

Lester C. Howick Animal Shelter of Washington County News

Winter 2015

From the Director's Desk

Wow! What a year 2014 has been. Time has flown by here at the shelter. Let me recap some of our accomplishments.

The shelter was accepted into the PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin' program in April. To date we have transported over 200 dogs/puppies to shelters that were able to place them into forever homes almost immediately. We have been able to certify four staff members in Canine Behavior Assessment, allowing us to assess dogs upon intake. This knowledge helps the staff to identify the areas of a dog's behavior that we need to focus on to help them to become more adoptable.

We partnered with The Humane Society of the Ozarks to begin a Trap Neuter Release program. This program has allowed us to save over 150 cats' lives. This program was funded through a TNR grant the shelter received.

The shelter is pleased to have received a \$27,282 advertising grant. We hear daily the comment, "I didn't even know you were here." This grant will help us spread the word about our shelter and its location.

We have held several very successful adoption events. The Ozark's Electric Canine COOP adoption event as well as the Subaru Share the Love event. All these events helped get some wonderful pets into loving homes.

Our primary achievement is the number of animals who came to the shelter that we have placed in loving homes

or have returned to their homes. From January 2, 2014 through November 30, 2014, this is our record:

Adopted cats	233	Owner reclaimed	121
Adopted dogs	438	Transferred	571

These numbers represent 1363 animals that went to or returned to loving homes. We would not have accomplished this without the help of the Humane Society of the Ozarks, the Animal League, the volunteers at the Lester C. Howick Washington County Animal Shelter, and especially the hard working and dedicated shelter staff.

Lastly, the shelter has taken on a new partnership with Keely's Fund that has allowed us to be able to treat a heartworm positive Shepherd mix named Lennon, a broken leg on a Border Collie mix named Bouncer, and two broken legs on a Malinois mix named Deuce. We would not have had the resources to help these animals without Keely's Fund and those that donate to this Fund. If you wish to donate, please go to <http://www.keelysfund.org/> and be sure to mark the donation for Washington County Animal Shelter. Your donation is tax deductible with 100% going to treat animals and none to administration costs.

The shelter staff and I are looking forward to 2015! We will continue to strive for excellence.

Angela Ledgerwood
Shelter Director

County Judge Comments

The shelter staff has worked very hard and has accomplished so much in 2014. I am very proud of the staff's dedication and the hours they contribute to offer the best possible care for the animals in the shelter. The staff has worked very hard to find over 1300 animals their forever homes this year. On December 6, Adventure Subaru hosted the Share the Love Event. The event helped the shelter to adopt out 29 animals. This year Washington County was chosen by Animal Planet to participate in a Puppy Bowl video shoot, highlighting a typical day at the shelter. Watch for this to air Super Bowl Sunday! Accomplishments such as the partnership with PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin'® program, the Humane Society of the Ozarks TNR program, Keely's Fund and the Puppy Bowl video shoot are just some of the exciting things to boast about this year. I know that the shelter staff is looking forward to what 2015 will bring and will rise to meet every challenge that comes their way.

Judge Edwards



Marilyn Edwards & Sophie

DUKE



THE DIFFERENCE THAT CARING MAKES

Remember Duke? He was brought to the Shelter in the Fall of 2013. He was very thin and had a gunshot wound to the right rear leg. We doubted our ability to save him. But he believed we could!

He met Dr. Connelly and her staff, the Shelter Director and her staff, all the shelter volunteers and finally Dr. Cyphers and her staff who did an amazing surgery to save his leg (reduced fee paid for by donation).

His great personality and his cleverness endeared him; however, his smarts caused a few problems. Duke could open any door at the shelter! He noticed where the homemade cookies were kept and after staff left for the evening he ate all of them. Smart!

A wonderful family from Madison County who raised chickens adopted him but had to return him because he had developed a taste for chicken. We became increasingly concerned about his future so Mike took him to TV Station 40/29, which so generously lets us show an animal every Saturday. (The adoption fee for the featured animal is paid for by Iams Pet Food.) The Gray Family saw him and immediately came to the shelter to meet him and Duke found his FOREVER family. The Grays have 2 children who adore Duke. They tell us that every night when everyone is in bed Duke goes upstairs and checks on every family member before he retires for the night!

Caring and care made all the difference for Duke!





IT IS COLD OUTSIDE!!

Cold weather is upon us so it is time once again to remind everyone to keep a close eye on their pets. Chances are if you're cold so are they. Dogs and cats have been domesticated for hundreds of years and they are not like their ancestors who could survive harsh winters with below freezing temperatures. Selective breeding to make a more desirable dog has led to the dogs' inability to adapt as well.

