

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Paw Prints

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Paw Prints

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Penned on 7/11/22

Dear Readers,

As I was leaving the shelter for lunch the other day, a woman had just pulled into the staff parking area. She rolled down her window and asked if we were open. We weren't, but I asked what she needed. She was clearly in tears and her dog was in the back seat.

She said she had just learned that her dog had a cancer and he hadn't eaten in 5 days. I assumed she needed to have the dog euthanized, and asked her to wait while I went inside to see if we had staff available to help her.

Breanne and Missy were handling a kitten intake at the moment, but they said, of course they could help. I directed the woman and her dog into the shelter and went on my way.

But I didn't enjoy my lunch. My heart broke for this stranger. We've all been there. Crushed by the news that our best friend's time at our side is coming to an end.

When I returned from lunch, her car was gone. And it turned out that euthanasia wasn't needed right away. She just needed to talk things through with people who had some experience and understood. I hope she had a few more days to say good-bye to her dear old friend.

It warms my heart that she thought to come to us and that we were able to provide some comfort. *That's* what it means to be a humane society.

Mary Tiefenbrunn

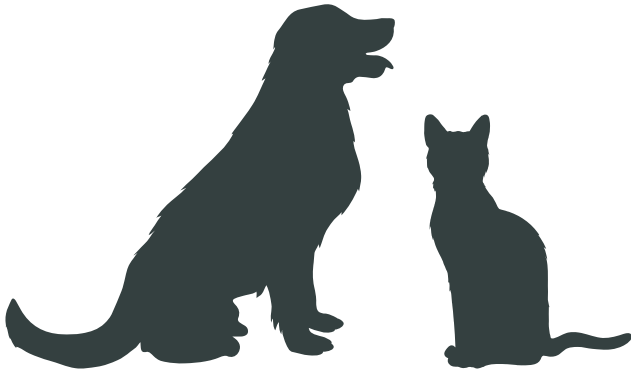
Mary "Tief" Tiefenbrunn
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

PROTECT YOUR PETS

- During periods of extreme heat and humidity, keep your pet indoors when possible.
- Limit outdoor exercise to early morning or evening.
- Avoid long walks, hikes, and excessive play.
- Provide pets with extra, cool water sources.
- Consider dog booties for hot pavement.
- Play in the sprinklers or a kiddie pool.



SPENDING TIME OUTSIDE?

We advise against leaving pets unattended outdoors during any time of year, but it's especially dangerous during periods of extreme heat & humidity.

When outside, always provide:

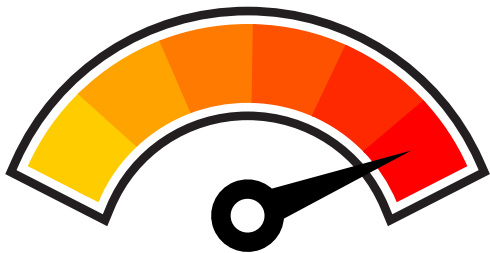
- A well-shaded and ventilated shelter;
- Non-metal, spill-proof water bowls.

Baby pools and sunscreen can also help keep outdoor pets safe.

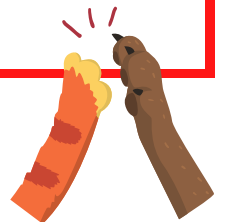
Q: IS IT TOO HOT TO WALK?

TEST IT!

Hold your bare foot on the ground for **7 seconds**.



A: If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws.



Source: face4pets.org



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New Campus Spotlight: *The Education Building*

One of the most exciting things about the new CCHS campus (to be completed in early 2023) is the new Education Building. An entire space devoted specifically to animal training and humane education!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

This 148-foot long building will house . . .

- A 630-square-foot room for canine behavior assessments. This space is also large enough to do dog-dog introductions and behavior modification work with special-needs dogs.
- A 3,672-square-foot dog training arena! We'll have ample space for puppy classes, dog training classes, and advanced classes.
- A 630-square-foot classroom. We'll use this for education programs for kids, students of all ages, and our own staff and volunteers.

We'll also have over 1,405 square feet of storage space and, of course, restrooms and a water fountain!

