



what's inside



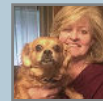
Would you like to become a volunteer from the comfort of your home at your schedule?

PAGE 2



Learn how to protect your pets from safety hazards during the shorter days of autumn.

PAGE 3



We profile long-time volunteer, Devonna Ijames, with her famous calendar pup, Gizzy.

PAGE 4

Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

REASON for Burke

voice of REASON:

helping you care for the pets you love!

Fall 2024



VACCINES. This has become a controversial word in our society as of late. But when it comes to our pets, the science is clear: vaccines save lives. And MONEY.



Dee with Pilot

Anyone who's ever watched a puppy die from parvovirus will tell you that is not something you would wish on your worst enemy.

and is still not guaranteed to cure the illness.

Vaccinating your pet can help prevent serious life-threatening diseases for them, for other pets they may come in contact with, and for YOU!

Imagine the most extreme case of food poisoning you can think of and multiply that by ten. The nausea, diarrhea, dehydration is pure torture for any living being. And it kills.

The parvo vaccine, typically given in combination with other life-saving vaccines, costs as little as \$15. The treatment for parvo, if contracted, can cost several thousand dollars

There are a few diseases that can be transmitted from pets to humans – rabies being the most well-known. Rabies vaccines are required in North Carolina for both dogs and cats and are required for using REASON's spay/neuter assistance program. We have to do our part to prevent diseases that are so contagious, so harmful, and frankly, unnecessary.

(continued on page 2)

state of REASON: celebrating pets

October

- National Animal Safety & Protection Month
- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- October 1: National Black Dog Day
- October 27: National Black Cat Day

November

- Adopt a Senior Pet Month
- November 3-9: National Animal Shelter and Rescue Appreciation Week (observed the first week of November)
- November 25: National Adoption Day (observed the Monday before Thanksgiving)
- National Cat Lovers' Month

December

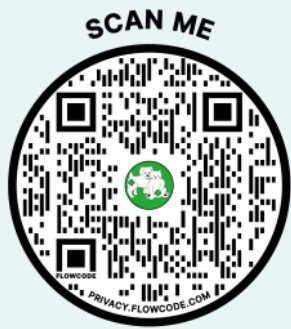
- December 2: National Mutt Day
- December 10: International Animal Rights Day

(continued from page 1)

Vaccinations are also more cost-effective than treating a sick pet. For most of our low-income population, vaccines are one of the cheapest ways to enhance the health of your pet! By investing in vaccines, you can avoid high medical costs and the emotional distress of having a seriously ill pet.

“All our local vets and clinics have vaccines available for your pet, and I encourage you to work with them to establish and maintain an appropriate vaccination schedule tailored to your pet’s needs.”

**Dee Schaller Greene
President**



Total Spays/Neuters Supported by REASON (as of September 2024)

5,834

REASON process: part 1

calling REASON’s phone number

So what happens when you call the REASON number? First, you’ll leave us a message. Tell us who you are and how we can help you, and leave a number for us to call back. The Careline is always checking messages, so you will receive a call back as soon as possible.

When we call you back, we’ll do a simple phone interview. We’ll determine if you qualify for our services. This is calculated based on your annual household income, so you need to have that information on hand when you pick up. REASON’s services are reserved for the community

members who need it most, and we can only help so many each month, so this step is very important!

If you do qualify, the next thing you’ll need to provide is contact information: your phone number, mailing address, and email address if you have one.

Then comes the fun part: Tell us all about your pets! There are some things we need to know, such as whether the animal to be fixed is male or female and if it’s a cat, whether it’s tame or

feral (wild). We’ll ask for the animal’s age and weight or a best guess if you’re not sure. We also need to know if your animal friend has any health conditions or problems, such as fleas, that a vet needs to know about.

Once we have the information we need, we will tell you where and when to go for registration. To learn more about this part of the process, check out the next edition of our newsletter!

Call: 828-403-3675



points to ponder: become a REASON volunteer

[Open Volunteer Application](#)

Click above or type in browser:
reason-burkenc.org/volunteer/

Would you like to volunteer for REASON in the comfort of your own home?

Do you have good communication skills and enjoy talking to people about their pets? Could you volunteer a few hours a month?

If so, then Careline might be a great fit for you!

What is Careline? Careline is the life force of our organization. It is the first contact people make with REASON. This is how potential clients get in contact with us to have their pets spayed and neutered.

In a typical day as a Careline volunteer, you would respond to voicemails, call people to determine their eligibility for

the programs we offer, and submit an application for registration.

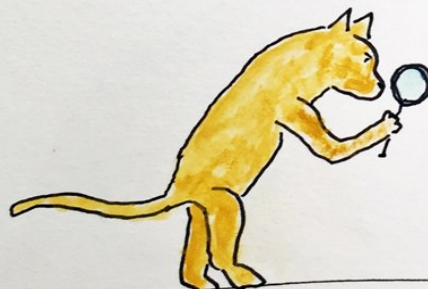
How do you get started? Complete the volunteer application on the website.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Yellow Cat

Yellow Cat says don't vacillate... vaccinate. There are many unseen things that make our pets ill.



© 2024 Tim White



Follow us on Facebook

Reason - Reduce Euthanasia and Spay or Neuter

Visit us on the web at:
reason-burkenc.org

autumn safety tips for pets



Keep Protecting Against Fleas, Ticks, and Other Pests:

Ticks stay active as long as temperatures are above freezing and the ground isn't frozen or covered with snow. They go into homes when the weather cools down.

