

# PET PROTECTORS

You Have The Power To Make a Difference

Presented by Misty Eyes Animal Center

SUMMER 2021  
ISSUE 2



## BE SAFE WHEN MEETING NEW PETS

The first time you meet a pet, remember that he may be afraid or nervous about meeting you! You may meet a friend's pet, or a stranger's pet, or even your own new pet. Whenever you meet any pet for the first time, remember to go slow! You probably want to hug that cute little furball but he may think you want to hurt him. Here are some tips to let any new pet know that you are nice and they can trust you:

If the pet belongs to another human, always ask first if you can pet him. Some owners are happy to have you meet their pet, while others know that their pet doesn't like meeting others. Let the pet come to you first, instead of you coming to him. Staying a short distance away from the pet, squat down and slowly reach out the back of your hand without touching the pet. Let the pet sniff you first. He's deciding if he wants to come closer or not.

If the pet decides to move away from you, that's ok! Do not chase it or grab it. That will cause it to fear you. You can try again later.

Talk to the pet in a friendly tone of voice. He won't understand what you are saying but he'll understand that you are friendly! Don't stare directly in the pet's eyes. Pets, especially dogs, think that staring means that you are not friendly.

If the pet is growling, has his ears pulled back, or is showing any signs of fear or being unhappy, move away but stay calm. Don't try to force it.

Sometimes it will take longer for a pet to feel comfortable around you. Other pets may feel comfortable with you or any one else right away. Either way, it's your job to let the pet know that you are friendly and safe. Give him time to make his own decision. If he decides to let you pet him, go slow and gentle. He may change his mind and that's ok! Or he may decide eventually that you are an awesome human and a great new friend!

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## WILDLIFE NEWS

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is tracking reports of sick and dying birds from around the state and working with the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (IN ADDL) and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center to find out what is causing this.

What can we do to help?

For now, we can stop feeding birds, take down bird feeders and bird baths and ask an adult for help cleaning them, report any sick or dead birds to the DNR, and avoid touching wild birds. (This is a good idea anyways!)

And let's thank the DNR for their work protecting our wildlife!



## Be Their Hero Report Animal Fighting

To Central Indiana Canine Crime Stoppers by calling 317.262. TIPS (8477). If your tip leads to a felony arrest, you could receive a reward of up to \$1,000. Callers claim their reward using an assigned code number.

# CAREERS WITH ANIMALS: PET GROOMER



Have you ever wondered what it was like to be a pet groomer? I have! To find out, I went to a local styling salon to talk to some professionals and learned that pet grooming can be a fun and satisfying career. When I got there, a friendly staff member introduced the three groomers who were working. They were grooming a cute, fluffy puppy, a patient cocker spaniel, and a somewhat nervous miniature dachshund. Throughout our conversation the groomers calmed the dogs with gentle touches and soothing voices while they brushed, clipped, and trimmed. A fourth staff member, a young apprentice, carried freshly bathed dogs from the kennels to the grooming tables and back. Many thanks to groomers and stylists Michelle, Chelsea, Brandy, and Brittany at PetAgree for sharing their love for their chosen career.

## What does a typical day look like?

Before opening for the day, they check their schedules, complete any last-minute cleaning, and gather their supplies. Once open for business, staff members meet the pet's owners, receive styling instructions and update health information. After they bathe the dog and blow dry its coat, groomers put the dogs onto tables where they are safely secured with leashes and halters. The groomers then use combs and brushes to gently remove knots and tangles in the fur. Next, they trim the fur using clippers for thick hair and scissors for more delicate areas and very precise styling, according to the breed and the owners' wishes. Once pad and nail trimming, ear cleaning, and other services are complete, the dog receives a colorful scarf or bow to show off their good looks and rests in a kennel, ready for pick up.

At the end of each session, groomers clean the tables and surrounding areas thoroughly and ensure their tools are clean and sharp. I learned that a beginning groomer may work on 4 to 5 animals a day, whereas more experienced groomers can take more. And yes, they occasionally groom cats and other animals!

## Why become a pet groomer?

As they worked, the women shared with me what they enjoy about their jobs. All of them like animals and agree that pet grooming and styling is a "labor of love." They preferred it over being a vet tech, a career path two of them had started on but quit. As they said, "We didn't like seeing animals in pain." Pet grooming provided a unique, alternative career they felt more suited for. They like the artistic aspect of styling, developing relationships with animals, helping owners detect problems with their pets (parasites, fleas, skin issues), and contributing to the overall health and happiness of the animals. They also take pride in helping prepare rescued animals for potential adoptions! But just because grooming is rewarding doesn't mean it's easy! The groomers pointed out that standing eight hours a day is hard on their backs and feet. They have been bitten, slobbered on, peed on, and pooped on. Some animals are large, strong, and physically demanding. The job isn't just "playing with puppies."

## What kind of education do you need to become a pet groomer?

I learned that most groomers get their experience by being an apprentice to an established groomer, sometimes even starting out while they are still in middle or high school. There is no Indiana state license for being a groomer; however, grooming schools and programs for certification are available.

## What about after school?

Is the job market in Indiana good? It definitely is, the groomers emphasized. Pet groomers can work in vet clinics, pet grooming salons, and local pet stores. Or they can start their own businesses, which might even involve mobile service.

## How much do pet groomers make?

Currently, the average salary in Indiana is around \$34,000, with more experienced groomers earning closer to \$50,000.

And that's a day in the life of a pet groomer! If you love animals, enjoy being artistic and creative, and are prepared to put in some hard work, pet grooming could be a great career choice! After all, what could be better than helping every animal look their best?

