



Pawprints on Our Hearts

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2009

Letter from the Top Dog

Hello friends, volunteers, and supporters of the Dorothy H. O'Connor Pet Adoption Center (DOCPAC)!

The new year has started off full of energy. Every Wednesday at 8:50 a.m. on KVIC I spend some time on the radio waves with Joe Friar, talking about our pet of the week and anything special we may have happening.

Michelle and Casey Bruchmiller, some of our hard-working volunteers, have secured a spot for us every Friday morning on KAVU where they introduce one of our furry friends to the community – many are adopted from this program!

Michelle Worsley, another busy volunteer, has coordinated with Big Lots to have us present one Saturday a month in front of their Navarro location, and her group of volunteers manages to secure a nice amount of perishable supplies from folks patronizing the store while educating the community about our facility.

As we compile this newsletter, I am so excited to share with you that through the end of March, we have found loving homes for no less than 51 cats and 162 dogs! The support and generosity of Victoria and surrounding communities is amazing and we appreciate this more than we can ever express.

As always, I invite and encourage anyone and everyone to “get involved” in 2009, to help the precious animals who simply cannot help themselves. Please read on...



~Sally Kuecker, Executive Director

We can never have enough....

-Monthly operating expenses can be *dramatically reduced each month* when the public supports us with small, consistent donations of perishable supplies. Think large trash bags, toilet paper, all sizes of zippered plastic bags, paper lunch sacks, permanent markers, copy paper, dry erase markers, pipe cleaners, golf or ping pong balls, and postage stamps.

-Trust us; every little item you contribute makes a difference in maintaining our annual budget, allowing us to rescue more animals in need and ultimately place them in loving, permanent homes.

-Northside Ranch, Pet & Garden Center, located at 5705 N. Main, accepts **contributions toward dog and cat food costs** on our behalf. Call Trissy at 573-5000.



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-Our **website**, www.docpac.net, continues to develop and expand. We encourage adoptive families to go there to **submit** original short stories and poems for inclusion in this newsletter and more. Please **share** your **adoption success stories** for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

-**Dr. Mark Besancon** educates monthly with a **video vet tip**. This is an excellent resource for students needing to do research for a paper or project. Each month's tip will be archived on the website.



-See **featured pets** of the week – you may find one you just can't resist, or maybe even one who would be a perfect match for a friend or loved one!

-Have you checked out the live **CatCam** on our **website**??? Tune in and watch us play from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday.

APPLAWS, APPLAWS, APPLAWS



Charlie, the DOCPAC mascot, keeps the Center in the community's eye by making frequent appearances at local events, providing educational programs for young people and taking his love into nursing homes to lonely residents.

Charlie and his canine friends can certainly relate to these aged folks who often just want to be remembered and loved ... it's amazing to see the light that comes into their eyes when the dogs visit!



Foster parents make it possible for us to take in and ultimately adopt out all the tiny kittens and puppies that first need some additional mothering before going to their new families. It's spring, and we are going to be in dire need of many foster families.

If you are willing to commit to frequent feedings, lots of lovin' and regular potty visits --- and temporary loss of sleep--- call us or visit our website to learn more about DOCPAC's foster parenting program. 361-575-8573.



Just Dogs Gourmet, Will & Connie Cleveland, continue to be valued contributors to our efforts.



Heartfelt Thanks to these Generous Souls who are furthering our Purpose!!



One of our most notable contributions this year came from the Presbyterian Day School program, Pennies for Pets “Special Needs” fund. These young supporters somehow managed to bring in bucket loads of change in the amount of \$858.57!

We'd like to take a moment to express appreciation to individuals who have so graciously donated to our efforts over the past three months. Your support enables DOCPAC to keep pushing forward with its mission. *Thank you on behalf of our animals!!!* If you see them, be sure to thank them.

