



“Dogs, Cats & Storms”

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“Thunderstorm Season”, it’s dreaded by dogs, cats and many owners alike. Each year, thousands of animals are lost, harmed or stressed due to fear of this seasonal weather. Many of these same animals can even lapse into illness due to their fears. Research has shown that a growing assortment of remedies have been found which can be used as a calming affect on some of these cats and dogs.

Finding an effective antidote is vital, as we don’t have any “magic wands”. If it appears that your animal is having discomforts, it is up to you to intervene. Symptoms to watch for include panting, pacing, trembling or drooling when storms roll through. They can become even more agitated, and in extreme cases, may dig out of or leap over enclosures. Often times, a pet will rip apart rooms, scratch at carpeting or doors until they are bleeding, urinate or defecate in the house, and even leap through plate glass windows. This can result in tragedy. Early intervention will keep fear reactions from escalating to the extreme end.

Generally, a variety of calming agents will fall into three categories.

-Non-medical intervention: Animals with mild reactions may respond to calming CDs such as Feline or Canine Lullabies, room diffusers or collars containing dog/cat appeasement pheromone. This is a synthetic equivalent to a pheromone secreted by a nursing female.

-Herbals or botanicals: Sedaplus, which contains valerian and other extracts, is sometimes “prescribed to dogs” reducing anxiety without side effects. Alternative-treatment vets often prescribe products formulated for stressed felines or canines. Going to a health-food store and getting pet-calming advice and capsules can be dangerous. Even herbals can be toxic if the improper dose is given. Giving these to animals on other medications is extremely “risky”.

-Human medications: According to certified animal behavioral consultant, “Lee Livingood of Harrisburg”, antidepressants such as Prozac or Zoloft are being prescribed April through October, sometimes in combination with a sedative such as a generic Xanax, given only on storm days. These medications however, can cause side affects. Each of your pets should be treated on an individual basis according to the recommendations of your personal vet. Many Veterinarians warn owners not to use pills from their medicine cabinets as dosages must be extremely low, and drug interactions must be considered.

Find a “safe haven” where your pets can be comfortable throughout the duration of a storm. It is better to find a room that does not contain windows such as a bathroom or room in a lower level of your home. When the stormy season is over, experts advise that you desensitize your animals. Be patient—as with reassurance, care and comfort, your animals will eventually learn to cope.

Featured pets this week are “Gilmore” and “Tucker”. “Gilmore” is a medium to long haired black and white Maine Coon cross. He is a male and neutered. He is very playful and gets along fairly well with other cats and dogs. He is up to date on his basic kennel vaccinations. He loves to play with toy mice, is very friendly, and enjoys watching the daily activities in the cat room. “Tucker” is a black and brown shepherd-cross, spayed, female, 1-2 year old dog. She is medium in size. She loves to be outside. She is not fond of children, so needs to be in a home with young adults or adults. She has been at the shelter now for approximately 6 months. She came in as a stray dog. She needs a large yard to romp and play in. She gets along fine with most other dogs.

Beltrami Humane Society strives to protect the comfort and safety of our animals. We do not allow our animals to be walked during inclement weather, and ask that all volunteers (as well as staff), handle each animal with care. Animals at our Humane Society are not there by choice, and are often stressed due to their unknown environment. Some have come from abusive homes, and are very fearful of strangers. They need socialization, and as much comfort and love as they can be offered. If you can provide a special cat or dog with a brand new home of its very own, visit us at 1612 Carr Lake Rd, SE, Bemidji, MN. Check out our website photo gallery at www.beltramihumane.com or see a number of our animals on www.petfinder.com. See our “Pets of the Month” posted at Pamida, a few of our animal pictures are posted at the ends of the Pet aisles at Walmart (we are participants of the Very Best Pet Network) and hear about our “Pet(s) of the Week on KKBJ Mix 103 (early show). Our hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. We are closed Mondays due to taking animals in for spays, neuters and vet appointments, running inventory checks, working on weekly prep and being “out and about” in our community. If you need to pick up an already adopted animal or are interested in an adoption, please call for an appointment so we can have a staff person available to help you. Our phone number is (218) 751-7910. We will call you back ASAP.

Upcoming Events: Our 30th Anniversary coming up in July, “Walk for Animals” coming up in September. Watch these articles for more information to come.

Finally, remember to “Spay and Neuter” your animals (if you do not want litters of puppies or kittens). Help us keep stray animals off our streets and in “safe homes”.

Shelter Wishes: ***Kitten Chow*** cat chow, puppy chow, dog chow, paper towels, bleach, Lysol disinfectant spray.

Special Request: Power Washer for dog kennels, Small gravel for Dog Yards

Thank you very much from the animals, and all of us at Beltrami Humane Society!