



BOW-WOW BLAST™



The Official Newsletter of Animal Gambill's Critter Crusade®

Pet Groups United Honors Critter Crusaders at 2010 FurBall Event!

By: Animal Gambill

Pet Groups United is an alliance of animal welfare groups in Kentucky and Indiana. They provide leadership, knowledge, educational opportunities and financial support to member groups as they work to help animals and those who love animals.

Pet Groups United honored people and animals who were nominated in eight CAT-egories for their PAW-some Critter Crusading efforts at the 2010 FurBall event.

Two of these CAT-egories, the *Youth Service Award* and the *Good Samaritan Award*, include winners who are in elementary and middle school. Would you like to know more? I thought so... here we go!

The *Youth Service Award* recognized Brooks Korfhage, a nine-year-old Critter Crusader who uses his own resources to make a difference for all animals.

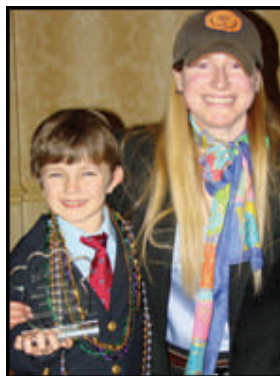
At the age of 6, Brooks rescued his first canine critter. While walking home with his mother, they found a chocolate Lab in the middle of the road. Brooks embraced his inner Critter Crusader by taking the dog door-to-door, but no one recognized him. At home, he fed the dog, made a bed, and created posters to hang in the area. Thanks to Brooks' dog-diligent efforts, the dog was

reunited with his family the following day.

Brooks has since continued to "Catch a Can-Do Critter Attitude." On his 9th birthday he requested pet supplies (rather than gifts for himself) from his family and friends. He shared these gifts with three local animal rescue organizations. WAG-tacular!

Brooks makes Critter Crusading part of his daily life. Brooks shared a PET-acular bond with his beloved Dalmatian, Jackson, for many years. When Jackson became ill last year, Brooks spent many hours caring for his dog and easing Jackson's transition to the Rainbow Bridge. Brooks' love for Jackson lives on through his efforts to help other Dalmatians. Brooks singled out a photo of a horribly abused Dalmatian girl named Bliss. Brooks went to his piggy bank, took out \$20 and asked his mother to send it to Bliss. Brooks was the youngest donor to the organization that was caring for Bliss. Get down with your Bow-Wow self Brooks!

Brooks is in good company when it comes to being PAW-some! His FUR-ific family is right there with him in all his efforts. Brooks remembers his family visit to Farm Sanctuary in upstate New York a couple of years ago. Brooks loved petting the cows, pigs and chickens. Brooks reports that he is now very happy to



Brooks Korfhage looks FUR-ifically festive with Animal Gambill while accepting the Youth Service Award at the 2010 FurBall in Louisville, KY.

be a vegetarian. He is also happy to report that he had the PAW-portunity to meet Wayne Pabelle, President and CEO of HSUS. Brooks tells everyone that he is Wayne's friend. I'll bet you are FUR sure Brooks!

Brooks' everyday Critter Crusading efforts continue with his canine companion, Disco, a deaf Dalmatian. Brooks is very proud to be training Disco in hand signals, as well as working with Disco in agility courses.

We are proud of you too Brooks! It sounds like you know how to Make Every Day a Bow-Wow Blast!™

Now we MOO-ve on to the Critter Crusaders who received the Pet Groups United *Good Samaritan Award*. Turn the page to CATch their story!

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2010

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HOOF-TASTIC FACT:



You can tell how old a horse is by how many teeth it has. A horse gets all of its teeth by the time it is five years old. After that, they just get longer.

The Critter Club at Kammerer Middle School knows how to Catch A Can-Do Critter Attitude! ®

By Animal Gambill

Have you been tapping your Bow-Wow Brain to try to figure out what your school CAN-DO to help animals? How about taking some TAIL-tastic tips from the Critter Crusaders at Kammerer Middle School in Louisville, KY!?!

Kammerer Middle School teacher, Krista Wheatley, embraces a love in her heart for critters of all kinds. She has shared this love with her special needs class by organizing and facilitating their volunteer efforts as the "Critter Club" a minimum of once a week (and oftentimes twice a week) at the Animal Care Society for several years. Their Critter Crusading efforts help improve the quality of life of the shelter pets by socializing, walking, bathing and feeding them. They also lend a hand to shelter workers by cleaning kennels and scooping litterboxes. That's right, they know how to keep up the CAN-DO pace so critters have a clean living space.



Critter Crusaders from Kammerer's "Critter Club" have a MEOW-velous time volunteering at the Animal Care Society in Louisville, KY.

