



# The Paw Print

*The Pet Pals of Texas Newsletter*



## How Can You Help Pet Pals?

You can help our organization, and our planet, by donating your empty printer cartridges and old cell phones to us so that we may recycle them into cash! These items may be dropped off at our office which is located at 7340 Blanco Road, or you may ship them to us at: Pet Pals of Texas, 9834 Meadow Branch, Converse, Texas 78109. Do you know of a business or office that would like to allow us to place a drop-off donation bin in their establishment?

If so, contact Kelly Crespin at [krcrespin@satx.rr.com](mailto:krcrespin@satx.rr.com) today!

By using GoodSearch.com as your Internet search engine, you can help support our organization! To download the search toolbar and learn more, visit:

<http://www.goodsearch.com>

Volunteer! There are new things going on all the time. Try to sign up for one event per month. Check out the calendar of events in each issue of the Paw Print.

## Letter from our President

### Happy Holidays!

With the hustle and bustle of the upon us, it is so easy for us to get wrapped up in buying presents for our family and friends, and with decorating our houses, that we tend to forget those in need who are homebound, like Wendy. Wendy, an avid cat lover who is suffering from multiple sclerosis, has been a participant in our program for three years. She lives on the South side of San Antonio in a run down mobile home park with her adult son who assists with her daily care. Their modest trailer is cozy, yet clean. Together, their income is less than \$800 per month, and they have no extended family to help with their support.



*Vicki and Dylan*

Wendy, who cannot sit for extended periods of time, spends her days lounging on her sofa with her cats keeping her company. They are her joy and keep her entertained for hours on end. Once a month, Linda Whittington and I deliver cat food and litter to her and check the health and condition of her fur babies. And every time that we visit, Wendy blesses us for the care that we give to her cats, which are her family.

Each day, I thank God for putting Wendy in my life...especially during this time of year when it can be so easy to become overcome by materialism and holiday reveille. Helping her, and the many other participants in our program, truly exemplifies the Christmas Spirit.

May peace and joy be with you,

Vicki Jurney-Taylor  
President

## December Volunteers of the month!

In December, our Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of ALL of our volunteers, not just one. Without their support, we would not be able to provide ongoing care to the cherished pets that live with the disabled, elderly, and terminally ill. Thank you all of our volunteers....you guys ROCK!



## December Birthdays:

David Neathery – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Jane Hollingsworth – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Robert McCormick – 10<sup>th</sup>

## December Treat Recipe

### *Fleas Navidad Muffins*

2 tablespoons honey  
2 3/4 cups water  
1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce  
1 egg  
1/2 cup chopped peanuts  
4 cups whole-wheat flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 tablespoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
In a bowl, mix together liquids.  
In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients. Combine wet and dry ingredients and mix well.  
Spoon into greased muffin tins, filling each cup 2/3 full.  
Bake 35 minutes.

Makes 16 festive holidog muffins.

Courtesy of [getrecipe.com](http://getrecipe.com)  
Edited by Shannon Adolph

## Summer - the Pet Pals Mascot



We would like to take a moment to introduce you to Summer, our mascot, pictured left with Santa. No doubt, you have seen her at many of our events. Adopted in July of last year from San Antonio Chihuahua Rescue, she was only 7 weeks old, weighed less than one pound, and could fit in the palm of your hand! Her previous owners had allowed fleas to infest her and her litter mates causing them to become anemic and lose their fur. Tiny Summer also suffered from an ulcer on her cornea, so her first trip was to the Banfield Pet Hospital to visit Dr. Ethel Mou, who fixed her right up!

Today, Summer lives with Pet Pals' President, Vicki Journey-Taylor. Now weighing nearly four pounds, she bosses her adopted sibling cats and Dylan, the keeshond, around the house! She also enjoys chasing toads, treasure hunting in her backyard, and hanging with her friends at the dog park...except when one of them tries to carry her off in their mouth. Summer loves meeting people and going places, too. But, don't try to dress her up in those cutesy dog clothes because she will sulk and pout.

## Pet Pals and Avon Fundraiser!

Pet Pals is partnering up with AVON for a fundraiser to help us raise money for Pet Pals of Texas. Pet Pals will receive 40% of all money spent on AVON products but this fundraiser is only for a limited time! This is a great time to purchase Christmas presents for family and friends. If you haven't seen an AVON catalog in awhile, you'll be surprised at all they offer...beauty products, yes, but also gift items, toys, clothes, and more!

If you are interested in purchasing AVON and helping our cause, please note that there are a few options- you can order from the full brochure or product specific flyers- that you can choose from. Catalogs, brochures, order forms and payment envelopes can be picked up at Vicki's house; due to Pet Pals status no taxes need to be collected however there is a 75¢ service charge per order. All money must be paid at the time the order is placed and the deadline to turn in orders and money is December 11. All orders will be available for pickup on December 15. Heather, our AVON representative, will take cash, checks, or credit cards (VISA and M/C only).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather at 210-413-6250. We'll be sure to let you all know in a future newsletter how much money this fundraiser earned for Pet Pals of Texas. Thank you for your support!



### Thinking of Bringing a Pet Home for the Holidays?

Shannon Adolph



While cuddly, cute puppies and kitties under the Christmas tree may seem irresistibly appealing, it usually isn't the best idea for you or the new pet.