State law requires that all dogs have shelter that is adequate to that breed. Key word here is "adequate". This does not mean a dog house two sizes too small for the dog that will be using it. It does not mean the dog crawling under the house or trailer to get out of the weather and it does not mean a dog house with no bedding or some kind of floor for the dog to lie on. Use wood shavings or straw/hay for bedding in dog houses rather than blankets because blankets can hold moisture that will freeze and make a very cold hard surface. Animal Control receives several calls each year about animals not having shelter in bad weather and in most cases the person does not know the law.

When the temperature is below freezing, the drinking water needs to be checked to insure that the animal has proper water. A frozen bowl of water does not provide proper hydration for an animal. Also, animals need extra food in the winter to provide fuel for their body heat. Extra food means warm body.

Lori Hodges, Animal Control Officer
Washington County Sheriff's Office



ANIMAL SPONSORS NEEDED

Do you have the money to adopt an animal, but not the time? You can save a life by sponsoring an animal's adoption at the Washington County Animal Shelter. Statistics in the sheltering world prove that sponsoring animals helps increase the animal's chance for adoption yet does not devalue the animal. Sponsorship is similar to a donation but the money goes directly toward an animal's adoption fee. You can pay the full adoption fee, which is \$65.00 for a dog and \$45.00 for a cat. Or you can pay part of the adoption fee. You can sponsor a specific animal that grabs your heart, or we can choose the animal to be sponsored.

If you decide to become a sponsor, we accept cash, check, or money order. Please put "sponsor" in the memo. The sponsor program has helped us save the lives of so many animals. Won't you please help to save the next life? There are folks who have much love to give an animal and who would provide a good, loving, forever home for the animal, but who can't come up with the initial adoption fee. Your help can place an animal in that home where it will receive love and care.

To become a sponsor, mail your sponsorship to 801 W. Clydesdale Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72701, or bring your sponsorship donation to the shelter. Stay a while and visit the animals. Both you and the animals will enjoy the visit.

Your donation is tax deductible.

Madison Seyfried
Shelter Staff



Smokey Opens the Cat Room

In September 2012, as the new Washington County Animal Shelter staff worked to get the shelter ready for opening, Smokey just couldn't wait to get there. This is her story as told by the folks who cared for her and adopted her:

“We first noticed the cat in our compost bin in June of 2012. She was so weak she could hardly climb out of the bin. We immediately ran for the cat food and, thereafter, every morning and night we placed the cat food closer to our shed which was off our garage. It was a couple of weeks before she would allow us to treat her for fleas and ticks while she ate. We called her “Smokey” because she looked like a wisp of smoke because of her color and because she was so thin.

We tried to trap her so that we could get her to a veterinarian but that did not work even after several attempts. We also realized that she was pregnant and so we began feeding her 5 or 6 times a day. On August 5, 2012, Smokey gave birth to 4 beautiful kittens: 2 smokey colored ones and 2 gray tabbies.

Because she had kittens, we knew she would not go far and we knew we had to get her and her kittens confined and the best place was in the room above our garage. By slowly moving the food closer to a carrier we had placed close to the kittens, we were finally able to get Smokey in the carrier with her 4 kittens. And we moved them to their new home above the garage.

In order to keep their room cool we brought in fans and a tub into which we placed ice. We placed a fan so that it blew over the ice. The folks at EZ Mart knew our daily ice order by heart for 4 weeks.

In spite of all our efforts to adopt the kittens on our own, we were not successful. Our friend Lib worked with the staff of the new Washington County shelter and Smokey and her kittens became the first occupants of the Free Roaming Cat Room at the Lester C. Howick Washington County Animal Shelter.

Smokey showed her appreciation for the shelter by allowing orphan kittens to nurse as if they were her own. Her beautiful kittens quickly were adopted. They went in pairs that were play buddies from birth. Smokey came home with us after we formally adopted her. The story of the first occupants of the cat room has a very happy ending.

Donna Bloyed
Shelter Volunteer





Though the cats and dogs (and kittens and puppies) at the shelter are adorable and lovable, they simply couldn't get adopted without the support of our dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers help at WCAS in a number of different ways each and every day. Some volunteers like to help socialize the animals by running or walking dogs or spending quality time in the cat room. Other volunteers donate time to help make the animals look beautiful and smell wonderful for potential adopters by helping to bath and brush them.