Other plans for the building:

- Twice yearly "yard sale" of gently used pet supplies;
- Cat and Kitten Yoga Classes (*It's exactly what you think - you do yoga while kittens walk on your head!*)



Awesome features:

- Lots of windows and natural light.
- Special cushioned flooring in the dog training area that will be comfortable for trainers and safe for canine athletic activities.
- A large over-head door, great for indoor-outdoor events.

ASK THE EXPERT

BREANNE TABBERT



BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

At CCHS, cat adoptions make up about 60% of our yearly adoptions! With so many felines heading into new homes we've been able to identify some frequently asked questions by new cat adopters.

FAQ #1: "I adopted my cat 2 days ago and he's hiding under the bed and not eating. What can I do to make him more comfortable?"

BT: Though bringing a new cat home is an exciting time for us, it can be very stressful for our four-legged friends as their whole world has suddenly changed!

No longer confined to a cage they're used to, it is common for cats and kittens to seek out a quiet, secure spot from which they can take in their new and strange surroundings. One has no time to eat if they're busy looking out for danger!

Here are a couple of things that you can do to help your new cat get comfortable:

- Dedicate one room for the new cat to adjust to at first. This room should have all his supplies: food & water bowls, litterbox, toys, etc. A room that is quiet with low foot traffic is ideal.
- If he's hiding under the furniture, you can entice him to venture out by setting a dish of canned food by the edge of his safe zone. *(Canned food is often more enticing than dry kibble, and a timid cat will be more inclined to take a risk if the reward is particularly appealing.)*

After a couple of days, you may enter the room to find your cat lounging on some furniture, or possibly even checking out the door. If your cat is out and about and appears comfortable in the room, then you can leave the door open so he can access the rest of the house.

Patience is certainly key in letting him explore on his own terms and it's best to refrain from forcing a cat to explore beyond his comfort zone.

FAQ #2: "My new kitten just runs around attacking my feet and it's starting to hurt. How can I get her to stop biting me?"

BT: Litters of kittens in the shelter can often be found sleeping, eating, or playing and wrestling with one another. When separated from their littermates, YOU become their new friend to have these "play fights" with. Engaging in play with your new kitten (and even some young adult cats) is *very important* for both physical and mental stimulation, and will save your limbs in the long run!

Though access to toys is great, you need to make the toys "come alive" so your cat is excited to play with them. Wand toys are a great option because they give your kitty something to stalk and hunt. Be sure that you let them catch the toy occasionally, so they get to enjoy the satisfaction of completing the hunt.

A good idea when your cat likes to pounce at your feet, is to give her a large, stuffed animal similar to her own size. She'll be able to wrestle, bite, and scratch to her heart's content and you come out wound-free!

Keep in mind, some kittens mature quicker than others and some stay playful their whole lives!

Do you have a question for the expert?

Our Animal Behavioral Specialist, **Breanne Tabbert**, is happy to answer any questions you have about why your pet is doing that . . . *thing*. Reach out to her at Breanne@cuhumane.org!

ADOPT US!



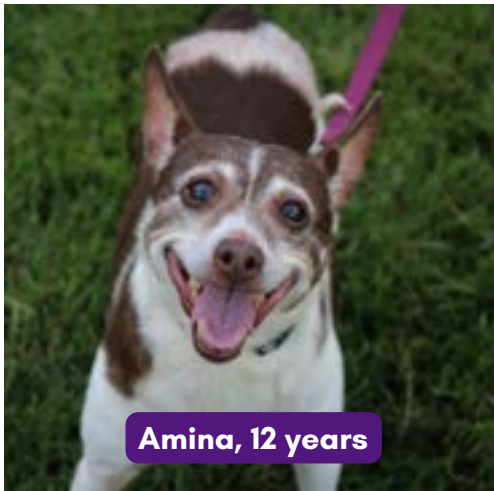
Chester, 3 years



Layla, 11 months



Hugo, 3 months



Amina, 12 years



SCAN ME!



Tiny, 9 months



Petite, 2 months



Maddie, 5 months



Sam, 5 years

Pets available as of July 20, 2022.

See all available pets online at www.cuhumane.org

Or use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR Code above.