

Christmas 2007 Newsletter

Tuesday, November 27th, 2007

This has been such a special year at the Shelter.

2007 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of Wilbarger Humane Society. Two new members, Iris Pinchak and Mary Adams, organized an event for the Celebration of God's Creatures and the rededication of the Shelter to our goals and mission.

Suzanne Butler and Deana Lehman researched and wrote a grant for low cost spaying and neutering of pets. The Department of State Health Services grant was awarded to our organization and is now accepting applications from pet owners of low income. As of this date, three citizens of Vernon have taken advantage of this program.

The Shelter welcomes two new employees: Olivia Araiza and Johnny Korsun. Some of you may remember Olivia as a former Board member and from her previous position at the Vernon Veterinary Clinic. Johnny comes to us via the Experience Works program of the Texas Workforce Commission. He is our groundskeeper and all-round handy man. We are so fortunate to have them. If you have not visited the shelter in a while, you will be pleasantly surprised. The entire facility has been painted (inside and out), the kennels and cages have been upgraded and the grounds are reminiscent of a public park complete with picnic tables.

This past year, Marty Ausanka negotiated and set up a weekly schedule for WHS and area animal rescue organizations to publicize and show adoptable animals on Channel 3 TV in Wichita Falls. Shelter Manager, Beverly Pedigo, has been our TV star. One of the most unlikely, but

successful, adoptions resulting from the broadcasts has been two pet white rats. (Yes, rats!) Beverly mentioned them on the air and was contacted almost immediately to adopt them. Adoption and rescue continues to be a major focus. Our shelter participated in a pet adoption promotion during October Purina Pets for Seniors. We know of at least two senior citizens who adopted from our shelter had their adoption fees reimbursed through this program. We plan to submit a grant request to Purina in January 2008 to participate in a similar program that will run throughout the year.

Board member, Jeanie Neely organized a new event for WHS. It entailed taking six of our older adoptable dogs to visit Vernon's two nursing homes. The Vernon College Student Government Association members joined in assisting the residents hold and pet the animals. Joyce Ashley of Vernon Daily Record was on hand to record the event which will be published Sunday December 2nd. It was a memorable event for everyone involved. There were lots of camera flashes and big smiles. As we visited with the residents, we exchanged stories about pets they had. We are already planning our next visit. One Activities Director wants to organize Pet Therapy Saturday. Maybe we can get their families and their pets participating in various activities!

This year the Humane Society lost a long-time supporter and friend, Judge Tom Neely. His presence and support through the years has always been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. We thank his wife, Jeanie, their children and grandchildren for setting up a foundation for WHS in his memory. We are truly saddened at his passing.

We want to again thank every person and every organization that helped us this year. Some of our regular funding did not materialize last spring. However, through your generous gifts of money, materials and time, we

have been able to keep our doors open and to continue the care of as many homeless pets as possible. We are an independent non-profit organization. We receive some funds from Wilbarger County and the City of Vernon but we are totally dependent upon the donations of people and organizations such as you. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you!

We look forward to the coming year with hope and anticipation.

From all of the Board of Directors, members, and employees of the Wilbarger Humane Society, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!