

## Program to match homeless pets with homes to come to local site

The "information highway" is turning out to be the road to a new home for many abandoned dogs and cats in the Detroit area, thanks to the efforts of a recently formed non-profit group.

The Michigan Animal Adoption Network has come up with a first-of-its-kind program that uses computer technology to "match" homeless dogs and cats with people seeking to adopt a pet. The service also is used for those seeking specific breeds of pets.

"People can call our toll-free number and tell us what kind of dog or cat they want, in terms of its breed or breed-type, age, sex, and size, and we'll draw on our software database to find them an adoptable animal that fits their description," said M.A.A.N. president and founder Marie Skladd.

### Popular program

So popular has the program become, that the network has had to hire a full-time person to answer the 50 or so phone received each day, said Skladd, a Richmond resident. About 80 percent of the calls are from those who want to adopt, and the remaining 20 percent from those who need to give up their pets.

A volunteer working with three others to locate homes for animals, Skladd came up with the idea for the computer system after meeting so many rescue clubs in the area who have no facilities for housing animals.

"There are animals out there who are very good animals," Skladd said.

The dogs and cats included in M.A.A.N.'s database come from the animal rescue clubs that belong to the organization, as well as from the "foster homes" of volunteers.

All animals put up for adoption

through M.A.A.N. have been examined by a veterinarian, and have received the recommended vaccinations for their age. Those animals who are old enough have also been spayed or neutered. To cover the expense of these procedures, M.A.A.N. charges a fee for adoptions ranging from \$30 to \$70, depending on what services the animal has received.

### Adopting care

Skladd noted that if the fee seems to steep to some, they may want to consider whether they can afford to care for a pet.

By utilizing the computer and toll-free telephone to make it more convenient for people to adopt dogs and cats, M.A.A.N. is hoping to alleviate a problem that has long been a concern for animal lovers. Last year more than 20 million animals were destroyed in U.S. shelters. Many of these animals could have been saved if they had been exposed to a larger number of pet owners, which is what M.A.A.N. hopes to accomplish through its computerized adoption network.

As part of its ongoing effort to find homes for displaced animals, M.A.A.N. will be running Adopt-A-Pet Programs with Pet Supplies "Plus" at the chain's 19 Detroit area stores. Representatives from M.A.A.N. will be at different Pet Supplies "Plus" locations on most Saturdays, between April 1994 and January 1995 with a large selection of dogs and cats available for adoption.

Southfield-based PVH Veterinary Hospitals has donated free veterinary exams and discounted spaying and neutering services for all animals adopted through M.A.A.N.

### Lost and found

M.A.A.N. has also started a

computerized lost-and-found network for pet owners who have been separated from their dogs and cats. "Every pet who is registered with us is given an identification number," explained Skladd. "Pet owners then receive a collar tag imprinted with their dog or cat's identification number and our toll-free phone number. When anyone finds a lost pet wearing the tag and calls us, we'll be able to contact the animal's family."

Started earlier this year, M.A.A.N. is based in office space donated by Pet Supplies "Plus" at the pet store chain's headquarters complex at 37720 Amherst Road in Livonia.

Anyone seeking to adopt a dog or cat, or register a pet in the M.A.A.N. lost-and-found network, can call the group toll free at 1-800-990-4343.

The Adopt-A-Pet schedule at Observer & Eccentric area pet stores for the remainder of 1994 is as follows:

- June 4 — 29493 W. Seven Mile, Livonia; (313)615-0033.
- June 11 — 2925 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills; (810)299-5040.
- July 9 — 8036 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake; (810)360-1400.
- July 23 — 43665 Ford Road, Canton Township; (313)981-9191.
- Aug. 6 — 2210 N. Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak; (810)399-4440.
- Aug. 20 — 14835 Telegraph Road, Redford; (313)225-1033.
- Aug. 27 — 1914 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills; (810)333-7545.
- Sept. 10 — 30730 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington; (810)923-3113.
- Oct. 29 — 25493 W. Seven Mile, Livonia; (313)615-0033.

For other locations and dates, call the group's toll-free phone line.



Checkup: Veterinarian John Huff gives a heart worm test to a dog that licensed technician Norma Lishinski is holding.

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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- JOHN CASABLANCA MODELING FASHION SHOW - 7:00 p.m.
- COMMON SENSES - FRAGRANCE LAYERING - 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST FITNESS - LOSE WEIGHT WITHOUT DIET OR EXERCISE - 2:00 p.m.
- JOHN BELL'S - A HAIR ODYSSEY - 2:30 p.m.
- NEWAYS - BODY WRAPPING & THIGH CREAM - 3:00 p.m.

**SAT. APR. 30**

- REDKEN & PAUL MITCHELL - THE TOTAL IMAGE - 11:00 a.m.
- COMMON SENSES - FRAGRANCE LAYERING - 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST FITNESS - LOSE WEIGHT WITHOUT DIET OR EXERCISE - 2:00 p.m.
- JOHN BELL'S - A HAIR ODYSSEY - 2:30 p.m.
- NEWAYS - BODY WRAPPING & THIGH CREAM - 3:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1994**

- MILANE MODEL MANAGEMENT - MODEL SEARCH COMPETITION - 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
- REDKEN & PAUL MITCHELL - THE TOTAL IMAGE - 12 noon
- FIRST FITNESS - LOSE WEIGHT WITHOUT DIET OR EXERCISE - 12:30 p.m.
- JOHN BELL'S - A HAIR ODYSSEY - 1:00 p.m.
- REDKEN & PAUL MITCHELL - THE TOTAL IMAGE - 1:30 p.m.
- JEFFREY BRUCE'S - MAKEOVER IN MOTION - 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
- COMMON SENSES - FRAGRANCE LAYERING - 4:30 p.m.
- JOHN BELL'S - A HAIR ODYSSEY - 5:00 p.m.

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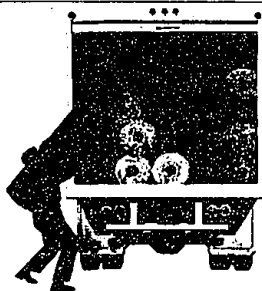
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