

Introducing the 09/10 Humane Society Board

The Humane Society has a new board for the 09/10 year. We now have fourteen members on our board reflecting a wide variety of skills and interests. Much has happened since the board took office in July. We have new management in position at the shelter and new committees have been established on the board to guide the shelter management. We are a strong team with a lot of new faces. Our board is composed of: President - Jeanne Ringe, Vice-president - Taryn Herzog, Secretary - Shirley Hammond, Treasurer - Sandi Elfast, members-at-large - Barbara Dietz, Phil Diety, Gigi Sharp, Larry Wedekind, Justin Levi, Jeannie Levi, Rich Elfast, Hillary Combs, Judy Moore and Kristina Francis.

Many projects have taken place at the shelter and more are underway. A volunteer day at the shelter resulted in the facility being cleaned inside and out. Aluminum cans were recycled and we received over \$100 for that effort. Cans may be left at the shelter for future recycling. Roofing material has been purchased and a new roof on the shelter will soon be a reality. It will put a stop to the leaks whenever it rains once and for all. Materials have been donated to build a horse shelter and the construction will be underway soon. Additional shelving inside the shelter now allows bedding and supplies to be stored and easily accessible. Stop by when you are in the area and see the progress we are making.

Our adoption fees have been restructured and are as follows:

Dogs - \$100 (includes spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip)

Dogs already spayed/neutered - \$75

Senior Dogs (over 7 years old) - \$75

Senior Dogs already spayed/neutered - \$50

Bonded pairs of Dogs - \$150

Cats - \$50 (includes spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip is extra)

We have been pleased to see an increase in cat adoptions with the lowered rate.

Staffing changes

The position of executive director did not meet it's intended goals and has been abolished. The facility now has a shelter manager and an administrative assistant. If you've been at the shelter in the last two years you probably have already met Dawn Randall. Dawn has "hands on" knowledge of how the shelter functions and we are fortunate that she was available to take over the important position of Shelter Manager. In a relatively short time the face of the shelter has dramatically changed. New protocols have resulted in a more welcoming atmosphere and a more efficient operation.

A new face at the shelter is Michele Richards who is assuming the role of Administrative Assistant. Michele will be the "behind the scenes" person managing the volumes of paper work it takes to allow the shelter to function. Afternoon support staff will include Mikaela Haynes and Susan Allen (who is the shelter coordinator). Anytime you call the shelter you'll get the chance to speak with one of these loyal employees.

Good News

We have a donor of paint. Richard Wallace has donated all the paint to totally redo the shelter inside and out. Colors have been selected and workers are being arranged for to undertake this much needed but time consuming project.

Wish list

As always there are items we need at the shelter.

Cat litter (not clumping)

Clorox

Paper towels

Canned pet food

Fence posts (wood or metal)

20# 8 ½ X 11 paper

Disposable gloves (med or 1 size fits all)

Dish detergent

Laundry detergent

Serious Wish/Need

We do a lot of animal transport at the shelter. All animals adopted from us are spayed or neutered before they are adopted. This requires that the animal(s) be taken to a local veterinarian by us. The staff uses their personal vehicles to perform this service. It would be wonderful if someone would donate a van to the humane society for this purpose. It would not have to be pretty or new; just reliable transportation and of a size to hold crates for safely transporting animals.

Larry: This is the item I am waiting for some rewrite from Taryn

Service Learning Students

Service Learning Students are students from the local high school who perform volunteer work at the shelter. They learn valuable work skills while they get high school credits. We are fortunate to have 2 fantastic Service Learning Students helping at the shelter. Will Talley and Abby Richey have put in many hours of service at our facility. They perform a variety of tasks such as and are a real asset. In addition they have helped our adoption program by finding homes for Trish (a lovely cat) and Hope (a sweet but neglected poodle mix).

Want to be more involved in what goes on at the shelter?

Opportunities abound for those wishing to volunteer. Sign up for work days. Volunteer to walk dogs. Volunteer to bathe dogs. Volunteer to be a volunteer coordinator. Learn how to volunteer a few hours in the afternoon to help with adoptions. Volunteer to do some grounds maintenance or cleanup.

FOR SALE T-shirts.

New t-shirts will be available soon. We expect to have new t-shirts with the following design available by November. The Humane Society of Jefferson County is promoted on the back. Colors are green and ivory. They will be available for \$12.50.

Statistics

Animal intake for September was 408. That is a lot of animals and indicates what an important service we provide to the county!

Horse Rescue Update
20 plus horses rescued
A9 adopted
2 returned to owners
3 deaths

This year has been challenging for the Humane Society in dealing with starving horses, in addition to companion animals. Many people came forward to assist with the many horses we assumed responsibility for, beginning in January 2009.

Hillary Combs and Justin Levi were hands on and instrumental in saving these horses. Bridlewood Vet Clinic, UT Vet School, and Dr. Eric Martin all contributed their services and greatly assisted us in saving these horses. A special thanks to all the many volunteers who donated money, hay and supplies towards the rehabilitation of these horses in need.

The county has leased to the Humane Society four acres of land adjoining the Shelter. Maynard Franseen and helpers are donating their labor to build a horse shelter for future horse rescues. Most materials for this project have been donated. This property has to be fenced before it can be used. Money and/or electric fence wire and wood fence posts will be needed to complete this project. Please designate any money donations to be used for this project to the Horse Fund when making a contribution to the Humane Society. Our basic needs are for hay, grain, supplies, and cash donations for medical care.

We have established a Horse Committee to deal with all horse issues. If you would like to provide assistance, become a foster family, or have any questions, please contact Hillary Combs at 865-397-3045.

TRY ADOPTING AN OLDER PET!

by Lynda Foro

The oldest pet I adopted was a 16-year-old cat who lived another four happy years. I was overjoyed to find this feline senior citizen, who blossomed as an only cat. Her presence in our lives and subsequent other mature cats who joined us, revealed several truths about adopting homeless animals.

Ideally, an adult cat will have had enough time as a kitten with Mama-Cat to learn manners, cleanliness, tolerance, how to forage for food, where to relieve themselves and self-preservation. Such cats adapt more easily to changing environments and often survive by endearing themselves to kind-hearted people.

Similarly, senior dogs likely will be housetrained, are past the chewing stages, can pay attention and respond appropriately to simple commands, value companionship and know when to take "time out." With luck, they will have been exposed to cats and a variety of people so they are tolerant of others and are trained to know their limits and boundaries.

Like with people, the older the person or pet, the more risk for declining health. We have responsibilities to ourselves and our pets to pursue medical treatment as needed and to make that a lifelong commitment. It's part of the package; bond with your vet!

Spay/neuter assistance

We still have some limited money available to assist those in financial need with the spaying or neutering of their dogs.