deadly threats to unsupervised animals, said



Cyndy Dewey, GRASP volunteer. Dewey knows a person whose small dog perished after he got his head stuck in a box of crackers and was suffocated by the plastic bag inside.

Fabric-softener sheets, moth-balls, cigarettes, and batteries can also be harmful to pets.

For more information about products and substances to keep away from your pets, visit the ASPCA Web site at [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org) or the HSUS Web site at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org). 🐾

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## Keep Pets Safe

(Continued from front page)

If a fenced-in area is not an option, the Society recommends using a dog trolley, run, or cable with at least 15 feet of clear, unobstructed space.

In addition to keeping pets safe at home, pet owners should take important steps to increase the chances of finding their pets if they do get lost.

First, always keep a collar with tags on your pet. Dogs should wear a

current license tag and both cats and dogs should wear a rabies tag, as well as a tag with their owner's telephone number on it. (Break-away collars are available and recommended for cats. Such collars release if they get caught, avoiding possible strangulation.)

Pet owners should also consider additional forms of identification for their pet. While I.D. tags are essential, a pet's collar could be pulled off. Talk to your vet about microchip implants and tattoos. Both can be inexpensive

ways to ensure that your pet will be able to be identified.

Finally, owners should prepare an identification packet for each pet in their family. The packets should contain vaccination and other vet records, and pictures of each pet. Keep pet identification packets up-to-date and in a safe, easily-accessible place. This will help with the creation of flyers or while searching for them if they do stray. 🐾

# Angels Among Us



## *In memory of . . .*

. . . Abbie, our precious cat who passed away April, 2006.

~ John and Leslie Morelli

. . . Britt and Anny, my companions for 16.5 years.

~ Debra Dunn

. . . Boatswain, beloved Collie of Pat and Bill Topping and in memory of Pat Topping, loving wife, friend, and pet owner.

~ Deborah Indivino

. . . Mr. Ray Murray.

~ Mr. & Mrs. S. Coykendall

. . . Strider and Gandalf, our loved cats.

~ Mr. & Mrs. W. Butler

. . . Scooter and Melanie.

~ Michael Phelps

. . . my wife - Helen Costa.

~ Mr. Joseph Costa

. . . Sarah Capadano. I miss exchanging pet stories with her.

~ Susan Truby

. . . Lucky—the best cat ever!

~ Shirley Reeves

. . . Mikey.

~ Gilbert Wilk

. . . Candy (aka Puddin' Head) who crossed the Rainbow Bridge this past July

~ Mr. & Mrs. F. Fierthaler

. . . My beloved cats Alex, Mickey, Gracie, Kibby, and Bob.

~ Karen Huey

. . . Hooch.

~ LeChase Mgt.

. . . Farley, sweet Beagle. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting you, I know you were deeply loved by Mom and Dad.

~ Guardian Pet Care

. . . Cosmo and Thurston, two special ferrets. I miss seeing you curled up in your hat and giving you soup!

~ Guardian Pet Care

## *In honor of . . .*

. . . GRASP. Best Wishes!

~ John Veneron

. . . Duncan and Maddie, the new furry loves of our lives that we adopted through GRASP. Thank you!

~ John and Leslie Morelli

. . . Angelina, my precious GRASP girl.

~ Ms. E. Bergmann

. . . Mr. Robert Ewald. Thank you for all of the important work you do every day.

~ Mr. & Mrs. J. Parker

. . . My mother Eileen Fernandez on her birthday.

~ Scott Weatherbee

. . . Sparky & Kojak.

~ Mr. & Mrs. K. Krause

. . . Katy & Frisco (Tootsie) and (JJ).

~ Mr. & Mrs. P. Shepherd

. . . our kitties past and present.

~ Mr. & Mrs. G. Schreiber

. . . Douglas Clark.

~ John Keeley

. . . Skipper - adopted 10/05, our newest family member

~ Mr. & Mrs. T. Tiberio

. . . Jennifer Coykendall.

~ Mr. & Mrs. W. Coykendall

. . . Carol Woodman for saving DaVinci.

~ Debra Woodworth-Fiori

. . . Michelle Bice.

~ Anne Owen



## Please help us help them!



Once again, the dreaded “spring kitten season” is just around the corner. GRASP has already begun receiving calls for help with pregnant stray cats who are at risk of having their litters outside in the cold. Please consider offering a donation to help us build up our resources so we may help as many homeless pets as possible this year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make your contribution in honor or memory of a special person or pet, please indicate below:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

# If Fido or Fluffy Get Lost . . .

If your pet gets lost, here are some things that you can do to ensure its speedy recovery:

## Make Phone Calls

Call local animal control agencies, animal shelters, pet rescue organizations, veterinarians, groomers, and pet stores to quickly spread the word that your pet is missing.

