

PAWS finds families for homeless animals

By LAUREN REBECCA NYE
Collegian Staff Writer

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP — Speedy is marked "adopted — application pending" and Anthea in the corner is labeled "kind of wild." Others are sleeping snuggled in the warmth of twos, while Lucky, rescued from a neighbor's drowning hands, is innocently chasing a toy mouse.

These cats and kittens, habitants of Centre County's Promotion of Animal Welfare and Safety (PAWS) Animal Shelter, 1042 Benner Pike, are just a few that represent the community's and nation's growing number of homeless animals.

The Humane Society of the United States sponsored National Animal Shelter Awareness Week last week to recognize the efforts of volunteers across the nation.

This year, the focus spotlighted the contributions made by animal control officers, who work to resolve conflicts and aid injured or stray animals.

About 30 volunteers offer their time each week at PAWS, a registered nonprofit group, to remedy the problem of pet overpopulation through its spay-neuter, education and adoption programs.

Because the shelter is also a no-kill facility, the animals are housed until they can be placed in a good home. Some are turned in by owners who cannot care for them, while others are strays. Unlike the Humane Society, PAWS does not use officer enforcement, but instead depends on calls and pickups from community members.

To ensure a proper home for the animals, PAWS requires adopting "parents" to fill out an application, complete with a listing of references and other household pets.

"We don't discriminate against students as long as they can provide a good home for the animal."

— Carla Hass
volunteer at PAWS

Because many students attempt to adopt animals for their school residences, PAWS requires a copy of the student's lease as documentation of the allowance for pets. Carla Hass, a research associate in the Penn State biology department and a PAWS volunteer, said an increase in stray animals occurs at the end of each semester, a possible result of student abandonment.

"We don't discriminate against students as long as they can provide a good home for the animal," Hass said. "However, the pet's welfare and long-term placement in a committed, loving home is our number one priority."

Melissa Lyons-Emel of Bellefonte has been coming to the shelter for the past four weeks, looking for the right animal to adopt.

"I like that it's a no-kill shelter, and it is helpful that the people here know each animal's personality," Lyons-Emel said. "It's great because they will work with you in order to find a cat or dog that is right for you."

PAWS' adoption fee covers not only rescue expenses, food and medical supplies and advertising, but a spay/neuter deposit, which is later refunded upon the documentation for such services. Still, all are encouraged to donate money, food, litter, towels and pet carriers.

Bug off

Pest management program safe for Penn State ecology

By ALISON BALMAT
Collegian Staff Writer

Film trees lining State College streets and adorning campus are being protected for future generations through a technique called Integrated Pest Management.

IPM controls insects and weeds with safe, environmental methods rather than relying solely on chemical treatments, said Ed Rajotte, associate professor of entomology and IPM coordinator for Pennsylvania.

"IPM is not a pesticide-free

pest control," Lee Bentz, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture IPM coordinator, said. "(IPM techniques) include prevention, maintenance, genetic, biological, cultural and chemical alternatives."

The most problematic pest on campus is the beetle that causes Dutch elm disease, an affliction treated by IPM techniques, said Paul Ruskin, public relations spokesman for the Office of the Physical Plant.

Of about 11,000 trees on campus, only about 300 are elms, he

said. Yet, he said maintenance personnel spend about 42 percent of their time in elms because they are valued by the community.

"If we want to keep the green resources of the campus in the condition we are used to them being in, then pesticides and herbicides are part of the ammunition that we use to make that happen," Ruskin said.

OPP assesses the situation — considering nonchemical alternatives fitting to the pest problem first. Pesticides are used as a last resort.

"We have to be careful that we apply (pesticides) on the right type of plant at the right time," Ruskin said.

Pesticides are applied to the elms a few times each year by trained personnel, and signs are posted to inform the public that pesticides are necessary and are of low-toxicity, Ruskin said. "We are very proud of the landscaping on our campus and the physical plant crews are doing everything they can be just as proud of the landscaping on our campus 50 years down the road," he said.

More pest control education addresses concerns, issues

By ALISON BALMAT
Collegian Staff Writer

Concern surrounding pesticide use on school property is being addressed through Integrated Pest Management education.

Penn State's colleges of Agriculture and Education are working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture and Education to educate students and teachers about IPM techniques as a safer, more effective way to manage pests.

"IPM is a good way to teach students how to solve complicated problems in the real world," said Ed Rajotte, associate professor of entomology and IPM coordinator for Pennsylvania.

"It is a very good example of how humans have to interact with

the environment," he added.

In October 1997, Pennsylvania schools were surveyed about their IPM education programs and practices. The results showed many schools lacked strong IPM education. According to the survey, 60 percent of the respondents had heard of IPM, but only 55 percent knew the meaning of the term.

Recent accomplishments have schools on their way to establishing successful IPM programs.

Last week, a memorandum of understanding was signed "to promise to put IPM in all the school systems in the state," Rajotte said.

Pennsylvania also is implementing IPM as a standard subject to be taught classes from kindergarten through 12th-grade,

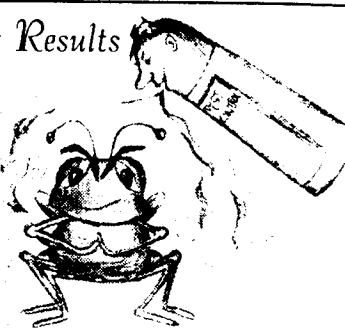
IPM in Schools Survey Results

Have you heard the term Integrated Pest Management or IPM?

Y=60 percent
N=35 percent
Don't know=5 percent

Does your school have a written pest management policy?

Y=23 percent
N=53 percent
Don't know=20 percent
No response=4 percent



Do you use IPM in your school?

Y=46 percent
N=16 percent
Don't know=10 percent
No response=28 percent

Source: www.ifas.ufl.edu/~schoolipm

Collegian Graphic/Jamie Perruquet

Rajotte said. He expects demand for the IPM program to increase dramatically as teachers need instructional and curriculum materials.

"If a school is practicing IPM,

it gives them a living laboratory," said Lee Bentz, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture IPM coordinator. "They'll see that what they are doing really has an impact on their school."

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