

## **A Puppy Population Explosion!!!**

Volunteers with Operation New Beginnings are approximately 8 weeks post-seizure and the litters are coming fast and furious, with 14-16 females yet to whelp. Litter size has been 5 - 8 puppies (some more, some less). We should see the end of the litters in early March, as the Girl Barn and the Boy Barn have been kept quite separate since the dogs were seized. Many in the Girl Barn recently went into heat, presenting a whole new dimension to the work the Montana Volunteers have been doing. But each dog in heat was one less litter to expect, so that was good.

Most of us have suppressed the "Jaws on Paws" memories: those days when your pup ate the bottom rung of a chair that was a family heirloom is now a distant memory! The remote that was destroyed has been replaced; the little squirt guns have been put away. But if its not too painful, remember the damage those little puppy teeth can do. Those who have raised a litter or two can remember how the work increased as the dogs got older...directing mischievous little puppies to better outlets for play. Remember?

Now multiply that by 100+. By 100 little dogs that don't always have someone with them to correct inappropriate chewing. By 100 little mouths looking for some way to relieve anxiety, boredom, and the pain of teething. By the over 100 volunteers who are not only working to socialize puppies, but also working to prepare the adult dogs for a life with humans.

We really urge you to support the Operation New Beginnings Volunteers by participating in the Puppy Chew Toy Drive. And help us count down the days to the first week of March...

Appropriate chew toys are solid rubber bones and balls made by "Kong", Nylabones and Gumabones in a variety of small sizes suitable for ES pups. These toys are available at most national pet stores or the following websites:

[www.EntirelyPets.com](http://www.EntirelyPets.com)

[www.SitStay.com](http://www.SitStay.com)

[www.Dog.com](http://www.Dog.com)

[www.Jbpet.com](http://www.Jbpet.com)

[www.Drsfostersmith.com](http://www.Drsfostersmith.com)

We cannot use any fabric, fur or soft stuffed toys, or toys with plastic squeakers in them. These will just be destroyed and present choking hazards to the pups.

If you would like to help the puppies, please send (or have shipped) appropriate chew toys to one of the following volunteers:

Sally Romoser  
c/o Brand Savants, Inc  
2240 Shelter Island Drive, Ste. 210  
San Diego, CA 92106

Jenn Wiegand  
25 Pearl Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06514

Martha Connolly  
c/o Ernstrom & Drete  
180 Canal View Blvd., Ste. 600  
Rochester, NY 14623

To streamline the process, we will collect and ship weekly donations to Montana.

A printable copy of a flyer with the Toy Drive information is available  
<http://www.nesr.info/PuppyChewToyDrive.pdf> The flyer has also been uploaded to  
the following Yahoo lists: AWFA, English Shepherd, EngShepClub,  
RawEnglishShepherds, and ES Performance.

Questions about this toy drive may be directed to Martha Connolly at  
[mconnolly@ed-llp.com](mailto:mconnolly@ed-llp.com) Thank you for your generosity and support of this effort.