

A photograph of two dogs, one larger and one smaller, both with tan and white fur, looking through a black wire fence. The larger dog is on the left, wearing a leopard-print collar, and has its front paws on the fence. The smaller dog is on the right, wearing a blue collar. The background is green grass.

SHAWNEE ANIMAL CLINIC

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

Providing the latest news on events and community service projects from
your friends at Shawnee Animal Clinic.

www.sacpets.com

Newsletter



Barks, Beer, & BBQ

On September 19, 2023, Shawnee Animal Clinic hosted their second annual Barks, Beer, & BBQ Beer Festival to benefit Sierra's Haven for New & Used Pets. At this event, Shawnee Animal Clinic provided a beer truck with 16 craft beers on tap, 11 local food vendors participated, and over 50 local small businesses set up to sell their unique items. This event was free to the public.



The night began with a musical performance by MIKE & MIKE and the BIG UNIT, followed by Luvdisk and ending with The Josh Stewart Band. Over the course of our 6 hour event, we were able to raise over \$11,000 for Sierra's Haven for New & Used Pets. The shelter was also able to find forever homes for 11 pets during the event. Fundraising for Sierra's Haven was obtained through beer sales, adoption fees, raffle ticket sales, a split the pot drawing, and donations from each food & craft vendor.

This event was a huge success for Sierra's Haven, and fundraisers like these are vital to their business. Due to the fact that the shelter is a non-profit organization, they rely solely on donations and fundraising to keep their doors open. Dr Gail, founder of Sierra's Haven, thanks each and every person who attended and each and every vendor who participated in Barks, Beer, & BBQ. There was an amazing turnout and we are able to provide so many more pets with high quality care because of the funds we raised.



Barks, Beer, & BBQ

CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Fundraising for Sierra's Haven



Shelters in Crisis

THE CRISIS OF OVERCROWDED ANIMAL SHELTERS

Prince, a happy & energetic mixed breed puppy, loved spending his days with his new family. They were the only people he knew, his only play mates, and the ones he snuggled up with to feel safe at night. His owners were his whole world. However, he was not theirs. One day his owners put him in the car for a drive. Prince wondered where they were going this time. Would it be the dog park? He couldn't wait to run around and play with his friends!

Suddenly the car came to a stop. Prince's owners seemed to be in a rush to get him out, but when he was out he didn't see the dog park. He smelled dogs, but all he could see was a large building. When he entered, there were lots of animals, but they were all in cages. "We would like to surrender Prince," he heard his owners say. Surrender, he thought, what does that mean?

The next thing he knew he was in a cage and would never see his family again. He would spend his days in an overcrowded shelter, wondering what he did wrong to be abandoned by his favorite people in the whole world.

This is sadly the story of many animals all around our country. According to statistics, roughly 6.5 million animals enter shelters each year but only 3.2 million are adopted. This leads to severe overcrowding issues in animal shelters, and our shelters in Scioto County are feeling the effects.

Sierra's Haven for New & Used Pets is the largest no kill shelter in our area. The volunteers at the shelter work frantically day and night to care for the animals that are surrendered to their organization. However, their job has become increasingly harder over the past several years.

According to statistics, surrender requests had increased 4% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Inflation and housing issues are driving the increase, according to ASPCA and local shelters.

Shelters are seeing an alarming number of "easy" pets being surrendered at their facilities. Easy meaning these pets are older animals who get along with kids and other dogs and are typically well behaved.

Experts believe that this spike in surrendered pets is due to inflation, as well as the number of pet owners who are electing not to spay or neuter their pets.

So, what can you do to help? The first thing we are asking all of you to do is to consider adopting! If you are looking to add a new addition to your family, our shelters are filled with excellent candidates. We suggest that you take a look at your finances before adopting to ensure you can afford the addition. Please do not shop for a pet at a pet store or with an expensive breeder, as our local shelters are filled with loving pets awaiting adoption.

Our next suggestion for those who may not be able to adopt at the moment is to foster a shelter pet or volunteer at your local shelter. If you would like to request further information we suggest contacting Sierra's Haven at (740) 353-5100.



Obesity in Pets

THE IMPORTANCE OF PET WEIGHT CONTROL

In North America, obesity is the most common preventable disease in dogs. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention reports that more than 50% of dogs are overweight.

What is obesity?

Obesity is an accumulation of excess body fat. As extra body fat causes an increase in body weight, weight can be used to determine whether a dog is overweight or obese and is easier than measuring body fat. Using body weight as a guide, dogs are

considered overweight when they weigh 10-20% above their ideal body weight. They are considered obese when they weigh more than 20% above their ideal body weight.

What are the risks posed by obesity?

Obesity shortens a dog's life and makes them more likely to develop disease. It was always accepted that heavy dogs lived a shorter lifespan than lean dogs, usually by 6-12 months. But a large lifetime study of Labrador Retrievers has found that being even moderately overweight can reduce a dog's life expectancy by nearly two years compared to their leaner counterparts. This is a sobering statistic.

Previously, fat was considered relatively inactive tissue, simply storing excess energy calories and adding to body mass. However, scientific evidence now reveals that fat tissue is biologically active. It secretes inflammatory hormones

and creates oxidative stress on the body's tissue, which contributes to many diseases. Thinking of obesity as a chronic, low-level inflammatory condition is a new approach. Obese dogs develop an increased risk for cancer, diabetes mellitus, heart disease, hypertension, osteoarthritis and faster degeneration of affected joints, urinary bladder stones, and anesthetic complications. On the other hand, obesity may be an indicator of diseases, such as hypothyroidism (an underactive thyroid gland) or Cushing's disease (overactive adrenal glands).