For those volunteers that are not able to get away from the office during the week, there are always weekend adoption events! Ongoing adoption events include taking dogs to the Fayetteville Farmers' Market and Springdale Tractor Supply on Saturdays throughout the year. Recent single-time adoption events include a showing at the Pinnacle Foods workers' picnic, the Canine Co-op Adoption Event at Ozarks Electric, and the Pet Wellness Expo at the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

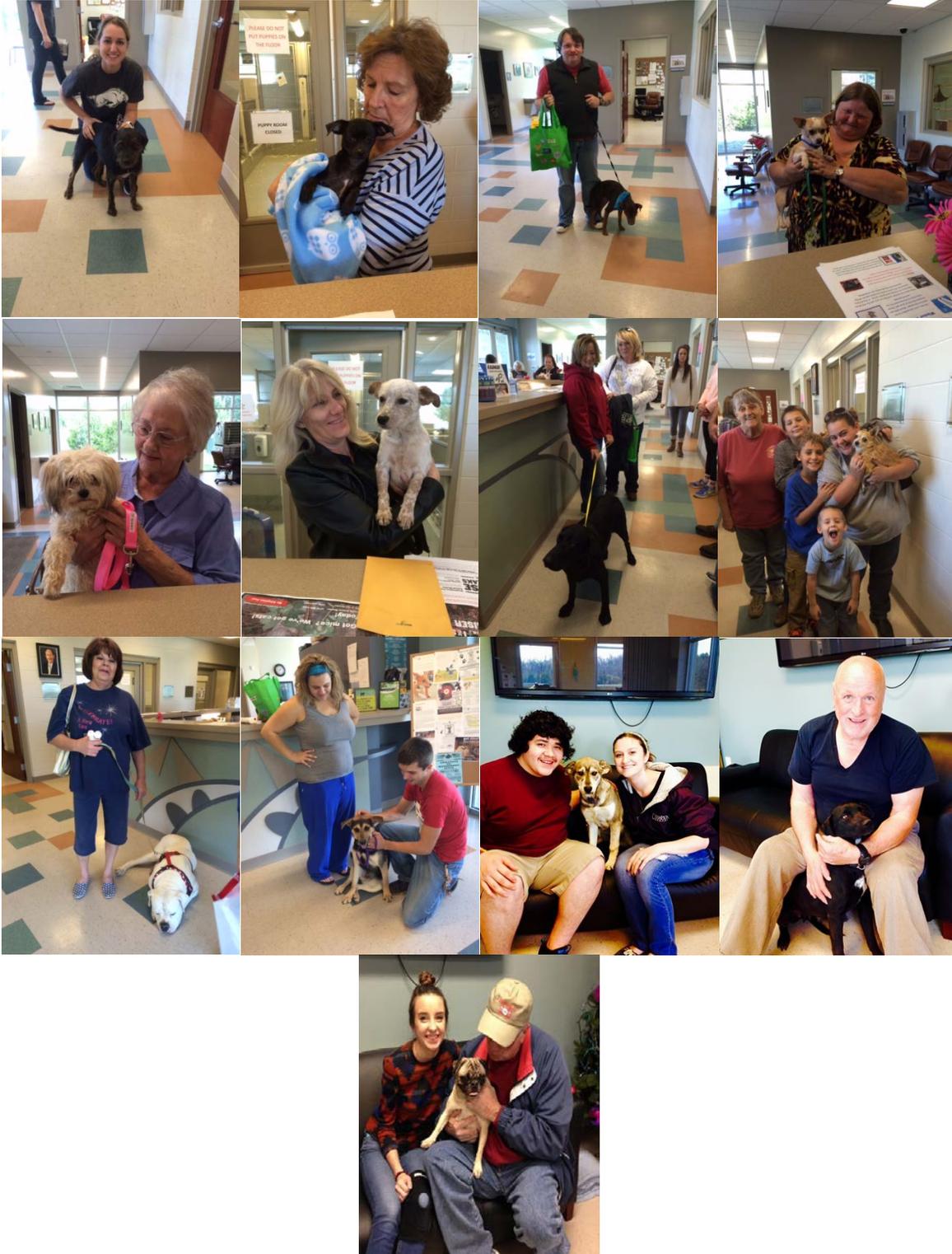
Without the help of volunteers, the animals could not get transported to and from these events, which typically have high rates of interest and adoptions for our wonderful animals! In addition to adoption events, volunteers help out by hosting orientations for new volunteers at the shelter and by helping potential adopters with adoption counseling.

Last but not least, volunteers help to raise funds for the animals. Keeping all those cats and dogs fed and healthy is not cheap! If you are interested in joining this important team of volunteers, please send an e-mail to friendsofWCAS@gmail.com.

We are always looking for more volunteers and truly appreciate those that we already have! The animals are thankful, too! 😊



Adoptions



Lester C. Howick Animal Shelter
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Happy New Year!