In 2008, Ms. Wheatley expanded the Critter Club to include students outside of her special needs class by creating an after-school program open to all Kammerer Middle School students. Since the beginning of the after-school program, the Critter Club has grown from 30 to 50 Critter Crusaders.

As the Critter Club grew, so did their FUR-bulous efforts. The CAN-DO Critter Attitude is contagious! Members of the Critter Club spent time doing some serious Bow-Wow Brainstorming to decide what types of PAW-some projects they wanted to PUR-sue.

Here's a CAT-alog of their efforts:

- They sent care packages to the former "Vick Dogs."
- They engaged in a variety of fund-raising efforts for the medical needs of animals involved in cruelty cases.
- They collected supplies and food for local rescue groups.
- They empowered each other to report suspected animal cruelty cases in their neighborhoods.
- They created, presented and discussed various humane education skits at Critter Club meetings. Then they PUR-formed one PAW-ticular skit at an Animal Gambill Show >> They are very Critter Creative!
- They volunteered for a variety of TAIL-tastic tasks during the production of the Animal Gambill Shows. They are PET-acular production assistants!

Riley, Hobo Kitty and Lordy have visited Kammerer's Critter Club with me over the



Ashley and Gabrielle accept the Good Samaritan Award with Ms. Wheatley at Furball 2010.

past few years. We had a Bow-Wow Blast sharing our festive experiences and talking about various ways to be kind, safe and responsible as Critter Crusaders. The Kammerer kids enjoyed asking questions and sharing their Critter Cool experiences with animals. We

think the Kammerer Critter Club is a WAG-tastic example of the great things a Critter Crusader Crew CAN-DO.

We want to see what you CAN-DO too!

Critter Crusader Crews work together to help animals in a very PET-acular way. Jump on the bow-wow bandwagon and start a Critter Crusader Crew at your school. Give your Crew a FUR-ific name and have a TAIL-tastic Time helping animals! For information about how to join the Critter Crusade and how to learn about different Critter Crusader Crew service project ideas, visit: www.animalgambill.org/join.php

If you have a story you would like to share about your Critter Crusader Crew or your individual efforts as a Critter Crusader, contact me at:

www.animalgambill.org/contact.asp

The Litterbox - Jokes So Bad They Should be Covered Up!



Hobo Kitty

Hey Critter Crusaders! It's me, Hobo Kitty, choosing this month's jokes!

Q: What do you call a pony with a sore throat?

A: A little horse

Q: What did the spider do on the computer?

A: Made a website!

Q: What do you call a lizard that sings?

A: A rap-tile

Q: What do you call a dog who plays with cats?

A: A Bow-Meow

Send us your own Litterbox Jokes! Just go to our website : www.animalgambill.org/newsletter.html

Keep the Fur from Flying: Introduce a new cat safely

By Hot Rod



My name may lead you to believe that I am one wild kitty. Well, truth is, Hobo Kitty is really much wilder than me...at least she was wilder than me when I first

came to live with Animal Gambill.

You see, cats are naturally territorial in the wild, and this means they will defend their home area or territory (including food, water, sleeping areas, etc.). Similar to wild cats, house cats can become aggressive in an effort to "defend" their home when they see or smell a new critter. Hobo Kitty didn't even want me going near her litter box when I first showed up...she's a DIVA!

Animal Gambill had to follow what she calls "Meeting a New Meow" Plan in

order to help Hobo Kitty learn to safely cope with me. She introduced me to Hobo very slowly so we could get used to each other before meeting nose to nose.

Here are some of the basics to Animal Gambill's "Meeting a New Meow" Plan:

- She placed me in a room with a litter box, food, water, and a bed (with the door shut). She fed Hobo on the other side of my door. This way, Hobo associated something MEOW-velous (eating) with my smell. You see, even though Hobo Kitty couldn't see me, she could smell me.
- She switched my bed with Hobo's bed so Hobo Kitty and I could get comfortable with smelling each other.
- She placed Hobo in my room and I checked out the rest of the house for 2 hours each day for several days... don't

tell Hobo, but I checked out her litter box.

- Animal Gambill propped open the door (using 2 door-stops) just enough to allow me and Hobo Kitty to see each other.
- She repeated the whole process over a period of 8 to 14 days. Animal Gambill always supervised us. She said that some cats need more days & some need less.



You can learn more about this subject by visiting the link below:

www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/our_pets_for_life_program/cat_behavior_tip_sheets/introducing_pets_to_a_new_cat.html

This is Hot Rod - CAT-rap On!

