



# FREEMAN-FRITTS VET CLINIC & SHELTER

## AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

### THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!

Let's face it, we live in Texas and most of the time we love it! However, we may complain from time to time about the August heat. Summer heat and humidity can be a serious danger for our four legged family members, but there are steps we can take to keep both our pups and kitties safe. The Human Society has these suggestions:



- **Never leave your pet in a parked car** - temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels and can cause organ damage and/or death to your pets much more quickly than you think.
- **Watch the humidity** - Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels.
- **Limit exercise on hot days** - Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.
- **Don't rely on a fan** - Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. (Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet.) Fans don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.
- **Provide ample shade and water** - Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.
- **Watch for signs of heat stroke** - Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness. Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. If you believe your pet may be suffering from heat stroke, move them into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.

## SUMMER ALLERGIES?

Did you know that August is itchy pet awareness month? Along with the heat comes fleas, ticks, and allergens. It is important for our pets to be current on flea, tick and heartworm meds, but what if our loved ones continues to itch excessively? Summer increases discomfort for some pets, even to the point of hot spots and hair loss. Increased allergens, such as mold or pollens, can be the cause just as with their humans. If you think your pet has allergies, talk with your vet about various solutions. They can bring great relief for your loved ones!



## Seperation Anxiety



This past year and a half has been hard for all of us. Many people found themselves sheltering in place with extra time on their hands, and the need to feel less lonely. Pet adoptions soared throughout the country during the pandemic, and many new family members know of nothing other than having their humans at their side day and night. Now that adults are returning to the work place and schools are opening for in-person learning, how should we help our fur babies adjust to more time alone? Here are a few ideas to help both humans and four leggeds adjust:

- Create a new routine with fixed times for feeding, play, exercising and chilling together. Be sure this mirrors what your new schedule will be.
- Give your pet alone time. Start with short periods, ensuring that you will always return, and gradually increase the separation period. Readjust the period if needed based on your pet's level of anxiety upon you leaving. Praise heavily when you return!
- Revisit (or start) training - Training brings confidence. Reintroduce a crate or a gated space if your pet becomes destructive, a little at a time. Treat heavily upon your return and create a "safe space" for your pet.
- Feed your pet in a room away from you. They may get a sense of goodness when you're away!
- Leave a television or radio on for your pets so they have a sense of not being alone.
- Exercise, exercise, exercise. This is the best reliever of anxiety and will help your pets sleep while you're away.
- Remember that pets will mirror your energy, so if you are anxious about leaving you may be transferring your feelings to your pet. Stay positive and give both of you time to adjust.

# SAVE THE DATE FOR BIG GIVE!



Big Give returns **September 23!** This is a big BIG day. It's 24 hours of giving and We NEED you!

We are raising donations for our Happy Tails Rescue & Transport Fund, a fund designed for the cats and dogs of Kerr County. Since we began this initiative in 2019, we have saved triple the amount of animals, almost 300 lives to date and only halfway through 2021. We have high hopes for an even larger number of lives saved this year!

Our goal is to be able to rescue many more dogs and cats from Kerr County just this year! The money we raise will enable us to get them spayed/neutered, fully vaccinated, felv/fiv/heartworm tested and transported to their forever homes through relationships with rescue partners all over the United States. Stay tuned for more!

## SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

Betty Boo is quirky, and silly but also shy at times. She and her sister Sophia came to us in 2012 at only 8 weeks old. They are now 8 years old. She is a spectacular looking gray tabby with the most gorgeous emerald green eyes! They really do sparkle. Her sweet little voice is absolutely purrfect too.

Betty Boo does require a special diet. She is on Science Diet Dermatology Diet, which is a clinical nutrition especially formulated to support a cat's skin and food sensitivities. Because of her special diet needs, Betty Boo needs a FF Kind Heart Sponsor. Will you help?



### Support Our Shelter While Shopping:

Please go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, and designate Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County Texas as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds to our shelter!

\* DONATE STUFF! Visit <https://www.freemanfritts.com/wish-list-donation> to see our Wish List(s)!

