

Pets Come First to offer spay, neuter clinic

By **ZOE HELLER**
Sentinel reporter

LEWISTOWN — Pets Come First is a no-kill animal shelter located in the old SPCA building along U.S. 322 in Centre Hall that has been providing and finding homes for stray and unwanted animals for more than five years. With a team of hard working animal lovers, every day is filled with caring for these homeless animals.

With a new partnership with the Allegheny Spay and Neuter Clinic, Pets Come First is now able to offer this service to not only the animals already staying at the shelter but for any animal owner who would like to get their pet spayed or neutered as well. Any animal that comes through Pets Come First is spayed and neutered, tested for Lyme disease and fleas, receives a microchip and 45 days of free health insurance. These tests are very important because they can reduce the risk of diseases later in an animal's life.

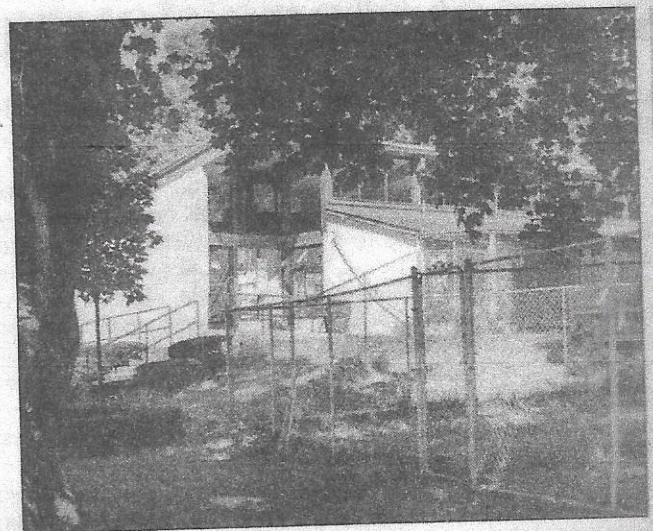
INSIDE: Local man rides bike to benefit Pets Come First
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The microchips are something animal shelters just started doing more frequently in the past few years. Since starting them, Pets Come First has seen positive results with the chip helping a lost animal find its way back home.

When a lost dog with a microchip is found, an animal shelter or veterinarian clinic can check the microchip and find out where they are registered. This makes it much easier for families to find their furry loved ones that strayed too far away from home.

Deb Warner, founder and president of Pets Come First, explained how important it is for animals to get the microchip along with all of the other proper treatment they need, especially getting spayed and neutered.

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Submitted photo

Located in Centre Hall, the Pets Come First animal shelter now offers a spaying and neutering clinic for local pets.

Clinic

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“Our goal here is to make things efficient,” Warner said. “We have to get all of these animals spayed, neutered, vaccinated, everything done and ready for adoption.”

Warner also said the clinic has been quite successful thus far, treating between 15 to 20 animals a week.

Through the clinic, Warner said she believes it will help alleviate animal overpopulation that occurs in many counties around the state. Locally, about 80 per-

cent of PCF's animals or adoption parents come from the Mifflin or Juniata county areas. Warner said if Pets Come First can give more local animals the proper care they need, there will be more happy and healthy animals rather than those needing extreme medical attention.

“This clinic will be fantastic. We just need to get the word out,” she said.

For more information about Pets Come First and their new partnership with the Allegheny Spay and Neuter Clinic, call (814) 364-1725 or email info@petscomefirst.com.

Ride raises funds for pets

Gary Gill meets challenge and celebrates his 72nd birthday

By **ZOE HELLER**
Sentinel reporter

LEWISTOWN — Gary Gill, of Ferguson Valley, was able to successfully complete his 144 mile bike ride on June 30. Gill attempted the long bike ride to raise money for the no-kill animal shelter, Pets Come First, and to celebrate his 72nd birthday.

"It's great to be able to collaborate with Pets Come First," Gill said. "They're a wonderful organization and I'm glad to be able to help as much as I can."

His ride began at 5:30 a.m. and ended around 8:45 p.m., altogether taking 15 hours to complete, including the 11 hours and 4 minutes on his bike. He averaged approximately 13.1 miles per hour.

Joining Gill on the ride were Rick Williams and Rhonda Peck, with Laverne Yutzy joining them in the afternoon.

Gill is on a strictly plant-based diet, which is why he believes his body was capable to take on such a challenge at the age of 72.

The day after the race Gill said he felt great and didn't need any form of medication to treat any aches and pains.

"I probably would think about doing something like this again in the future," Gill said. "Not right now, but I could picture myself doing it again."

Gill's hard work was able to raise a little more than \$1,600 for Pets Come First.



Above — Gary Gill, right, and Rick Williams, ride their bikes along Church Lane in Reedsville on June 29 during their 144-mile bike ride to raise money for Pets Come First.

Left — Rhonda Peck, front, and Laverne Yutzy join Gill and Williams along Church Lane.

Sentinel photos by BUFFIE BOYER

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anyone who would like to join the cause and donate to Pets Come First may visit their website at www.petscomefirst.net/donate.