- Christmas morning, with all the sights, sounds, smells, and excitement, can be frightening to a new pet, and is the worst time to introduce him into the family. He needs to be introduced to his new home and family during a more quiet and relaxed quiet time.

- By Valentine's Day, most Christmas presents have been shelved or broken or traded or forgotten. The excitement inevitably wears off, and the once compelling toy becomes something to use and discard in favor of something newer. A living animal should not be thought of in the same category as a Christmas toy. This will not teach children one of the most valuable lessons to learn from a pet, which is respect for living beings and concern for others' needs.

- Pets require a lot of attention, training, work, household adjustments, and expense for many years. These are often things that people don't think of when oohing and aahing over the cute tumbling little bar of fur.

If you are absolutely set upon getting a pet for Christmas, consider doing this: Purchase some supplies - a collar, some toys, a book on raising a kitten or puppy, or a gift certificate to a pet supply store. Wrap these up and put them under the tree instead. Then, after the Christmas tree is taken down and the frenzy of the holiday season is behind, the family can once again enjoy together the anticipation and excitement of discussing and selecting the new family member. It will be a project the family has done together, which is a much better start both for the pet and the owners.

And most importantly, of course, adopt your new pet from a shelter or rescue group!

### Tips for a Pet-Friendly Winter

With colder winter weather on its way -- not to mention the busy holiday season -- pets need a little extra loving care. Below are some precautions you can take to ensure a happy holiday season for the furry members of your family.

Keep pets inside when the temperature drops. Many animals are highly susceptible to the cold and can get frostbite.

Make sure antifreeze is inaccessible, and clean up any spills in your garage immediately. Antifreeze has a sweet taste animals find irresistible, but it can be deadly if swallowed.

Don't give your pet holiday leftovers, especially bones. Bones can damage teeth and digestive tract, as well as cause choking. Many human foods are also toxic to dogs and cats.

Keep tinsel, ribbons and garlands away from pets. If ingested, these can become lodged in animals' intestines, causing life-threatening obstructions.

Secure or cover light cords to deter chewing. Pet-proof extension cords are an even better way to make sure your pet does not get a shock.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Pet Pals of Texas is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to help improve the quality of life for the elderly, terminally ill, and people with disabilities by providing the pets they love with support services that will allow them to stay together in a loving, healthy home.

## VALUE COMMITMENTS

PET PALS of TEXAS is committed to:

- Building stronger COMMUNITIES in the areas which we serve by helping one another.
- Fostering the spirit of COMPASSION for both pets and their families who need our support.
- Celebrating the LOVE which exists between pet parent families and their companion animals.

Comments, questions, feedback, suggestions?

### Contact us!

Pet Pals of Texas  
9834 Meadow Branch  
Converse, Texas 78109

210-658-8821

[petpalsoftexas@aol.com](mailto:petpalsoftexas@aol.com)

We're on the Web!

<http://www.petpalsoftexas.org>

[http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/pet\\_pals\\_of\\_texas/](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/pet_pals_of_texas/)

## KRITTER KUPBOARD MORSELS

Pet Pals' food bank, The Kritter Kupboard, is currently supplying food and other supplies to eighty one furry clients.

They are:

25 Cats

15 Small Dogs

21 Large Dogs

19 Medium Dogs

And last, but not least, 1 finch

Our inventory of dog food is enough to last several months, due to generous donations by Petco and The Humane Society of Bexar County, plus The Animal Defense League. However, cat food and litter continues to be an on going problem. We are currently purchasing these supplies each month, and it is a drain on the budget. Any contributions or food drives to procure cat supplies would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to food, the Kritter Kupboard also provides flea control and heart worm prevention medications on an as needed basis.

This program would not be possible without the help of a group of nineteen volunteers who pick up and deliver the supplies the first Saturday of every month. They are our front line representatives, who go into the homes of our participants, and demonstrate the spirit of Pet Pals to both the human and furry creature we serve. As manager of the Kritter Kupboard, I know that this program would not be possible without my crew. Thank you guys for all you do.

Loyce Journey  
Kritter Kupboard Manager



## DECEMBER EVENTS



**December 1-2, 8-9, & 15-16**---Photos with Santa at the PETsMART on IH-35 at Windcrest from 11:00-4:00. Each photo package costs just \$9.95 (or \$8.95 if you have a PetPerks card) and includes a 4X6 digital photo of your family and pet in a holiday keepsake frame. Proceeds benefit Pet Pals of Texas, so bring your entire menagerie to visit jolly ol' St. Nick!

**December 22**---Pet Pals Holiday Party at Vicki's house. The festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. and include a potluck dinner, a White Elephant gift exchange, caroling, and fun for all ages! Please R.S.V.P. to [petpalsoftexas@aol.com](mailto:petpalsoftexas@aol.com) by December 20th.

**December 25** -- Merry Christmas!

**January 1** -- Happy New Year!

**January 5**-- Pet Food Delivery Day @ 9 am.

**January 6**---Bow Wow Meow Luau 2008 Planning Meeting in the H-E-B Central Market Community Room on Broadway at 2:00 p.m.. All persons wishing to help make this event a success are invited to attend and input ideas. Remember, it takes a village to plan a great Luau!

**January 26**---New Volunteer Orientation in the Conference Room of the Castle Hills Storage facility located at 7340 Blanco Road at 10:00.