How can I tell if my dog is obese?

The very first step in dealing with an overweight or obese dog is to recognize and acknowledge that there is a problem. Unfortunately, we are inundated with images in the media of overweight dogs, making it challenging to understand what normal looks like. Your veterinarian and veterinary health care team can



assist with an assessment. Rib coverage is not only an important measurement to help you identify if your dog is overweight, but it is also easy for you to do at home, on your own. If you hold your hand palm down and feel your knuckles with the flats of the fingers on the opposite hand, this is how your dog's ribs should feel just behind the shoulder blades. It is also a good measure of weight loss progress between formal weigh-ins. Your veterinary health care team will provide an estimated ideal body weight to use as a target. Still, it is essential that they also do regular body condition assessments to ensure progress is being made toward normal body weight and body condition. Most veterinary practices use a body condition scoring system on a scale of either 1-5 (where 3 is ideal) or 1-9 (where 5 is ideal).

How do I adjust my dog's meals to help him lose weight?

Once you have identified that your dog is overweight or obese, it is important to adjust feedings specifically for weight loss using a specific diet, a specific portion,

and a specific meal frequency. There are veterinary formulated diets that help with healthy and safe weight reduction in dogs, such as Hills® Prescription Diet® Metabolic, Royal Canin® Satiety Support Weight Management, and Purina Overweight Management®. It is NOT appropriate to simply reduce the volume of their current food. This will cause malnourishment over time.

Feeding a diet with a lower overall calorie density that maintains an appropriate nutrient balance is essential. Your veterinary health care team can help you determine which nutritional products are best for your dog. Once the new food has been selected and the new portions are determined, it is critical that you be consistent with feeding—portions and meal frequency—and resist the temptation to provide extra snacks. Treats should make up no

more than 10% of your dog's daily calorie intake.

Regular monthly weigh-ins are important for successful canine weight loss and keep everyone accountable. It is essential to verify weight loss, to ensure that weight loss is neither too rapid nor too slow and to determine when enough weight has been lost.

What happens when we reach our weight loss goal?

Once an ideal body weight and condition have been achieved, it is important to maintain that weight. Once again, your veterinary health care team can help you find appropriate food and portions for weight maintenance.

Portion control is critical at this stage to prevent regaining weight. After so much hard work, a relapse into obesity would be disappointing. Article from vcahospitals.com



BREAST Cancer

AWARENESS PAW PRINTS

\$1

WHAT YOU DONATE WE'LL MATCH!

Shawnee Animal Clinic will match all donations made by our clients!

IN HONOR OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH WE WILL BE SELLING PAW PRINTS FOR \$1. YOUR NAME WILL BE WRITTEN ON YOUR PAW PRINT & DISPLAYED IN OUR MOOCHIE STORE.

All proceeds will go to benefit the SOMC Breast Cancer Compassion Fund



Upcoming Events

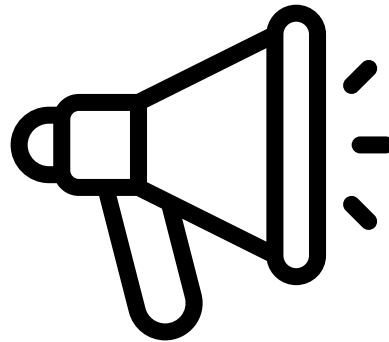
SHAWNEE ANIMAL
CLINIC GOES PINK

Donate to an Amazing Cause

Shawnee Animal Clinic will be holding our annual SOMC Compassion Fund Drive here at the clinic. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we will be selling pink paw-prints for \$1.00 each. For each dollar donation we receive, we will donate a dollar to the SOMC Compassion Fund. It is our hope that through this fundraiser, we can raise funds for research and treatment, and raise awareness of this cruel disease.

Every dollar counts when it comes to raising money for the Compassion Fund. This fund is used to support patients and assist with needs such as utilities, medications, transportation and common necessities needed during cancer care. Join us in the fight!

ATTENTION



SAC FYI

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GENERAL INFO

Follow Us On TikTok

Your friends at Shawnee Animal Clinic have now joined TikTok! Follow us on the app to see some hilarious and wholesome short veterinary related content.

Heartgard/Nexgard Fall Savings

We are offering free doses of Heartgard and NexGard now until November 2023 on eligible Heartgard & NexGard products. Savings are as follows:

When you purchase 6 doses of an eligible Heartgard product, you receive 1 dose of Heartgard for free.

When you purchase 6 doses of an eligible NexGard product, you receive 1 dose of NexGard for free.

October 2023

National Pet Wellness Month

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Walk Your Dog Week</p> <p>We know the weather is getting cold, but your best friend still loves to get out and walk!</p>			<p>World Animal Day</p> <p>Honor all of the special animals in your life on this day all about them!</p>			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				<p>Pet Obesity Awareness Day</p> <p>Obesity in pets is a serious issue. Ask us how you can help your pet today.</p>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Vet Tech Week</p> <p>Join us in celebrating all our amazing vet techs on their special day!</p>	<p>Global Cat Day</p> <p>Today is the day to celebrate all of our precious cats. Share of photo of your SAC cat and tag us facebook!</p>					<p>Reptile Awareness Day</p> <p>Take a moment to learn a new fact about reptiles today!</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				<p>National Black Cat Day</p> <p>Read up on some lore about black cats today. It's sure to get you in the spooky season spirit!</p>		<p>Pit Bull Awareness Day</p> <p>Join us on facebook to learn more about this loving breed.</p>
29	30	31				

Halloween

It's arguably one of the best holidays of the year! If you dress up your dog for Halloween, tag us on Facebook!

EVENTS BY SAC ARE IN RED