Marjo Neinhuis	Jeff and Amy Kyrish	Rebekah Wilson
Carly Crawford	Jane Goehrig	DE Webworks
Barbara Chapman	Elaine Rozell	Terri Signore
Becca Henderson	Jack & Debbie LaBargg	Bernadette Bellanger
Robert & Marilyn Young	Susan Carter	Allison Logan
Charlotte McFadin	Michelle Gustafson	Crain NJHS
Frances Phillips	Bob & Jane Goehring	Ted & Lisa Wilkinson
Amy Elder	Norvell Thieme	Benjamin Gould
Barbara Myers	Becky Berryhill	Kelly Wyatt
Valencia Machovsky	Deborah Pauley	Kecia Garcia
Lisa Lester	Nicole Babb	Matilda Creech
Patty Boldt	Diana Hughes	Jenny Gwosdz
Elaine Rozzell	Terry Cavazos	William & Deann Reeves
Tractor Supply Company	Pamela Anderson	ME and Stan Heckrodt
Debra Herrera	Don Schmieley	Bugmobile
Coty Williams	Barbara Wickham	Teresa Coiles
Betty Rhodes	Wagon Wheel 4H Dewitt County	Mollie Carter
Barbara Chapman	Liz King	Inteplast Group
Melody Olsen	George Olsen	Michael Moses
John & Vanessa Scheumack	Marguerite Matthews	Duncan & Ada Sutherland
Girl Scouts/ Bryce Monney		
Health Occupations Students of America HOSA- 106 rolls of paper towels		
Howell Middle School Cheerleaders – Kay Newyear		
Vickers School –Brenda Phipps/Morgan Meyer		
Just Dogs Gourmet - Will and Connie Cleveland		
Jamie McElroy - Birthday Tributes honoring Trevor Lyn Hutcherson and Darby Grace Dunn		



The Cost of Unconditional Love and Friendship

Adoption Fees:

\$100.00 and up for Dogs

\$80.00 and up for Cats.

Fee Includes:

- Spay/Neuter
- A 24PetWatch Microchip
- 30 Days Free Pet Health Insurance
- Current Vaccinations
- 1 Free Health Exam/Check-Up From Participating Veterinarians
- Pet Coupons

Dogs are free of Heartworms

Cats are free of Feline Leukemia
and Feline Aids

Ask about getting your pet an ID card!

We would like to welcome you to the growing number of caring pet owners who utilize this important ID and information system.

Your Pet's ID Card will:

—Serve as Proof of Vaccinations, Wellness Exam, and document them as current which is required by boarding facilities, groomers, and emergency clinics.

—Provide your pet's rabies and microchip number, both of which can be used as identification if your pet is lost or stolen. Provide a color photo of your pet as additional proof of ownership if you become separated from your pet for any reason.

DOCPAC recommends pet parents to carry with them when preparing for any potential natural disaster, adding to your disaster preparedness pet kit in one simple card. We welcome all pets for this ID card. All we need is vaccination records from your Veterinarian so it can be entered on the card. Bring your pet to the Shelter for a photo shoot. It's quick and easy and within 10 minutes you will have your ID card ready to go. The charge is \$5.00 and we can renew every year.

Grab a Tissue....

I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.



As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her.

Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

Visit our website, www.docpac.net, or call us, to make a **tribute donation** and we'll send your honoree a personal letter letting him or her know that you've contributed to DOCPAC in their honor to help the animals. Your donations are tax deductible! Think birthdays, anniversaries, memorials.



Paws to Remember...

Beaushi Calaway McElroy, April 4, 1993 – March 16, 2009. A sweet, precious little soul in the body of a beautiful black Persian cat, with intent copper eyes that glowed like hot embers in his adorable, round face. Somewhere across that Rainbow Bridge, I have to believe that he is frolicking happily with those I have loved and lost before him. Rest in peace, my sweet little boy. My love goes with you. ~Jamie McElroy

Taffy Calaway, Nov. 13, 1997 – April 7, 2009. The bright blue eyes and sweet spirit of our Siamese – Tortie girl will be forever in our hearts ... may you chase grasshoppers and butterflies forever! ~Jimmy & Clarice Calaway

We invite you to add your precious departed pets to our Memory Tree.

“We do them a disrespect to focus only on the sorrow of their death when they have given us so much joy throughout life. If we wish to honor them, take what they have given us, all that love, and give it back to another animal in need of help.”
~author Kent Greenough

Priorities of The O'Connor Pet Adoption Center

The Dorothy H. O'Connor Pet Adoption Center provides homeless animals a caring environment with the purpose of the adoption of dogs and cats into their own homes. Our new pet adoption facility in Victoria, Texas was established in October 2007 and with the help of our knowledgeable staff, we continue to provide quality service to ensure that your pet leaves healthy and happy.

The Dorothy H. O'Connor Pet Adoption Center is dedicated in memory of Dorothy Hanna O'Connor (1907-1992). Having established Victoria's first community animal rescue center, the new facility builds upon her vision to prevent cruelty to animals through the facilitation of the adoption of all God's creatures.



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