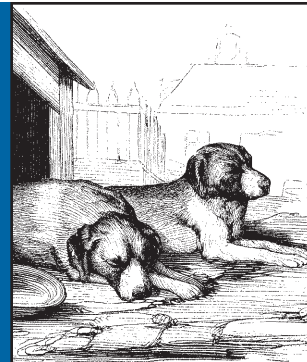


CHAMP! See our wish list on page 3 to fund attendance at this educational conference



Greetings from Jim Taylor, NHES Program Services Director, and Interim Manager of the Briggs Animal Adoption Center & Sanctuary (BAAC). We also welcome you to the premiere edition of *BRIGGS Briefs*.



Since November 2000, when we welcomed the first 27 homeless dogs into our care, we have been able to expand our staff and thereby increase our humane holding capacity to a rotating daily average of 50 dogs (soon to be 55). During this same time, we have welcomed thousands of visitors from up-and-down the east coast. From the ranks of these visitors, we have placed and delivered hundreds of deserving dogs to loving, lifelong homes located in Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Of the 50 dogs presently in our care, a large portion were what is commonly referred to as "Chain Dogs," whose lives were characterized by days and nights of hunger, thirst and unbearable isolation. Still others were rescued from rural shelters where they had been abandoned and scheduled to be killed.

All of these dogs, however, never cease to amaze us, particularly their capacity to forgive, as each of them has timidly begun to accept our overtures of kindness—a quiet word and gentle pet. It is with a continued sense of awe that we watch their transformation from mistrustful, emaciated, and fearful creatures into healthy, vibrant dogs who once again offer their trust, seeking approval and love from members of the very human race that, time and again, neglected and abandoned them. And we thank you, our supporters, for allowing us to be part of these joyful transformations because, without your generous support, it wouldn't have been possible.

Presently, we are excited about three new projects: (1) the creation of a new BAAC Web Page, (2) enclosing the exterior kennel runs to provide the dogs with added comfort by further

The Briggs Animal Adoption Center



protecting them from the winter winds, and (3) completing our second phase of construction which includes a Cattery that will house 100 cats and kittens. The Web Page should be operational near the end of July 2002 and the address will be www.baacs.org. The kennel enclosure should be completed by mid July 2002, and we are actively seeking funding for the Cattery.

In summary, the BAAC's future is bright, and we intend to keep you informed with quarterly mailings of *BRIGGS Briefs*.

On behalf of the BAAC's dogs, and the cats that will come in the future, we thank you.

Jim Taylor

Highlights

Rescues

Phoenix, a German Shepherd mix, had been tied to a tree with a 5-foot length of chain for nearly 2 and-1/2 years. Phoenix, like the two small terriers who were with him when our staff picked them up, each displayed the characteristic wary eyes, tucked tail, and physical posturing of a frightened dog. Two wonderful families have adopted the terriers, but Phoenix has tested positive for Heartworm and, as of this writing, is undergoing treatment. We have every expectation that Phoenix will sustain his treatment without difficulty and be available for adoption in about 7 weeks.



On May 14, 2002, on a well-traveled section of a West Virginia highway, a cardboard box was seen lying in the road. Four small 8-week-old puppies emerged from the box to find themselves dodging cars from two directions. Quickly, one puppy was struck and killed as the remaining puppies scurried to the side of the road. Thankfully, a compassionate woman named Tammie stopped and gathered up the three remaining puppies and brought them to the BAAC. Although frightened and malnourished, none of these puppies (one male and two females) was injured. Now, 4 weeks later, Gus, Sage and Jade are enjoying their days at the BAAC, and are available for adoption.

continued on page 3

Early Age Spay/Neuter

Early-age spaying/neutering is being performed more and more frequently, and the range of benefits provided for both animals and people is great. Research has shown that it is safe to spay and neuter kittens and puppies at a much younger age than veterinarians once thought.

Many veterinarians are now safely and routinely performing spay and neuter surgery on kittens and puppies at eight weeks of age. The low body fat makes these surgeries easier to accomplish, and puppies and kittens tolerate the procedures very well and recover more quickly than do older animals. Some veterinarians use the "two-pound" guideline. As long as a puppy or kitten is healthy and weighs at least two pounds, they may be spayed or neutered safely. During these surgeries, young animals need to be carefully monitored just as older animals do when it comes to anesthesia.

WHAT IS SPAY/NEUTER?

