



# For Life

M-SNAP's Online Public Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 2, September 2009

## Message from the President



M-SNAP is all about spay and neuter. But don't think that is all we do. Every day in every way, we are trying to change the mindset of our community. Offering financial assistance will definitely reduce the indiscriminate breeding/euthanasia cycle in Monongalia County. Shining a spotlight on pet overpopulation always gets attention. Publishing statistics on the number of homeless animals killed and the cost to taxpayers always surprises people. But if our work is to have long term success, we must train our children to respect animals and extend kindness to them. According to the 1933 PTA, "character training along these lines in youth will result in men and women of broader sympathies, more humane, more law abiding in every respect, and more valuable citizens".

Nancy Young

## Ongoing and Upcoming Events



M-SNAP is manning the concession stand at the South Morgantown Farmer's Market located at the Community United Methodist Church on the Grafton Road, across from the Clinton District Fire Station from 4 – 7 pm on Thursdays – check our calendar for latest dates!

Annual Fall Yard Sale, same location as above, Saturday, September 12 from 8 am to 4 pm - Rain or Shine. We will be accepting donations at the pavilion Friday noon – 5: check the calendar for complete information. This is one of our biggest fund-raisers, mainly because it's a great opportunity for you to donate your STUFF, buy someone else's STUFF, and all money raised goes to M-SNAP.



Golf Tournament at Meadow Ponds, October 4: Four-person scramble, shotgun start at 1 pm, 18 Holes with Cart, Dinner, \$40 per person. Keep an eagle eye on the calendar!

WOOFSTOCK – Mylan Park and M-SNAP present Woofstock, November 21, 10 am – 5 pm. Contests, games, merchandise, fun. Contact [m-snap@m-snap.org](mailto:m-snap@m-snap.org) if you can work this event.



Keep tabs on **M-SNAP** and other animal-related events. Click on the calendar icon to visit the M-SNAP Calendar. To return afterwards, please use your browser's BACK button.

## Greenmont Neighborhood Association Block Party Report

M-SNAP aimed most of its activities at the Greenmont Block Party at the kids. The paw-print stamped band-aid proved a popular prize for kids completing the Pets & Promises game and everyone got into



the tattoo-painting. Like many local neighborhoods, Greenmont has a stray cat “problem”, and M-SNAP has worked closely with the caring and kind residents to help get strays, as well as pets, spayed and neutered. Earlier this year, the association invited M-SNAP to a meeting to talk about challenges and solutions concerning animal overpopulation. Greenmont has taken active steps to address the problem, and M-SNAP is proud to be part of the solution. Thanks for the invite, Maria Gaddis and Missy Malarkey.

*Above: Member Teddi Lester and her lizard Savannah visit with Greenmont neighbors (Photo by John Gaddis: additional photos on pages 3 & 4 of the Photographs link at [www.greenmontna.ning.com](http://www.greenmontna.ning.com))*

### Did You Know...?



Cats can see colors – but not like people! According to Lamar Dean, expert author for EzineArticles, latest research shows cats can tell between red and green, red and blue, red and gray, green and blue, green and gray, blue and gray, yellow and blue, and yellow and gray. It’s taken a long time to figure this out because, apparently, cats don’t care about color (they hunt mostly at night). They are experts at telling between various shades of gray, and they see about six times better than people do in dim light (but they cannot see in complete darkness, that’s just an old myth). They are good at detecting motion. Cats are also rather far-sighted – things that stay still within six feet of them are just a blur. That’s why you sometimes see your pet cat run after some toy you throw, go to the correct area, but then can’t seem to see the toy.



Dogs are easier to test, and we know that they have no difficulty seeing the difference between colors at the opposite ends of the spectrum, like red and blue. They are very good with blues in general, quickly learning to tell blue from violet. But they don’t do so well with other colors, confusing greenish-yellow, orange, and red. Like cats, dogs can tell between different shades of gray better than humans can, and see about three times as well as we do in twilight. Their eyes are set far apart on their heads, so dogs have a much wider view of the world – about 250 degrees, almost three-fourths of a circle (this is called “peripheral vision”). Also like cats, dogs can detect motion well, but can’t focus on things that are close – although they’re better than cats here, since they “blur out” at two feet instead of six. On the other hand, what you can see (normal vision) at 75 feet, a dog can’t see until it is 20 feet away. (Color studies done at University of California at Santa Barbara)

## Feature Story – Morgantown Kid’s Day

On July 18, M-SNAP took to High Street in Morgantown to participate in the 2009 Morgantown Kid’s Day. Over a hundred kids visited the exhibit, where they could play one of three games or get a paint tattoo – and learn a little about pet overpopulation in the process.

