Welcome to the first edition of the Triple R Pets E-Newsletter

First, some formalities ... if you are receiving this e-mail and do not wish to stay on our e-newsletter mailing list, simply use the link at the end of this message to unsubscribe.

We hope you will choose to stay on the list! We promise to send no more than three e-mails a month, unless there is an emergency or urgent need for communication.

Rescue Puppies Ride Home on Air Force One

At the end of April, two little pups received a special ride home aboard Air Force One. While President Bush visited the Gulf Coast during National Volunteer Week, we had the privilege of discussing the animal-human bond with him and many of his staffers. Without a doubt, the images from Katrina have helped to raise the national focus that pets must be considered in evacuation and disaster recovery plans. You can read more about the visit on our web site.

> *A special thank you to Ben Waldman, Brogan Horton and Kim Bill for all their help in preparing for the visit and arranging for the pups' flight home. The two pups were part of a twenty-seven puppy rescue that Ben and Brogan orchestrated with a shelter that had scheduled the pups for euthanasia due to the overwhelming number of puppies and the underwhelming number of adoptive homes.*

First Pet-Friendly Shelter in Gulfport, MS - Volunteers Needed

This is first time a pet-friendly shelter will be open near the coast in Mississippi. Just north enough to be out of flooding areas, a high school will be turned into a resident and pet evacuation center. While residents will have primary care responsibility for their own pets, there will be a need for volunteers to help with check-in / out and to oversee the shelter operations. If you are interested in getting training and have scheduling flexibility to come down to Gulfport when an evacuation is imminent, please send an e-mail to Ben Waldman at ben@triplerpets.org. We anticipate anywhere from eleven to seventeen evacuations this coming season ... so the hope is to train a couple dozen volunteers so there is a good rotation of trained volunteers.

Preparing for Hurricane Season - Volunteers Needed

Everyone is busy making preparations for the upcoming hurricane season. The goal of Triple R Pets is to assist the residents in East Biloxi and surrounding areas so they are ready to evacuate with their pet. Our plans include providing information on pet-friendly shelter options and the necessary supplies to facility a smooth evacuation with an animal. In addition, we are micro-chipping animals so they can be easily identified, should an owner and pet become separated. A survey is being conducted while we are visiting residents to distribute supplies and information so an assessment can be made of how many animals and residents will utilize the pet-friendly shelter in Gulfport, MS. How can you help? Do you have some time to come to Biloxi during the first two weeks of July? If so, please contact us for more information. Volunteers will be provided safe, comfortable housing and three meals a day. This is not a labor intensive project, but volunteers will need to have their own transportation while in the area.

Foster Homes in the Chicagoland Area Are Needed

A great way to help without ever leaving home is to open your heart and home to a dog or cat who needs a place to stop along their journey to their fur-ever home. The stay could be for a weekend or a month, any time out of the kennel environment is appreciated by the animals. If you are interested in fostering a dog or cat, please contact us. We are currently in need of two foster homes for adult, trained and well behaved dogs and one puppy.

Got Food?

Right now, all along the Gulf Coast, there seems to be a shortage of pet food within local rescues and shelters. Dry dog and cat food is needed to sustain on-going efforts to feed those left behind, or those trying to rebuild their lives. Through the generosity of Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington, Illinois, food is being transferred to the Salvation Army warehouse in Biloxi, Mississippi. However, as quickly as we can move food south, it is being picked up by various groups in need. If anyone out there has the means to move about 1,500 pounds of food from Bolingbrook, Illinois to Bloomington, Illinois, please contact us. We can also use Wal-Mart or PetSmart gift cards to purchase food as necessary and any donations of food that can be shipped to Bloomington or directly to Biloxi would be outstanding!!

ARNO (Animal Rescue New Orleans) is also in need of food. Specifically dry cat food. Triple R Pets provided them with all the food we had in our warehouse, but they are continuing to maintain some 4,000+ feeding stations throughout New Orleans. Like Triple R Pets, ARNO is a grass-roots effort of folks helping the animals and residents. More cat food is headed to Biloxi which will be routed to ARNO, but it is still not enough to sustain them.

If anyone has any sourcing for bulk pet food donations, now's the time to

ask for food. Triple R Pets can help with warehousing and distribution, but we need more sources for food donations.

That's all for now everyone! We wish you all a safe and happy summer. Please continue to check the web site for regular updates (www.tripleRpets.org).

If you haven't planned a summer vacation yet, consider volunteering in Biloxi. We promise it may just be the most rewarding vacation you'll ever have!!

Regards,

Triple R Pets

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