Spaying/neutering are safe, inexpensive and permanent procedures that not only prevent accidental breeding but also reduce potential behavioral and health problems. A female cat or dog does not have to go through a heat cycle before being spayed. In fact, multiple heat cycles increase her chances of developing mammary cancer. In males, neutering reduces the risk of testicular cancer and enlargement of the prostate and related infections.

Many animals adopted from shelters are young in age. Studies have shown that if these animals are not spayed/neutered before going into their new homes, the surgery will never be done and these animals then produce more unwanted pets. When these procedures of spaying/neutering are performed early, the chance

for unwanted litters is eliminated. These animals are not going to contribute to the surplus pet population of tomorrow whose lives have sad endings.

There is little scientific information to back up the current standard age of six to eight months for spaying/neutering. This figure seems to have been chosen quite arbitrarily and followed through the years without question. Today, we recognize the safety and many benefits of early-age spay/neuter.

REASONS TO OPT FOR EARLY-AGE SPAYING/NEUTERING:

- Helps to control pet overpopulation - less homeless offspring - Decreased killing of healthy animals
- Decreases the rate of animals returned to shelters
- Improves animal's adoptability
- Improved health care of pets
- Surgery less stressful/quick recovery for younger animals
- Early spay/neuter can be done in conjunction with other surgeries

Spayed and neutered pets are less aggressive, less likely to roam, less likely to fight and therefore less likely to contract contagious diseases.

But remember, it is never too late to spay or neuter your pet. Talk with your veterinarian. Even older animals benefit from these procedures. **For more information, visit our website at www.nhes.org.**

Spay Today

Spay Today, a program of NHEs and located at the BAAC, is working to reduce companion animal over-population. Each year more than 6 million stray and unwanted cats and dogs are killed in animal shelters for lack of homes. Many more animals are abandoned, left to suffer illness, injury and starvation before they die. This is a tragedy that can be prevented if we work together to spay and neuter our companion animals.



Connie Graf
Spay Today Coordinator
& Volunteer Director

NHEs's low-cost spay and neuter program serves areas of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. With the help of five veterinary hospitals, Spay Today is able to offer reduced rate spay/neuter procedures for cats and dogs. We are currently assisting responsible citizens to alter over 100 dogs and cats each month.

The only way to bring dog and cat populations under control is to offer low-cost spay/neuter, as well as educate the public on the importance of altering companion animals. Please join us in this worthy cause and have your pet(s) spayed or neutered. **Donations to the Spay Today program are very much appreciated.**



If you are in this area and would like our assistance or would like to donate funds so we can increase our services to save more lives, please call Connie Graf at **304-728-8330**.

NHEs would like to thank the veterinary hospitals for their continued support of Spay Today.

Apple Tree Animal Clinic, Ranson, WV
Big Springs Animal Hospital, Martinsburg, WV
Hillside Veterinarian Hospital, Charles Town, WV
Inwood Animal Center, Inwood, WV
Silver Spring Veterinary Hospital, Inc., Winchester, VA
Stephens City Animal Hospital, Stephens City, VA

Meet The Family



The National Humane Education Society (NHES), headquartered near Charles Town, West Virginia, is a non-profit animal welfare organization that has been in existence for 54 years. It was created by Anna C. Briggs to “foster a sentiment of kindness to animals in children and adults,” and NHES continues to carry out her mission of compassion to animals. Through the Humane Education Department, NHES provides educational presentations to all ages and informational services to members as well as the general public, networks with other humane organizations and creates materials for educational use. Peace Plantation Animal Sanctuary operates under the auspices of NHES from which it receives a portion of its needed resources.



Peace Plantation Animal Sanctuary in Walton, NY, provides lifelong sanctuary care to homeless animals - primarily cats and kittens, a few resident dogs and various farm animals. Since its creation, Peace Plantation has never euthanized a healthy animal as a means of population control. Alternatively, it endorses spaying and neutering as the only humane solution to ending the epidemic overpopulation of companion animals. Currently, over 400 cats live at Peace Plantation. Low-cost spay/neuter is also offered to the public at this facility. Peace Plantation operates under the auspices of NHES from which it receives a portion of its needed resources. Donations are invited.

