

**ADOPTIONS**  
**August/ Sept**  
**Cats 14**  
**Dogs 6**

# Spay and Save

## Volunteer Newsletter

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## How to Pill a Cat When it Refuses

### *From Copilot*

The most effective way to give cats medicine combines calm restraint, proper technique, and using food or treats when possible, to reduce stress and ensure full dosage.

- ♥ Preparing Your Cat
  - Start by creating a quiet, safe environment free from distractions or other pets. Using synthetic pheromones can help calm anxious cats, making them more cooperative during medication administration.

***Continued page 2***

## How to Pill a Dog When It Refuses

### *From Copilot*

You can give a dog a pill by disguising it in food, using pill pockets, or administering it directly with gentle handling and water encouragement.

- ♥ Disguising the Pill in Food
  - Many dogs are food-motivated, so hiding the pill in a tasty treat can be effective. Options include:
  - Marshmallows or mini-marshmallows to completely conceal the pill without adding many calories
  - Peanut butter (ensure it does not contain xylitol, which is toxic to dogs) or cream cheese to mask taste and texture.

***Continued page 4***



## How to Pill a Cat When it Refuses Cont.

- Wrapping your cat in a towel or blanket (the "burrito" method) can prevent scratches and provide comfort while keeping them secure

### ♥ Administering Pills

- Head-Tilt Technique: Gently tilt your cat's head back, open the lower jaw, and place the pill at the back of the tongue. Follow with a 1 mL water chaser to help the pill go down and prevent esophageal irritation

### ♥ Pill Pockets or Food: Hide the pill in a small amount of wet food or a commercial pill pocket. Ensure your cat eats the entire portion containing the medication

### ♥ Pilling Devices: For difficult cats, a pill gun or pilling device can deliver the pill safely without putting your fingers in the cat's mouth

### ♥ Gelatin Capsules: If multiple pills are needed, placing them in an empty gelatin capsule can simplify administration

### ♥ Administering Liquid Medicine

- With Food or Treats: Mix the liquid medicine into a small portion of wet food or make a "meatball" of food with the medicine inside. Feed it entirely to ensure the full dose is consumed
- Using a Syringe: If your cat refuses food, use an oral syringe to place the medicine between the cheek and gums, not straight down the throat, to reduce aspiration risk. Administer slowly in small amounts, allowing the cat to swallow gradually

### ♥ Assistance: Have someone gently hold the cat while you administer the medicine to prevent sudden movements and reduce stress

### ♥ Additional Tips

- Never mix medication into drinking water, as cats may avoid drinking and risk dehydration
- Positive reinforcement: Offer treats, gentle petting, or praise after giving medicine to create a positive association

### ♥ Alternative forms: If your cat is extremely resistant, ask your veterinarian about compounded liquids or transdermal gels that can be applied to the skin

By combining calm handling, proper restraint, and creative use of food or devices, most cats can be medicated safely and effectively at home.

## This is my Goodbye

### By Toni Dougherty

I wanted to take this newsletter and include in it my experiences over the last 20 years. I have been volunteering with Spay and Save for over 25 years, starting shortly after I retired at 54. There are a lot of good memories which get lost in time. The newsletters I have written over the years tends to capture them, but the information really is not from the heart. I gave Chris a book of copies from the first years of my writing it. I am now moving into my 80's and it is time for someone else to take over the mantel. Not only this newsletter but someone who can keep the Spay and Save organization doing a very important job of saving dogs and cats in our society.

### Memories

I met Chris and the Volunteers at a Pet Expo in Fort Washington. The SPCA was there and I went up to their table and asked to Volunteer. At the time I was setting up a newsletter and web site for an organization called the Delaware Valley Association for Macular Diseases (DVAMD).

My Aunt Anna had encouraged me to get involved and she was in her 80's herself and she knew how desolate retirement can be without something to replace the daily routine of working. The SPCA said they do not use volunteers but just down the way Spay and Save did.

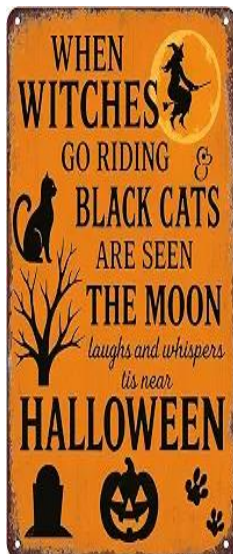
I filled out a form and received a call saying that Spay and Save was opening an adoption center in the King of Prussia Petco Store. This was a new thing for the organization, and they needed volunteers to clean cages.

**Continued page 4**

# Halloween Cat Wallpapers Etc.



Left: Artist Unknown



Above: Artist Unknown



Above Sign from Amazon.  
Left: This is a print from Etsy



Right: This image is from a site called Rebubble and can be made in to prints, T shirts or mugs

# How to Pill a Dog When it Refuses cont.

- Cooked boneless chicken, turkey slices, liverwurst, or hot dog pieces cut into small portions to reduce choking risk
- Plain yogurt can work, but avoid calcium-rich foods with antibiotics as it may reduce effectiveness

## ♥ Using Pill Pockets or Purpose-Built Treats

- Vet-recommended pill pockets are soft, pliable treats designed to completely enclose the medication, making it harder for the dog to detect
- You can also use a decoy routine: give a plain treat first to build excitement, then follow with the pill-filled treat

## ♥ Direct Administration

- If disguising the pill fails, you can give it directly:
- Hold the pill in one hand and gently open your dog's mouth with the other, pressing on either side of the muzzle
- Place the pill as far back on the tongue as possible.
- Close the mouth and tilt the nose slightly upward.
- Encourage swallowing by gently rubbing the throat or squirting a small amount of water into the mouth
- Check to ensure the pill has been swallowed.