\* Make a contribution for the spay/neuter fund, which helps defray the cost of surgery.

\*Remember us in your estate planning!

Visit [www.freemanfritts.com](http://www.freemanfritts.com) to sponsor, adopt, or donate!

# PETS OF THE MONTH



## ADLER

Meet Adler!

Adler is about 4 years old and a handsome terrier mix with the cutest, most expressive and unique ears on the planet.

Adler loves taking strolls and spending time with his volunteer friends and his doggy friends, too.

Adler strives for attention and all he's asking for is that extra special person to be his new BFF and go on special adventures with him. Is that you?

## BOOMER

Meet Boomer! This handsome Lynx Point Siamese is about 5 years old. He is very affectionate and LOVES all people.

Boomer is such a special boy who found himself a stray in need. He had to have entropic surgery to fix eyelids that curved into his eyes and has recovered marvelously. Boomer loves to watch the birds from the window and loves to greet his people every morning, too!

Boomer even qualifies for our "vaccines for life" program. Be Boomer's hero today!



## Adoptions

### Dogs:

Laura-Bell  
Myka Beau  
Vision

### Cats:

Warrior



### Freeman-Fritts still looking for Humans!!!

We still have full-time and part-time positions available!

Must be reliable and willing to work weekends.

Call us at 830-257-4144 if interested!

### Want to Volunteer?

If you have some extra time to spare and want to help, please fill out a volunteer application online and call to schedule a meeting with our volunteer coordinator. Any skill level is welcome help with:

\*\*Socializing the dogs and cats

\*\*Helping at off-site adoption or fund-raising events

\*\*Maintaining building and grounds

Do you have any special skills or talents that might help us in other ways? Let us know, we'd love to meet you!

# AWS Freeman-Fritts Appointment Procedures

Our clinic has reopened our reception area for appointments to keep you and your pets safe from waiting in the heat. When entering our facility with your pet, a face mask is recommended. We are pleased to return to normal operations and are looking forward to serving you. If you prefer curbside service, please let our receptionist know when you check in. We will continue to help ensure the safety of both you and your pets.

☐☐The shelter is beginning to open but current guidelines are still in place for our adoption process.

How to adopt in 5 easy steps:

1. Click on adopt button to find the dog or cat you are interested in adopting.
2. Request an application by emailing us from that animal's photo and biography.
3. Fill out the application (we will contact you when it has been reviewed).
4. Meet your choice outside at the shelter to see if you are a good fit.
5. Fill out the final paperwork and pay the adoption fee.

If you have any other questions, please email [info@freemanfritts.com](mailto:info@freemanfritts.com)

## Freeman-Fritts Spay & Neuter Program!

The Freeman-Fritts Vet Clinic has a limited dog and cat spay/neuter fund available. This fund allows us to offer FREE spay/neuter surgeries (including Rabies Vaccination) for your cat or dog. Call for an appointment 830-257-4144. Some restrictions may apply.

### Surgery Reminders!

- If you are unable to keep your surgery appointment, please call to cancel as soon as possible. This will give us an opportunity to schedule another client.
- NO FOOD after your pet's evening meal, preferably no later than 6 p.m. Water is acceptable.
- Please have your pet on a leash or in a carrier!

The Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County, Texas is a 501(c)(3) NonProfit Organization and relies heavily on donations and support from the local community. Keep in mind that you can extend your support by remembering Animal Welfare Society in your estate plan. All donations are tax-deductible!

AWS Freeman-Fritts Animal Shelter & Clinic 515 Spur 100, Kerrville TX 78028 830-257-4144 Clinic Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 12:00 and 1 - 5:30 Shelter Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 - 11:30 & 1:00 - 4:30 Or by appointment

The Animal Welfare Society of Kerr County's mission is to reduce the number of homeless, unwanted animals through spay/neuter programs, to shelter and promote adoption of homeless animals, and to provide education in the responsibilities of pet care and ownership. All donations are tax deductible and are used to provide care and services to our shelter animals while awaiting a forever home.