# BEHIND THE SCENES OF ANIMAL RESCUE

Did you know that a shelter is kind of like a school for dogs and cats? No, they don't have to take math or English, but they do learn a lot—sometimes they even have homework! Just like school is a place where we learn and make new friends, shelters, humane societies, and animal centers are that place for animals! Let's start at the beginning—kittens and puppies! These adorable little creatures are learning all about the world around them, like we do in elementary school. If possible, they'll stay with their mom and siblings until they are eight weeks old. During this time, they sleep, eat, and play a lot. (Recess, anyone?) These three things help them grow up to be strong, healthy cats and dogs! They also get shots and have regular check-ups with the vet, just like we have regular check-ups with the doctor.

But most animals at shelters aren't puppies or kittens anymore. These animals are older and came to the shelter because they didn't have a safe place to call home. Unlike the puppies and kittens, they can usually start looking for a forever home immediately! They might go to a foster home while they are waiting, which we can think of like high school—the step between elementary school and graduation!

Foster homes are homes where cats and dogs live until they are adopted. And foster homes are super important! Since the animals live there until they are adopted, the shelter has more space available for other animals who need help. It's also important because shelters can be very stressful environments. Living in a calm home ensures stressed dogs and cats can relax and continue living a happy and healthy life while they are up for adoption.

Being at a shelter or foster home is the perfect time for dogs and cats to learn a lot! Living in a safe place with food and water means they have the opportunity to play with new people, animals, and toys, sometimes for the first time. For animals that may not have had any training, this can include learning things like how to sit, stay, lay down, walk on a leash, and interact with others.

But the animals aren't the only ones learning! Volunteers and workers at the shelter and in foster homes spend this time learning about the animals themselves. From how social they are to what their favorite toys are, this information helps adopters and animals find their perfect match!

And just like we all look forward to graduating, these animals can look forward to being adopted! The day an animal finds its forever home is a special one indeed. Although it can be bittersweet to see a dog or cat you love leave the shelter or foster home, it's so exciting to know that it gets to go home with its new family. After all, everyone deserves a safe, loving home!



PET PROTECTORS

ARE KIND TO ALL ANIMALS

SPEAK UP WHEN THEY SEE A PROBLEM

LEARN ABOUT ANIMALS

ARE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

PRACTICE SAFETY AROUND PETS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## GUS, NEWSHOUND AT LARGE

Hot off the presses! This human interest story of Nomad a Doxie mix is one that ends well. At the site of the story volunteers from Misty Eyes found Nomad hardly responsive laying on the parking lot. Closer examination disclosed malnutrition, dehydration, and a very serious case of sarcoptic mange. Quick work placed Nomad in a foster home with a list of treatments. Today, after several weeks of recuperation the story is quite different. Nomad says, "I had so many baths that I was afraid that what little fur I had would be washed away! Now with the mange managed no one can even smell me. My ribs no longer show and my backbone is almost completely covered with new fur. I still have a ways to go before I have my full coat back but the most I have to worry about is sunburn and NOT the cold. Thanks to Misty Eyes and all the kind people I will soon have a forever home and never have to feel so unloved or unwanted that I give up hope."

This reporter was brought to tears while doing this interview. It was easy to visualize the Nomad that had completely given up on living, and didn't even have the strength to stand was now this happy pup lounging on his bed surrounded by toys and siblings who were wanting to play. Gus N. Hound (at large)

Why had Nomad given up hope?  
What made Nomad feel better?  
What would you do if you found a dog like Nomad?

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What would you like about being a groomer? What wouldn't you enjoy?
- What do dogs and cats do when they arrive at an animal rescue?
- What should you do when meeting a new pet?
- What should you do if you see a dog left in a car when it is hot?
- What should you do if you see a dog outside without shelter or water?

# WORD SEARCH

K F M M X A O H S Y C I X L N  
J J V E B L C W C H J C P G S  
C L I P P E R S G T A T S E C  
Z X O E X U W A V C J M T D I  
H E W Z U L P D S J J J P T S  
B A N D A N A P P F V R S O S  
D D Q O L G L G Y D E M Z W O  
A X C G S Z D H R Y M V E E R  
T C F O V U T E F O D W F L S  
U U V I O Q H B S Q O E C Y G  
K A K N F E Q A R M J M O C L  
Q A K M W H X T L U Y S E G D  
J G I N H U O H Z K S Z T R D  
S D F I S Y O L M I O H H R M  
J M Z F U A B O W R B I R F T

- DOG
- GROOMER
- TOWEL
- BOW
- BANDANA
- SHAMPOO
- CLIPPERS
- BATH
- PUPPY
- SCISSORS
- BRUSH



# KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY

## SPAYING AND NEUTERING YOUR PET SAVES LIVES

Low Cost Spay/Neuter - Brownsburg  
317-203-3060  
6315 West Washington Street

Pet Vaccination Clinic - Indianapolis  
317-203-3060  
6315 West Washington Street

FACE Low Cost Animal Clinic - Indianapolis  
1505 Massachusetts Ave  
317-638-3223

Indy Humane Downtown Clinic - Indianapolis  
456 N. Holmes Ave  
317-872-5650

FIDO Pet Food Pantry  
1505 N Sherman Drive  
First Saturday of the month, 10am - 4pm  
(Marion County Residents Only Please)

Hendricks County Pet Food Pantry  
317-745-3338 for appointment  
Serving Hendricks County Residents

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