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**How to Prevent Animal Abuse**

by Robert Casserly, Executive Director  
Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm

Southern Oregon is widely regarded as one of the most animal-friendly areas in the country. Life is pretty good here for most house pets, farm animals, and wildlife. People here tend to adopt a homeless pet instead of buying them; we have more organic family farms in the area than horrific factory farms; wildlife habitat is abundant; and by and large, people around here seem to genuinely care about animals. That's something to be proud of.



But as they say, pride goes before the fall. The fall I am referring to is the story of a stray cat named Meshach which you may have read about in the newspaper or seen on a local TV news report. His story is a cautionary tale that warns us of the dangers of becoming complacent about how we treat the animals we share our lives with.

To recap the basic facts, on December 22 a family in Eagle Point, Ore. called Jackson County Animal Care & Control for help. A friendly stray cat that had been seen wandering around the family's neighborhood for weeks suddenly showed up on their doorstep suffering from severe burns around his eyes, ears, and underneath his tail.

The victim was immediately transported to Best Friends Animal Hospital in Talent, Ore. for emergency medical treatment. The staff there said it appeared that the orange tabby had been doused with a flammable liquid and then ignited.

Even though the staff at the Best Friends frequently deals with seriously injured animals, the condition of the cat reduced many of them to tears. Sansa Collins, animal care manager at Sanctuary One, was at the hospital when the cat arrived. "Bad as the cat looked, which was horrible," she said, "the stench of burnt flesh and hair was the worst part. I'll never forget that smell – it was the smell of evil."

The hospital staff named the tabby Meshach (pronounced mee-shack), after a story in the Book of Daniel where divine intervention saved three devout young men from being burnt alive.

The burns on Meshach's face were so extensive it was feared he would be blind, but almost miraculously his

vision is unaffected. However, his ears were so badly burnt they required multiple surgeries. It is unclear what other challenges Meshach will face on his road to recovery, but Sanctuary One will provide a safe, loving home for Meshach to ensure he gets all the medical attention and therapy he needs to regain his physical and mental health.

On January 3, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department launched an investigation into Meshach's case to determine the cause of his injuries and whether or not a crime was committed.

Even if you don't have soft spot for animals, you should care that potential animal abuse cases are investigated to determine whether or not it was an accident, because countless studies in psychology, sociology, and criminology have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Other research has shown consistent patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of other forms of violence, including child abuse, spousal abuse, and elder abuse. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association considers animal cruelty one of the diagnostic criteria of conduct disorder.

What can you do to prevent animal abuse? Here are four things all of us can do to make a difference.

1. If you see an animal being abused, report it. Call 911 if an animal's life is in immediate danger, otherwise a good place to start is to call the Jackson County Sheriff's Department at 541.774.6800.
2. Get to know and look out for the animals in your neighborhood. By being aware, you're more likely to notice abuse. Endangered animals can't speak up for themselves, so sometimes we have to do it for them.
3. Support your local animal shelter, humane society, spay/neuter group, or a multi-species animal haven like Sanctuary One. Any amount you can afford to give will be appreciated. If you can't afford to donate, volunteer help can be just as valuable.
4. And most importantly, be a good role model. If you have house pets or farm animals, be sure to always show them the love and good care they deserve. This includes talking to your kids about how to treat animals with respect. If you need help, contact us to make an appointment for a fun and educational tour of Sanctuary One. We love teaching people of all ages how to be kind to animals.

For more information, visit Sanctuary One on the Web at [www.SanctuaryOne.org](http://www.SanctuaryOne.org), or call 541.899.8627.

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Space is limited. Please RSVP by Friday, January 27th. 541-899-1081. Food and drink will be provided.



**Annie's Antics**

by Annie Parker

Don't forget to donate to SOHS, Sanctuary One or Friends of the Animal Shelter and tell them Annie sent you!

*My Bed Friend*



**H**appy New Year Everyone! Here's to a wonderful 2012 for all of us! So, my folks think I need a boyfriend. Apparently it has to do with me and my bed. Let me explain...I have a nice dog bed that stays in the car for me when I get to go for rides in the back of the SUVs. It's a fairly large bed, with a bolster raised back and sides—this is especially nice to keep me from rolling around in the back of the car. I have had the bed my whole life, but recently I have developed a more, well, intimate relationship with it, shall we say. When I get into the car—and I am proud to say, I have actually been jumping into the car. For those who know about my hip history, you'll understand that this is a big deal. Anyway, I digress. When I leap in the car, I immediately try to, well, "hug" my bed with passion.

This is apparently very humorous for my folks (as is pretty much everything I do). When we went to Brookings a few months ago, they brought THE BED inside the house, so I would have a place to sleep. Well, I was so excited. I spent the entire evening circling my wonderfully friendly bed, grabbing the bolster in my teeth and giving it some good 'ole lovin'! So now, they think I need a boyfriend.

What's interesting is that I have another bed in my bedroom at home, and I don't have the same feelings for it at all. I sleep on it, but that's it. The OTHER BED just brings out this "affectionate" behavior.

My mom thinks maybe I'm a little *verklemt*, others say because I'm a dominant female, it's a power thing. Whatever the reason, I have fun...and isn't THAT the most important thing?!