Bow-Wow Book Review: Big Apple Barn book written by Kristin Earhart

By Bre, age 9

I saw the book, *Big Apple Barn: A Sassy Surprise*, when I was at the library picking out books for the library's summer reading program. I just knew I would like it since there was a horse on the cover. This book is all about horses and I love horses. I am really glad that I checked out this book.



A Sassy Surprise is a fiction chapter book about horses that become good friends. Their names are Happy and Sassy. They are

both at Big Apple Barn which is a riding school for children. They share many adventures together at pony school.

The book is funny and really cute. The illustrations are in black and white but show exactly what is happening. If you really love horses, I think you should read this book!!!

FUR-ific Feedback By Lordy

Thanks a Bow-Wow Bunch Bre! Taking time out of your busy day to write and submit your HOOF-tastic book review is a PAW-some way to be a Critter Crusader! Sharing knowledge, resources and experiences is what the Bow-Wow Blast newsletter is all about. If you would like to submit a Bow-Wow book review, a MEOW-

velous movie review, a PAW-some product review or any other type of Critter Cool article, visit:

www.animalgambill.org/newsletter.html

You never know—you may get published in the *Bow-Wow Blast* newsletter.

Now that's a PET-acular way to Catch a Can-Do Critter Attitude!

This is Lordy - Howl It Up!



Jitterbug wants YOU to be a Part of the Bow-Wow Blast!

The Bow-Wow Blast Newsletter is hot off the hard drive and ready for you to download each month. Every edition is packed with articles such as:

- Critter Crusader stories, activities and updates
- MEOW-velous Movie Reviews
- Bow-Wow Book Reviews
- PAW-some Pet Articles

- Pet Product Reviews
- Critter-Cool Jokes and Puzzles
- And all kinds of PET-acular submissions from readers everywhere!

If you would like to submit your own animal stories, drawings, puzzles, and photos for consideration in a future Bow-Wow Blast newsletter, please download our official Bow-Wow Blast Staff Kit here:

www.animalgambill.org/newsletter.html

Get down with your PAW-some self and send me your MEOW-velous stuff!



Join the Critter Crusade!



As a CRITTER CRUSADER, I promise to:

CARE FOR MY PET AND PROVIDE IT WITH CLEAN AND DRY SHELTER
REMEMBER TO FEED MY PET AND PROVIDE IT WITH FRESH WATER
USE SAFE PRACTICES AROUND ALL ANIMALS
SAFELY HELP INJURED/LOST ANIMALS (WITH THE DIRECTION OF AN ADULT)
AT ALL TIMES, BE KIND TO CRITTERS
DO CRITTER CLEAN-UP DUTIES SUCH AS GROOMING AND POOPER-SCOOPING
EXERCISE MY PET SUCH AS PLAYING WITH TOYS OR GOING FOR A WALK
REMEMBER TO TAKE MY PET TO THE VET FOR YEARLY CHECK-UPS AND WHEN MY PET APPEARS TO BE SICK OR INJURED

It's time to get down with your Bow-Wow self and join the Critter Crusade! To learn how to make a difference for the animals in your community and become a CRITTER CRUSADER visit: www.animalgambill.org/join.html

CRITTER-okee!™ (Critter Crusade Version of Karaoke)

Tail-Talk Rock

(sing these lyrics with the melody from "Jailhouse Rock" by Elvis Presley)

I'm Hop-A-Dot you know I got lots to say
Don't be surprised – I'll tell you in a furry way
You know some human food looks good but makes me ill
Raisins, chocolate, salt might even make me squeal

Chorus

Let's rock, every critter, let's rock
Every critter on every block
Is waggin' to the Tail-Talk Rock

Think I'll stay next to you - never gonna run
So you don't attach my collar, tags or put my leash on
But then I hear a bark - see a dog I wanna meet
I jump up, don't think and hop across the street
[Repeat Chorus]

Outside I need water and plenty of shade
I even get hot in cars when it's a warm day
Don't make me walk or play too much - ain't no joke
My body can freak out - suffer from heat stroke
[Repeat Chorus]

Cats and dogs, hamsters, frogs, birds and horses too
Every critter needs respect – yes you know it's true
Being cool to critters – that's what I'm rappin'
Get down with your Bow-Wow self and make it happen!
[Repeat Chorus]



Hop-A-Dot

Animal Gambill's Critter Crusade is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children about animals while empowering them to help animals, interact safely with animals, and be responsible for their pets.

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You may submit your own animal stories, drawings, puzzles, and photos for consideration in a future Bow-Wow Blast Newsletter by visiting www.animalgambill.org. Submissions become the property of Animal Gambill's Critter Crusade.