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Wolff: Central Gardens 'found' sign points out pet scat left

Wags and whimpers

By **Cindy Wolff**,
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August 1, 2004



It turns out that poop is a popular and touchy subject among Memphis residents.

Several readers wrote in to tell me how they dutifully pick up after their pets at every walk while they see others blissfully ignoring the mess that's been left on someone's yard.

Some readers suggested that more trash cans be installed around Patriot Lake in Shelby Farms so dog walkers will have more opportunity to dispose of their pet's mess.

But by far, the most clever response came from Central Gardens resident Richard Vinning, who says his lovely, manicured landscaped lawn with mounds of colorful flowers should be enough to signal that he doesn't want his yard ruined with a dog's mess.

It's not. Pet owners routinely stand and crush his flowers while their animals are relieving themselves.

To solve the problem, he created a sign he moves around in his yard. In big red letters, it says "FOUND."

Underneath, it says: "Dog Poo. If you are the owner, please feel free to pick it up any time."

There's a bright red arrow that points to the offending pile.

We're going to start running animal-related items that spotlight something good or bad you see. Send me your comments by E-mail or letter to the addresses below.

Here are the first items:

- Patricia King was on her lunch hour about noon on U.S. 70 between Germantown Road and Brunswick Road when she came upon two Shelby County Sheriff's Department patrol cars blocking two lanes of traffic.

As she got closer she saw that a dog had been hit by a car and was in the road. "Tears came to my eyes, but as I came closer, I could see that the officers were protecting the animal from traffic while waiting for help.

"I was touched by the concern and compassion of the officers and prayed that they were able to save this injured animal," said King. "These men have always been caring and compassionate every time I have come in contact with them. I am so glad that their caring and compassion flows over to animals, also. "

- Two Saturdays in a row, Holly Price has happened upon parked cars with dogs inside and windows barely open. Both days the temperature was in the 90s. Price was on the phone with the police when the man left the store in time to save his yellow Labrador retriever that was in heat stress.

The second man left his small dog with only the front window cracked. The dog was clearly in distress. Price had store security page the man, who finally came out.

Price told the man that it was too hot to leave the dog in the car. The man told her the dog was fine and left.

Leaving your dog in a hot car in the summer can be deadly for your pets. Don't do it.

"

Rescue and adopt

- Mewtopia Cat Rescue will celebrate its second anniversary at its store at 734 Mt. Moriah with an open house noon-4 p.m. Saturday.

The group formed in 2000 as a grassroots effort of volunteers to rescue abandoned and abused cats.

Two years later, more than 30 volunteers man the group's retail store and spend hours cleaning cat cages and tending to the animals.

Last year the group helped adopt 400 cats and kittens and spay/neuter and release more than 500 feral cats.

Mewtopia will offer food, refreshments and a tour of the facility as part of the open house.

Information: www.mew_topia.org.

- Horse Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and Animal Refuge will have dogs and puppies available for adoption from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. Saturday at PetCo 7680 Poplar in Germantown.

All animals are spayed/neutered and current on vaccinations. Adoption fee: \$50. Information: www.horsecreekwildlife.org.

Reporter Cindy Wolff, owner of two spoiled dogs, can be reached at 529-5220 or E-mail [e-mail](mailto:cindy@commercialappeal.com). Send letters to The Commercial Appeal, 495 Union, Memphis, Tenn. 38103.

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