Check the Microchip: More pets go missing around the holidays when people are coming in and out of your home. If your pet is already microchipped, double-check the contact information.

Watch the Weather:

How cold is TOO cold for pets? Pets are different sizes, shapes, and body types, but as a general rule, temperatures lower than 40 degrees F for small dogs or 35 degrees F for large dogs would be uncomfortable for outside pets. Because cats are smaller, the temperatures should be set even higher.



Review Diets: On cooler days, your pet is probably more active. Consider increasing calories to account for the extra energy he's using. If your pet has joint troubles, ask the vet about a supplement.

Pet-Proof the Yard: Pick up rotten fruit, break off any bare sticks, and watch for antifreeze spills from your car that may endanger your dog. If you use poisons to kill rodents, make sure pets can't reach them.



Walk Safely: Fall brings fewer hours of sunlight so you may be walking your dog in the dark. If possible, choose a well-lit area for your walks, be sure to put reflective gear on yourself and your pup, and always keep your dog on a leash. Flashlights are also handy for improving visibility.

Watch Out for Wildlife: Coyotes, bobcats, skunks, snakes, and other wild animals are getting ready for winter. Know how to recognize a poisonous snake in your area and keep pets away from those locations. Always pay close attention to your surroundings and keep your dog on a leash.



Avoid Allergens: Just like people, pets can itch, sneeze, and cough from things like ragweed and mold. Talk to your vet about allergy treatments.

Watch Out for Toxic Fall Plants: Acorns, if eaten, can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Dogs that eat spoiled, fermented apples are at risk for alcohol toxicity. Wild mushrooms also pop up everywhere in autumn. Most (99%) are harmless. The other 1% can cause stomach upset or serious, long-term damage, including death. It's hard to tell which mushrooms are dangerous, so the safest plan is to supervise outside play time and regularly scan your pet's path for fresh fungi. Contact the vet if you suspect he's eaten a mushroom.



Are you passionate about saving lives of dogs and cats? Could you contribute to REASON's mission of providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance to Burke County residents who are not able to afford the surgeries?



TAX

4

steps for donating to REASON

REASON is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. This means that you can make a donation to REASON and claim a tax deduction when you file your income taxes.

Decide on the amount

If you can donate money, decide on the amount you can afford. Can you make a one-time donation? Could your donation be on a regular basis?

Make the donation

Whenever you feel ready, you can make your donation. If you are donating cash, send a check or money order to **REASON, PO Box 633, Rutherford College, NC 28671**. You will receive a thank you letter as an official receipt of your contribution.

Keep your receipt

The donation process is now complete—but don't throw away that receipt!

Claim your tax deduction

When it's time to file your income taxes, you may be able to use your charitable donation to reduce your taxable income.



You may also donate to REASON via PayPal from our website:

reason-burkenc.org/donate



To find out if you qualify for pet neuter or spay surgery assistance, contact REASON at 828.403.3675.

within REASON: Devonna Ijames

Devonna Ijames loves all animals, especially dogs and has three dogs of her own - Gizzy, Peanut, and Quinn. Gizzy is a bit of a legend as she was a previous "Miss January" aka "MJ" for the Friends for Animals calendar. She is known for her beautiful smile, although now she is missing quite a few of those pearly whites.

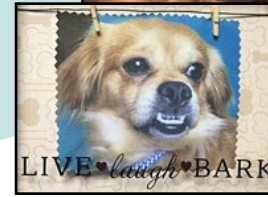
Devonna has been a REASON volunteer for 10 years and counting! She served as Treasurer for most of those years and currently serves as a board member. She also enjoys meeting with clients at

registration, collaborating with animal advocacy agencies, and spending time with the other REASON volunteers.

Devonna volunteers with REASON because she loves the feeling that we are making a difference in reducing the euthanasia rate in our county as well as helping our clients with their pets. She thinks YOU should be a volunteer because it is extremely rewarding to help people less fortunate as well as seeing the decline in the euthanasia rate. You also can't beat the close-knit "family" of volunteers within REASON!



Devonna with Gizzy



safe holidays: recognize deadly decorations



Pumpkins. Bumpy gourds. Golden bales of fragrant hay. Mums with sunny blooms. Beautiful autumn decorations! But how SAFE are these decorations?

Although beautiful, chrysanthemums (i.e. mums, daisies) are toxic to dogs and cats. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), these plants could cause vomiting, diarrhea, excess salivation, skin inflammation, and loss of coordination.



And while pumpkins, gourds, and hay aren't toxic, they can still cause problems. Toxic molds can grow on these fall favorites and eating large amounts of seeds and hay can cause intestinal issues. So, the safest thing you can do is to keep your pet and your porch decorations separate.



What about inside your house with flowing streamers, plastic pumpkins, Christmas bulbs?

Your pet probably sees them as chew toys. The problem is that these decorations may contain toxic glues or paints and can cause deadly intestinal blockages if swallowed.



The fix? If you have a dog, keep your decorations out of their reach. If you have a cat, good luck trying to keep ANYTHING out of their reach!



call us:
828-403-3675

email us:
reason.nc.org@gmail.com

write us:
PO Box 633
Rutherford College, NC
28671

REASON's mission: save the pets in Burke County...

To eliminate the killing of healthy and unwanted cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ providing low-cost spay/neuter surgical fee assistance through partnerships with private practice veterinarians and low-cost clinics,
- ♦ collaborating with other animal welfare groups,
- ♦ promoting education on the humane treatment of animals.



inside the next issue:

- REASON's process: registration
- why neuter dogs and cats?
- pet love toward owners: is it real?