

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

Getting ready for the fall? Getting the house ready, raking the leaves, making the most of what remains of your garden and getting your pets ready for the cooling temperatures.

According to Rover.com, pet owners need to remember that just because the temperatures are cooler, we still need to keep the water bowls for our dogs and cats full. Temperatures can drop and we need to make sure the outdoor bowls do not freeze over.

Wood and tile floors can get cold. Get those dog blankets out and make war spots for cats and dogs to sleep. You should change them about once a week.

Dogs and cats use more energy in the winter keeping warm. You may need to increase their food portions during the fall and winter – check with you vet.

Pets shed in the spring – or blow their coat – as it is often referred to. But pets can also shed their summer coats in preparation for their winter coats. Brush them daily or weekly as needed. Do not let mats build up – it is an opportunity for bacteria harm your pet's skin.

Do you think that ticks only happen in the summer? Sadly the little beasts exist in to the fall and early winter.

Are you traveling this winter? Do you need a pet sitter or boarding arrangements? Start looking for the right accommodations.

The Northwoods Humane Society Thrift Shop needs to prepare for fall and winter. We have some wonderful volunteers and collectively they keep all the balls in the air throughout the spring, summer and part of fall. Then some of them head south for the winter.

So the bottom line is that we need help! We need several new volunteers to help in the thrift pricing area. We will be losing Sue Killinger, Rob Taite and David Nemec who each volunteer two days a week and we will lose our shop coordinator Barbara Hoeft for the winter. The Thrift Shop people do the following. We show up about 10 am (I get there at 11 am). In the summer we close at 4 p.m. and beginning in October we will close at 3 p.m. We answer the doorbell and receive incoming donations, we sort, clean and price donations. We help with putting items out on the Thrift Shop Floors. The ideal is to have two people pricing at the same time. Two of our team members Kristi Adell and Susanne Kalla focus on linens and Linnea Forsell and Eva Fjsted help with everything. In the winter, Jeanne Hornak assumes the role of shop coordinator. Jeanne also does all of the pricing of antiques and collectibles and jewelry year round. Pam and Chuck Mikow and I work on general thrift. The cashiers, clothing, cards and book areas have their own teams of people. The Thrift crew has a very good time – a sense of humor is required. We can use several hands one to two days a week. You can pick your day. Saturdays are part of that week. If you are having company or you are going out of town, one of us fills in. We are flexible but consistent – if that makes sense.

Our snow birds will be leaving the middle of October and first of November. If you think you would like to help us (we do need your help) please fill out a volunteer application on-line or pick one up at the Thrift Shop. (If you fill one out on-line and you do not hear from us, call – we have had some website issues). Paula Bilitz does introductory training for all new volunteers. She will set up a time that works for you.

Come join a great group of people who are committed to helping animals in need. All workers at the Northwoods Humane Society Thrift Shop are volunteers. Their efforts provide about half of the monies needed to care for the animals at the shelter and support our mission of helping animals in need.

If you have questions call me at home – 715-634-4543. I look forward to hearing from you.