## ♥ Tips to Reduce Stress

- Stay calm and act normally; dogs can sense nervousness and may resist more if they detect tension

## ♥ Assess your dog's temperament: anxious dogs may benefit from being wrapped in a towel or having a second person assist

- Use a safe, uncluttered space to prevent accidents during administration

## ♥ Additional Considerations

- Some dogs detect pills by smell, so wash your hands before handling the medication
- Be patient and gentle; forcing a pill can cause gagging or stress.
- Consult your veterinarian if your dog consistently refuses pills, as they may offer liquid alternatives or compounded flavored medications.

## This is my Goodbye cont.

I am sorry to say I don't remember who it was that trained me, but I found the job fulfilling and the large community room allowed me to play with the kitties. Shortly thereafter we started having adoption days on Saturdays in the store. I also began fostering and trapping cats and kittens in the area.

This location is where I met people like Chris, Barb Tracy and Kathy Tierney and later when Petco moved to another store down the road Debbie Felix, Joanne Morgan, and Sue Goldberg. Once the Petco store closed and Spay and Save branched out into other Petco locations like Paoli and Limerick and Exton. I would return to the adoption days and got to know Morag Steskal and Barb Hardy.

I started doing Adoption days at outside events like the Farmers Market here in King of Prussia. I did them around Halloween and got everyone to dress in costume including the cats. Eventually, Spay and Save branched out into Dog Adoptions and events outside work best for this aspect of adoption.

Now the changing of Petco locations and newsletters and Facebook page and the Web site have moved us away from the social aspect of our business. Sad to say this has taken away the fun of the job and made it more difficult to develop lasting relationships. I find the electronic age does not always bring out the best in people for we have become more isolated from each other. That is why it is time for me to move on.

Maybe someone else is more in touch with our new electronic environment and all the emailing has left me open to potential hacking. I have found out that I am on the Dark Web, and I think it unwise for me to continue risking all of you. So it was fun while it lasted and

**This is My Goodbye. T Doc**

# Volunteer Community Corner

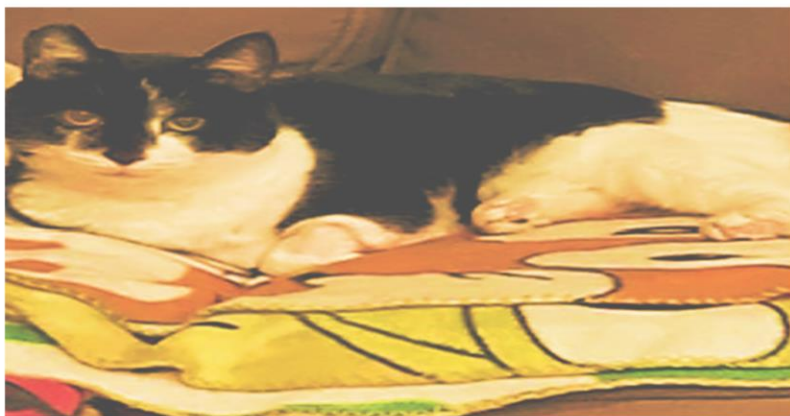
## ***A Remarkable Recovery of Kathy's Cat Lily***

***By Kathy Tierney***

My cats are notorious for getting sick on holidays. Late on Christmas Eve 2025 I saw that Lily wasn't eating anything. By Christmas morning she was much worse. Luckily, I found an emergency vet that was open on Christmas.

Lily, who was nine at the time, had a high fever, was lethargic and would not eat. Her blood work showed that her white blood count was elevated as were her globulins. The vet told me that everything pointed to Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). There is no definitive test for FIP but Lily had the classic symptoms.

An indoor cat gets FIP because they were previously infected with the common feline coronavirus (FCoV), which then mutated inside their body into the deadly FIP virus. Most cats who catch the common feline coronavirus only experience a mild stomach upset or no symptoms at all, and their immune system clears it. However, in a small percentage of cats (less than 10%), the virus mutates into FIPV. This dangerous mutation allows the virus to infect white blood cells and trigger a severe, abnormal immune response.



## **Lily Continued**

The vet at Blue Pearl told me that there was a new cure for this virus and if I decided to give her the medicine she would probably feel better in a few days. But, the treatment is expensive and she needed to be treated every day for over 80 days.

I opted to give Lily the medicine in suspension and I was able to start treating her on December 27. As promised, Lily started to feel better in about three days. I worked with my usual vet until the treatment ended in late March. By that time, Lily's white blood count and globulins had gone back to normal.

Lily turned ten in the spring. She recently had her annual exam and her white blood count and globulins are still normal. We don't really know what the future holds but I feel like every day is bonus time with Lily since she survived what used to be a historically fatal disease.

# Calendar of Events

| Date                                    | Event Location         | Coordinators                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday                | Limerick PETCO         | Alicia Ferraioli/Gaby Kraemer |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday<br>Even Months | Paoli PETCO            | A Slowik/S Goldberg           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday                | Limerick PETCO         | Madelyn Ferraioli             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday<br>Odd Months  | Perk Valley Pet Eatery | Susan Trombadore              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday                | Concord Pets Frazer    | A Wakil/S Sikora              |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday                | TBA                    | TBA                           |



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