No excuse for dumping animals; resources, services available

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Several nonprofit organizations networking with animal welfare agencies and local veterinarians have crafted numerous options to help low-income Illinois Valley residents spay and neuter or re-home their dogs and cats. Still, many animals are being abandoned and dumped at multiple locations around the Valley; and the numbers of feral cats remain very high.

David Allbritton owns a janitorial business that services Ray's Food Place in Selma, and for years has helped countless dogs and cats regularly dropped at the store. Most recently he rescued several three-week-old kittens left in the cold there.

"There are so many, there are cats everywhere," Allbritton said. "And dogs, they wait for their people to come back, in that same spot, waiting and waiting. What's so sad, is how many of them end up on the highway and get run over. I don't understand people who have no problem dumping animals. What's wrong with these people? How they can do that? What kind of person is that?"

Diane Hoover, Josephine County Public Health Director, who oversees Animal Protection and Regulation (formally Animal Control) said, "We now have a full spay, neuter and vaccine program; and for the third year in a row, the numbers of owner redemptions, transfers to other shelters and adoptions has exceeded necessary euthanasia's."

Since the levy to fund Animal Protection and Regulation passed last year, the county's commissioners appointed an advisory board to ensure the money is spent in the best interests of the animals. O'Brien resident Nancy Lindquist was recently appointed to serve as chairman of this advisory board.

"There are all kinds of resources for people to tap into, so there is no reason to dump animals in the streets or at the stores," Lindquist said. "In recent years, there's been a real uniting of people to address these situations and make things better for the animals, and in doing so, we're making things better for the community as well."

Jo Co Spay and Neuter is one resource that pays a substantial amount of the cost to fix dogs and cats belonging to people who are struggling financially. Since getting started six years ago, the Grants Pass- based nonprofit has spayed and neutered over 7000 animals in the county; including many hundreds of cats and dogs in the Illinois Valley.

Jo Co Spay and Neuter also has a feral cat program: "TNR", which stands for trap, neuter and release.

"It's important that people realize that we are not providing a removal service," said Sue Spor, TNR coordinator for the Illinois Valley. "Once we trap and fix these cats, we release them back to where they came from. So if people will continue to feed them, then we can help."

Spor also wants people to know that donation jars at Taylor's, Evergreen Bank, Shop Smart and Dr. Joe's, help fund the TNR program, and she hopes more people will consider contributing to this fund.

People can call Jo Co Spay and Neuter's hotline at 541-244-0685 to inquire about both the TNR program and for financial assistance to cover the costs of spaying and neutering their pet dogs and cats.

President of Jo Co Spay and Neuter, Linda Milner, wants people to know that both Animal Protection and Regulation and the Rogue Valley Humane Society are experiencing a shortage of adoptable cats right now.

"If people want to surrender their cats, it is much more humane to get the pet to a shelter, where it has a good chance of finding a loving home," she said.

Shelter Friends is another proactive group of volunteers that supports Animal Protection and Regulation and networks with the other groups in the region. Shelter Friends is currently closing in on securing more funding to specifically help deal with the feral cat population in the Illinois Valley. People can contact Shelter Friends by going to their Facebook page and posting an inquiry.

The Toby Fund of Wolf Creek, Oregon, helps pay for spaying and neutering cats and dogs; and also helps fund critical veterinary care, including surgeries, for pets that would otherwise not receive this care. Toby Fund's "Unchain My Heart" program gets dogs off chains by building pens. Keeping dogs on chains 24-hours-a-day is now illegal, as the practice is considered to be an abuse of canines. Call 541-866-2527 to learn more.

Hoover also wants people to know that the county will be holding another low-cost rabies and licensing clinic in the Illinois Valley this year.

Dr. Joe's Pet Hospital office manager, Boni Petersen, also encourages people to utilize these programs.

"We often have clients coming in with animals that had been dropped off near their homes, and a lot of these folks already have so many pets," she said. "So this places a real hardship on these big-hearted people to pay for getting these animals fixed and vaccinated."

Legal poisons in our waters: A guest editorial by John Gardiner

For decades, we've feared potential terrorist contamination of our water supplies. But spraying poisons on our roads, farms and forests for mere weed control??? – Legal, throughout the state!

The following example is but a flea-bite of what has been going on for the last several decades, in which we've also seen a dramatic rise in various diseases. What was once only correlation is now becoming clearer as causation, thanks to independent research – often, international.

Recently, a local timber company notified the state of chemical ground application (banned on federal lands). Over 25 logging sites will receive "treatment", from Selma to the border, of "applications of atrazine, clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, Imazapyr, sulfometuron, metsulfuron methyl, triclopyr, phenoxy, and other herbicides, surfactants, carriers, and drift control agents… applied to within 10 feet of the streams". This is the annual nightmare in our rural community, together with aerial spraying of farms, forests and roadside applications.

Glyphosate was thought to be neutralized on soil contact. Now, we know this to be FAR from the case. These poisons contaminate drinking water for wildlife and humans alike. Our city water is drawn from Illinois River bankside wells and an aquifer; no tests for pesticides are carried out. In Selma, all domestic water is from wells or springs likely contaminated through years of these practices.

