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# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

FREE Pets?  
Facebook?  
Craigslis?  
No Way!

## TALES

Warning! This is not your usual warm-fuzzy Pet Tips n Tales. This educational article contains information that we need to BE-Aware of to protect animals.

When a new pet parent excitedly shares how they found their wonderful "FREE pet on Craigslis/Facebook" we are happy for them both! But following is sobering news: the Huffington Post reports the other side of the coin — how FREE pets are purr-puss-ly sought out by dog fighters. Ask any police officer and they will tell you about animal abusers and dog fighters...oh, and large hungry pet snakes/crocodiles in your area looking for "FREE" pets.

When you list a FREE PET on Craigslis/newspaper/Facebook you are openly inviting these creative-unscrupulous people into your home.

They arrive looking just like us. They might bring a child to add to the "loving home life" they promise your pet, and then every breath they take is a lie. They don't plan to feed your pet, have it sleep on their bed or walk it as promised.

The Huffington Post article states, "Dog fighters and animal abusers dress nicely, show up to meet your pet, act courteously, promise to love the animal and lie the entire time. Craigslis is a gold mine to animal abusers and dog fighters; it is the cheapest and easiest way to get what they need."

Years ago, I met a family that laughed while explaining how they sought out FREE pasture animals "promising" them wonderful living arrangements and a pasture. The giggling family thought their lying was brilliant, well played, "Ya, for only as long as it takes to get it home, slaughter and feed it to our dogs." Adding, "Hey, It was free meat. They wanted to get rid of it and no one has ever come by to 'check' on the llama/alpaca/pet they 'gifted' our family." I was disgusted with them and still am.

Horrified, I asked a humane society staff member if the Huffington Post article was true in our area. She verified that "our

volunteers spend hours on the Internet encouraging listed FREE animal owners to relinquish their animals to shelters. We also educate owners how dog fighters seek free 'bait' for training their dogs to kill, or FREE meals for their beloved snake's or crocodile's dinner." They don't want to hear of one more innocent puppy/kitten/dog/cat bound as a 'training tool' for a dog fighter's pleasure.

Knowing this, shelters are a better bet for re-homing your pet. Have you seen updated shelters? They are clean and humane. No dog fighter or innovative reptile owner is going to pay \$100 for a neutered/spayed, inoculated/chipped healthy animal. They want "cheap" for an animal that is destined to die.

"Shelters require references, home checks and adoption fees," the article states. "Dog fighters and animal abusers are highly unlikely to get around all these requirements."

"Some years ago, a stray rooster was found in town," said Janetta Overholser, president of the Humane Society of Cottage Grove. "He was caught and given to some folks who said they could use him. Because this is a small town, another person gave me 'the rest of the story'."

"The rooster was put into a hungry snake's cage! But before the door was secured, the rooster 'took a look around', knocked the door open, headed straight out their front door, and ran down the street as fast as his little legs could go! Point being — people have snakes and they take FREEbies to feed them!"

After hearing about the brave rooster's escape, I went looking for him and found him roosting on a park bench. I walked up, grabbed it, it screamed and I nearly fainted from the shock! But I held on, put it on the car seat, placed a box over it, then my purse on the box to make sure it wouldn't bust free again. Once home, I phoned EVERYONE I could think of. The rooster is now living with a neighbor's flock of chickens. His story is a wake up call to those offering a FREE PET!"

Adopt and Save Shelter Pets www.Pet-Finder.com

## TIPS

-The best broom for scooping up pet fur is an electrostatic-rubber-bristle-head broom,



Photo by Mr. Angel Scribe  
**Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe" is holding shelter kittens looking for homes. Are your pet's babies going to "good" homes and not into a nightmare? Taking pets to a shelter is the safest way to re-home any animal.**

often found at county fairs and household exhibits. This broom finds fur, even the fur you can't see with your naked eye. It works wonders on carpets, tile, wood floors and fur-niture. The rubber bristles don't flick pet dander, fur, lint or dust up into the air like straw brooms. The static electricity magnetically holds the pet fur on its bristles. Yup! A miracle broom for pet parents!

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Donations are welcomed for Cottage Grove's Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789. They have a bounty of kittens and \$1 spay and neuter Paw Print stickers for your vehicles!

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# Labor Day or Any Day


... this is a bad combination.

Labor Day is a well-deserved holiday for everyone. And like most holidays, it's a day to relax and celebrate with family and friends. These sponsors would like to remind you that if you celebrate this weekend, please do so responsibly. That means not drinking and driving, using a designated driver, or best of all, being one for those you care about. With your help, everyone can have an enjoyable Labor Day weekend.




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