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Caring for Our Community

This week's feature – SPCA, Kapiti and Horowhenua



The Christmas story tells of a stable blessed by the presence of animals sharing their home with a family in need. Two thousand years later are

we giving animals in our homes and lives the same respect?

The New Zealand Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is particularly busy at this time of year and has some practical steps pet owners can take to care for their animals.

Lloyd Warren at the Kapiti SPCA said one of the biggest concerns they faced every year was whether arrangements had been made for pets when their owners went away on holiday.

"It's mainly dogs that we have problems with. Ideally the dog will have been booked into kennels, but sometimes that's not possible for people and they leave them at home for friends or family to take care of. What sometimes happens is that neighbours believe the dogs have been abandoned and ring us.

If I investigate and the dog seems to have no-one caring for it, I will take it away.

"To avoid this happening this year we are setting up a database at the Kapiti SPCA for people who are going away. They can register with us so if we are called up we can check the address on the computer and know what action to take. Our resources are stretched at that time of the year and if we can save ourselves some time while ensuring the animal is properly cared for we would appreciate it.

"If people could just let us know how long they will be away, the address the dog or other pet is at and its name and the contact number for the pet care-giver, we can check whether or not the animal is being cared for. All of the details will be absolutely confidential and we will only refer to them if we have a call about an animal at a given address. We don't recommend that a child is the responsible person in charge but if that is the case there should be supervision from parents to make sure the responsibility for caring for the animal is properly met."

Another concern for SPCA inspectors at this time of year is dogs being left in cars in hot weather. "Even if you are only planning a quick visit to the shops we strongly urge you to leave the dog at home. On a stinking hot day with no wind, even if the windows are a bit open, a dog can die within 15 minutes in a car."

Even without such a drastic outcome the dog can become extremely uncomfortable. Mr Warren says he is often called on to rescue dogs from cars when owners have said they were only going to be five minutes.



As for giving a cute kitten or cuddly puppy for a Christmas gift, Mr Warren says the Kapiti SPCA will not rehome animals during the week before Christmas "unless it's a pretty genuine reason".

In the season of the year when we cherish the spirit of peace on earth and goodwill to all, have a thought for those folks who have goodwill for the animals all year round – the staff and volunteers of the SPCA in Kapiti and the Horowhenua.

SPCA Horowhenua
SPCA Kapiti

Phone (06) 368 6910
Phone (04) 293 4292.

Nga Manu Nature Reserve



The reserve has a diverse range of our native flora, fauna and wildlife. Most visitors would spend approximately one-and-a-half hours at the reserve. All pathways are easily walked and there is adequate seating around the reserve. Wheelchair access and facilities are available.

Extended Summer Hours:

From Boxing Day to Wellington's Anniversary Day 2004, Nga Manu will be open from 10am to 8pm every day. Ngarara Road, Waikanae, phone 293 4131 for more details.

Business Breakfast

Wednesday 8th December
7.30am

SOUTHWARDS MUSEUM

Speakers: CHARLES SWINDELLS-
American Ambassador

RSVP: Heather Meads 04 904 5757
heather.meads@kapiticoast.govt.nz

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