The majority of the kids who visited had family pets – though not always the traditional dogs or cats. The



Pets & Promises game asks children to identify pictures of different kinds of pets and the “promises” we make to them just by owning them (like “to feed them”). It required adjustment for tropical fish, snakes, chickens and goats! The kids were impressive – many of them knew the less common pets like gerbils and ferrets, and got the promises quickly. At the end of the game comes the promise of “health” – a photo of a vet with a dog and a cat – and when the kids were asked why it was a good idea to have the vet make the cat or dog unable to have kittens or puppies, many of the kids said “because there are too many!” The ones who had to be given the answer had no trouble accepting the idea and agreeing with it. It’s heartening to see the younger generation has a good grip on responsible pet ownership – kudos, parents!

*Left: one of the younger Pets & Promises winners displays her prize, a paw-print stamp. (photo by M-SNAP)*

The Bone Game, a Shell-Game clone using pottery dog bones instead of shells or cups, was a big hit – mainly because of the prizes. Every bone had a hidden label to a bowlful of prizes including candy (all prizes are donated). Some chose less edible prizes, and not only at our exhibit: one of our members saw a boy picking up a handful of sand and putting it in his pocket. When she asked why, he said he wanted to take it home. You have to wonder if the sand survived parental dismay long enough to become a souvenir!



*Right: kids start gathering for the Bone Game. With their reflexes, they almost always beat the house. Below: Kids waiting for tattoos. (photo by M-SNAP)*

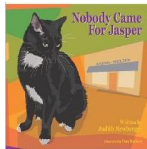


The tattoo-painting stations started on one side of the street with two painters, then it got so hot in the direct sunlight that the paints started drying up! We promptly poached space on the shady side of the street.. When our third painter showed up, the lines were so long that both first-shift painters stayed on the job. Even with three lines going, the painters stayed at work until the after the event was officially over, so everyone who wanted a tattoo got one.

## Book Review

Newberger, Judith. Nobody Came for Jasper. North Charleston, SC: Booksurge Publishing, 2007.  
Illustrated by Dan Madsen. Appropriate for children ages 4-6. Review by Lucinda Valero

*All books we review are available at Amazon.com. If you use the Amazon portal on our home page, you pay no more for what you buy, and Amazon donates a portion of the sale price to M-SNAP*



Nobody Came for Jasper tells the story of Jasper, a black and white cat in an animal shelter waiting to be adopted. Day after day, Jasper watches other cats being adopted and finally decides that he needs a way to draw attention to himself... The story is enjoyable. The illustrations are large and brightly colored, the vocabulary simple, and the text minimal and repetitive, making this a good book for children learning to read. While this book is not about spay/neuter, it provides a jumping off point for talking to children about pet overpopulation (for instance, you could ask children why there were so many cats waiting for homes).

## Generation Morgantown's Dog Fest

M-SNAP made many new friends at Generation Morgantown's Dog Fest on August 1. The featured event at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park was the 5K Canine Classic, but there were all-day activities like pet first aid presented by the Red Cross, and agility training by the Mountaineer Kennel Club. Susie Marks (shown behind table at right) and Nancy Young manned the M-SNAP table and both were impressed by the number of people who had heard about M-SNAP before visiting our table. M-SNAP rocks! For more photos and Generation Morgantown's coverage of the event, visit



[http://genmotown.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=66](http://genmotown.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=66)

## WISH LIST

M-SNAP is an all-volunteer non-profit organization serving Monongalia County. We depend on the generosity of our community to fund our voucher program, and also are very grateful to individuals and businesses for non-monetary contributions. For non-monetary donations, please contact us via phone or e-mail (information and e-mail generator are on our home page).

- office space
- printer toner
- laptop computer
- cartons of paper
- printer/fax/copier machine
- envelopes
- stamps