MEET A FEW FAMILY MEMBERS



Mrs. Anna C. Briggs & Tippi
Founder and Senior Advisor

Lynda Foro & Champagne
Administrative Director of NHES

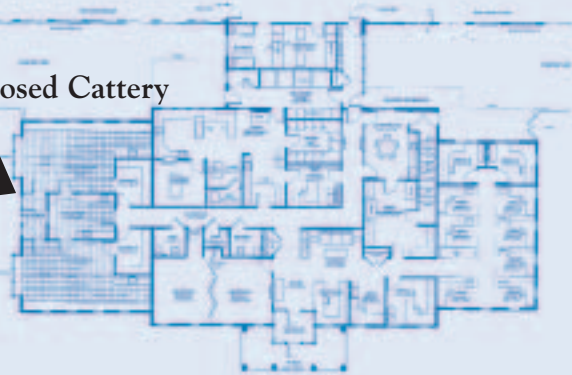
Highlights

Wish List

Send a BAAC adoption counselor to camp – CHAMP camp that is, the Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy (CHAMP) in Reno, NV, on August 22-25, 2002. We need to raise \$1,000 to cover airfare, hotel, and conference expenses. CHAMP is the premier educational event for animal caregivers. Please visit www.champconference.org for more details.

Funds for the new Cat Adoption Center at the BAAC that will provide a temporary way-station for abandoned, abused animals who will be adopted into carefully selected new homes. We have commissioned architects to draw up a plan for a modest, yet efficient shelter. The new home is expected to accommodate about 100 cats, in addition to the puppies and dogs with 15 full-time staff working on the premises. The cats will live in colonies, and the overall design has been planned to maximize the safety, comfort, and well-being of the animals in our care. Cost to build — \$119,000.

Proposed Cattery



The Briggs Animal Adoption Center

New Arrivals & Adoptions

At 10:30 pm, on April 18, 2002, a car quickly drove onto the BAAC's property. Our evening staff went directly to the front of the building only to find the car exiting onto the highway. Then, to the right of the entryway, they discovered a small cardboard box with the single word, “kittens”, written on it. Indeed, the box contained five kittens (four males and one female). Each was thin and malnourished. Although we are not set up to care for cats or kittens, we did, of course, take them in. We attended to their physical needs and once they were healthy, each was spayed/neutered. By May 29th, each kitten had been placed in a quality adoptive home.

We anxiously wait the day that we can raise enough funds to construct our proposed Cattery, thereby allowing us to help more unwanted cat and kittens, just like the second litter of six kittens now in our care that were also dropped off at the BAAC's doorstep in the early morning hours of June 4, 2002.

continued on page 4

P.O. Box 1023
Charles Town, WV 25414-1023



continued from page 3

These six kittens will soon be spayed/neutered and available for adoption. Kittens "R Not Us" at this point, but with your help, we soon will expand our services to cats.

Volunteers

Volunteer Director: We would like to introduce you to Connie Graf, one of the newest additions to our staff who serves the dual role of Spay Today Coordinator and Volunteer Director. Connie brings with her 8 years of volunteer management experience with Guiding Eyes for the Blind. She has

already proven herself to a true asset to our organization, and under her guidance we foresee a professional expansion of volunteer service and activities.

Pedal for Pooches:—a Bike Tour to benefit the BAAC was held on April 27th and was a resounding success with 65 riders participating and 31 sponsors, generating \$2,651 for the BAAC. Pedal for Pooches was the brainchild of Phyllis Saville, a BAAC volunteer and avid cyclist. Thank you, Phyllis, for your successful coordination of the entire event. We also wish to give special recognition and thanks to the following volunteers

for their significant contribution in making Pedal for Pooches such a successful event: Jose and Lizzy Rivera, Dan and Bonnie Gundlach, Maurice and Valerie Sheppard, Allen McNaughton, and Laura Fox. Plans are underway to present Pedal for Pooches again on April 26, 2003.

Veterinary Services: We also give special recognition and thanks to Major Brian J. Gentile, U.S. Army, D.V.M. Dr. Gentile consistently volunteers his professional services, on a weekly basis, providing humane medical care and surgical services for the animals at the BAAC.

PLEASE CUT HERE AND MAIL TO BAAC c/o The National Humane Education Society • P.O. Box 340, Charles Town, WV 25414-0340

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to support the BAAC, a program of NHES on behalf of the animals in need.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Visa MC Amex • Card# _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

(All changes must be accompanied by authorized signature)

<i>Thank You For Your Generosity</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/>	MATCHING GIFT (EMPLOYER)
<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE SEND BEQUEST INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE SEND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Donations are tax deductible - Membership includes quarterly BRIGGS Briefs.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BAAC/NHES

THANK YOU!