Actually, many of these poisons survive a long time in air, soil and water. They are absorbed by, and accumulate (like arsenic) in our bodies, most alarmingly in breast milk - to be passed to our children. Their epigenetic effects include infertility, birth deformities and other severe health issues. Many believe pesticides are causing cancers in the Illinois Valley. Community leaders are dying way before their time. These "visible" people (and animals) are the tip of the iceberg. And state law does not permit those injured by chemical trespass from farm or forest activity to sue those responsible! The conclusions of official investigations into the aerial spraying of people and pets at Lane County's Triangle Lake and Gold Beach are a white-wash for the logging industry.

Oregon Forest Practices Act OAR 629-620-400 permits pesticide use. However, the Environmental Protection Agency has finally disapproved Oregon's coastal nonpoint pollution program, citing poor logging practices: http://www.opb.org/news/article/feds-rule-oregon-not-protecting-coastal-waters-from-logging-/. Pesticides are poisoning our waters – it's official.

Rachel Carson predicted this 60 years ago in "Silent Spring". Carol van Strum unconcealed the Oregon nightmare in the '80s with "A Bitter Fog: Herbicides and Human Rights". Now a new book "Poison Spring: The Secret History of Pollution and the EPA" by E. Vallianatos exposes political chicanery in public service. Agencies created to protect "We the People" have been protecting big business, while punishing whistleblowers.

Continued poisoning of our people and landscapes for weed control is no longer excusable. While cheap for farmers, foresters and municipalities, it's devastatingly expensive for our communities. We demand an immediate moratorium on pesticide use, until legislators change the "Right to Farm and Forestry Act". Those suffering "Chemical Trespass" must be able to sue those responsible.

What to do? Petition our Governor, www.credomobilize.com/petitions/our-right-to-life-liberty-and-pursuit-of-happiness. Support efforts to free us from pesticides and GMOs, join Our Family Farms and the Organic Consumers Association.

How would we respond if terrorists were poisoning our environment and public water supplies?

Seasons n Time
25% OFF YARN
10% OFF ART SUPPLIES & FABRIC
Featuring Handmade yard art, Compter-Part jewelry, Drawings, Paintings, Fabric Dolls, Flower Clips and more.
For more Information Call 541-592-5373
24342-B REDWOOD HWY, KERBY • NEXT TO KERBYMART

The Kerby Transfer Station
is open to help you...
Hours: Mondays - Saturdays
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
For more information phone: 800-922-1025
Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.
0235

2 WEEK SPECIAL
Gooseberries Real Food Market
GrainMiller Quick Oats & Rolled Oats $4.69 Reg. $5.79 ea.
Coomb's Maple Syrup $20.99 Reg. $29.99

Special Features
Pacific Pasture Grass fed 85% hamburger, 100% grass fed & grass finished. No hormones or antibiotics. A natural grass fed beef. $5.99 lb. Reg. $7.49 lb.
Andouille Sausage Dog with Side Salad. Choice of Condiments. $5.99 ea. Reg. $7.99 ea.
Cosmos Assorted Popcorn $2.29 Reg.$3.79
Brocolli Low fat, high in fiber $1.49 lb. Reg. $1.99 lb.

HABA
Floradix Iron + Herbs Supplement 8.5 fl oz. 17 fl oz. 20% OFF
Nordics Naturals Omega 3 60 Softgel 120 Softgel 180 Softgel 20% OFF

Groceries
Annie's Natural Dressings Assorted Flavors. 8 oz. $2.69 Reg. $3.79
Koyo Assorted Crackers $2.39 Reg. $3.19

Deli
Grill Menu Reuben w/ Side Salad $7.99 ea. Reg. $8.99 ea.
Breakfast Menu Muffin! Choice of Meat & Cheese. Reg. $2.59 ea. $1.99 ea.
Grab-N-Go Hoagie Sandwich! Assorted Meat, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo, Dijon. $3.99 ea. Reg. $4.99 ea.
Salad Case Tuna Salad $8.39 Reg. $9.39 lb.

Meat
Niman..... $6.99 lb. An uncured ham steak. An all natural pork. Just heat and eat. Reg. $8.09 lb.
Aidells Pineapple & Bacon Links..... $4.99 pkg. An all natural chicken. A delicious lunch. Reg. $6.19 pkg.
Beeler's Thick Cut Bacon... $5.99 pkg. No nitrates or nitrites ever. Great for Sunday morning breakfast. Reg. $7.19 pkg.
Smart Chicken Ground Chicken $4.99 pkg. An air chilled chicken. Great for chicken patties. Reg. $5.99 pkg.

Produce
Mandarins..... $2.69 lb. Reg. $2.89 lb.
Tomatoes..... $2.29 lb. Beefsteak Reg. $2.89 lb.
Celery..... 89¢ ea. Reg. $1.19 ea.
Honey Gold Grapefruit..... $1.49 lb. Reg. $1.69 lb.
Sweet Mini Peppers..... $3.09 ea Reg. $4.19 ea.

Bulk
Organic Raw Almonds..... $9.19 lb. Reg. $11.49 lb.
Organic Brown Short Rice. $1.79 lb. Reg. $2.19 lb.
Organic Steel Cut Oats..... $1.09 lb. Reg. $1.49 lb.

We support our local farms!
We Accept Oregon Trail Cards • Prices effective Weds., 2/18 - Tues., 3/03/15 Ad Specials - While Supplies Last
1201 Redwood Ave. • 541-471-2700 • Open Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 8 pm • Sun. 10 am - 6 pm