## Prepare a Flyer

Include the following on the flyer:

- *Two photos*, one close-up and one full body shot. If possible, make color copies of the flyer so that your pet will be accurately depicted.

- *Physical description*, including your pet's breed, sex, age, weight, color, markings, and other distinguishing characteristics. (Be sure to note if your dog or cat is spayed/neutered or surgically declawed.)

- *Date and general place* your pet was lost.

- *Reward!* Always print the word reward at the top of the flyer in large, bold letters, but don't state the amount.

- *Your telephone number* and an alternate number if possible.

## Distribute Fliers

Post as many fliers as possible within a one-mile radius of where your pet was lost. Post fliers at eye-level on telephone poles and the following locations:

- Pet stores
- Veterinarian hospitals
- Pet groomers
- Churches
- Schools
- Community bulletin boards at local stores and shops

## Search

First search your own property thoroughly. (Cats and small dogs can get into some very unusual places, especially when frightened.) Look everywhere and in every nook and cranny!

Walk your neighborhood. Talk to everybody you see, go door-to-door handing out fliers, and ask everyone to look for your pet. (Remember to talk to mail carriers, paper deliverers, crossing guards, and other people who regularly spend time around your neighborhood.)

Make noise while you walk around, calling out your pet's name and making other familiar noises. (Shake a can of your pet's favorite treats or squeeze its favorite squeaky toy.)

Stop, be quiet, and listen every now



and then to see if you can hear your pet crying out for you.

Search with a powerful flashlight, even during daylight hours. Frightened or injured pets will often hide in small, dark spaces, so check under porches and decks, in garages and sheds, and even up trees (for cats).

## Place "Lost" Advertisements

Call local newspapers and get an ad placed immediately. Remember to continually renew your ad (for as long as possible) until your pet is found.

Remember to check "found" advertisements in local newspapers every day.

## Visit Animal Shelters

Even if a local shelter says it doesn't have an animal matching your pet's description, go down to the shelter in person every couple of days to check. (Some local shelters require you to go in person, rather than call on the phone.) Remember that shelters may not have the time, finances, or space to house your lost pet for long, so the quicker you can get down there to identify it, the better!

## Visit Places Where Flyers were Hung Regularly

Revisit the locations where you hung fliers to make sure they are still hanging, not covered by other notices, and still legible. Take a stack of new fliers with you to replace old ones if necessary.

## Telephone Local Animal Control Agencies Regularly

Some local agencies and organization can only keep lost pet notices on file for a couple of weeks. Be sure to recall all contacts every two or three weeks.

## Use Local Internet Lists

Post your lost pet on local "lost & found pets" lists such as:

- [www.bugsysanimalnetwork.com](http://www.bugsysanimalnetwork.com)
- [www.rochester.craigslist.org](http://www.rochester.craigslist.org)

Search "found" notices on these sites regularly as well!

## Seek Professional Help in Recovering your Pet

There are organizations that will help you find your pet. Here are a few that make it their business:

- Pet Finder USA ([www.petfinder.org](http://www.petfinder.org))
- Sherlock Bones ([www.sherlockbones.com](http://www.sherlockbones.com))
- National Center for Missing Pets ([www.missingpet.org](http://www.missingpet.org))
- Missing Pet Network ([www.missingpet.net](http://www.missingpet.net)) 

# Community Works Together to Save Angel

## New Angel Fund is Established

Last December, GRASP was contacted by a local vet about a cat in desperate need of rescue. The cat, a young female we named Angel, had suffered a horribly dislocated hip. (Unfortunately, it was suspected that her injury was not an accident, but rather evidence of extreme abuse.) Despite Angel's obvious pain, she was very friendly girl.

Due to the severity of the injury, the vet was unable to manipulate Angel's hip back in place. Further medical attention—including the probable surgery—would be required if Angel would return to a pain-free existence.

After learning that Angel's vet care would likely cost more than \$500,

GRASP knew that it couldn't do it alone . . .

Through a series of e-mails, GRASP sent-out a plea for financial assistance. The community response that followed was nothing short of amazing! GRASP was overwhelmed by the generosity of the community and within days had more than enough money to proceed with whatever vet care Angel would need!

GRASP is thrilled to report that Angel has made a complete recovery and is now enjoying the love and compassion of a GRASP foster family while she awaits a permanent, loving home.

Additionally, thanks to the financial contributions sent in from so many

people, an official "Angel Fund" was established to enable GRASP to assist future GRASP dogs and cats in need of urgent veterinary care.

GRASP extends its most sincere thanks to *everyone* who contributed toward Angel's care and the establishment of the Angel Fund.

If you would like to make a contribution specifically toward the Angel Fund, please mail to:

**GRASP, Inc.**  
**c/o Angel Fund**  
**PO Box 26741**  
**Rochester, NY 14626**



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