



Animal Talk

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Aggieland Pups are Going Places

With the help of Animal Placement Coordinator

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New ways to help pets in need

A Glimpse of our Annual Report

An update on what we accomplished in 2015



Dear Pet Lovers,

Thank you for your gifts of time and treasure. You helped increase the number of dogs and cats served this fiscal year by three hundred! Over 2000 pets were placed! We are proud to share the impact of your generosity in our online annual report at: <http://aggielandhumane.org/about-us/report-newslette/>

Your gifts helped save pets that came to us with medical problems that could be treated to help those pets be adoptable.

Please join us in spreading the message that spay and neuter surgeries are an important part of responsible pet ownership. Preventing unplanned litters helps!

We are grateful to have you as a partner in making this a better community for the people and pets who live here.

Kathy Bice
Executive Director



Our 2015 Bark Leaders' terms are coming to a close! The search for Aggieland Humane's next Bark Leaders begins on March 15th and runs through September 30th.

Funds raised by our Bark Leaders provide shelter, food, medical care, and vaccinations for the lost and homeless pets

that find their way to Aggieland Humane. The 2015 competition raised over \$9,000 and we hope to do even more this year.

For more information on the Bark Leaders campaign or for information on how to register your dog, please visit <http://aggielandhumane.org/events/>

STAFF AND ORGANIZATION

Updates

AGGIELAND PUPS ARE GOING PLACES: ANIMAL PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

Cari Cole-Menefee has built a career working in animal welfare and is using that experience as Animal Placement Coordinator, a new position at Aggieland Humane Society. Cole-Menefee manages fosters, adoption transfers, animal surrenders, and reuniting pets that come to the shelter via lost and found postings.

To that end Cole-Menefee is building relationships with other animal welfare organizations to facilitate transfers of pets for adoption. As a rule, Aggieland Humane will only send a pet to agencies that have a 97 percent live release rate. Locally she coordinates with the agencies in Navasota and Hearne for incoming transfers.



Another area Cole-Menefee wants to improve is the number of active foster families. We have about 70 active foster families and would like to increase this to over 100 active families.

A GLIMPSE AT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

1,391

ADOPTIONS

504

RETURNED
TO OWNER

151

TRANSFERS

546

FOSTERED
PETS

FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND AT

[HTTP://AGGIELANDHUMANE.ORG/ABOUT-US/REPORT-NEWSLETTE/](http://aggielandhumane.org/about-us/report-newslette/)

TAILS OF *Success*

YOUR GIFTS MAKE HAPPY ENDINGS LIKE THIS POSSIBLE!

It isn't uncommon for us to receive injured pets in from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine found by good Samaritans. One such pet happened to be a teeny-tiny red tabby kitten that had been infected with a botfly, leaving a huge hole in his side. Things weren't looking well for this baby; he would need to be treated for his infection and bottle-fed. He would need a devoted Foster to care for him. Luckily, he found one that day and was able to begin his recovery. His Foster bottle fed him every two hours all through the nights and helped him through his infection, and he soon grew into a healthy, bouncy kitten. At eight weeks of age, he was able to return to the shelter just in time for Free Feline Friday, and was adopted straight away. His adopters took him home that day; a journey that required a long flight- all the way to Washington!



DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN LEAVE AGGIELAND HUMANE SOCIETY IN YOUR WILL! THIS IS AN EASY WAY TO LEAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON THE LIVES OF HOMELESS PETS. TAX ID 74-2150288



Aggieland Humane was recently able to implement a brand new program to help the efficiency of adoptions, our Adoption Ambassador Program. This allows experienced Foster Volunteers to become ambassadors for their foster animals wherever they go. With this program, adopters no longer have to go to the shelter directly to adopt; the Foster Parent can now complete the adoption themselves, any time or any place. This way, pets can find their forever homes sooner. Calliope was one of the pilot pets for this program. This adorable pup had special needs, her adopter would benefit from one-on-one counseling from her Foster Parent. Because of our Adoption Ambassadors, Calliope was able to find her perfect forever home.



If you follow Aggieland Humane, you have probably heard of Biggie Smalls. Biggie was an elderly Chihuahua with a huge personality. He arrived in the summer of 2015 coughing and in quite bad shape. He went into foster care to be treated for kennel cough. As Biggie's condition was not improving quickly enough, it was discovered that he had a secondary infection, a collapsed lung, and trachea damage, all on top of being heartworm positive. With the help of donations, Biggie was able to get treatment for all of these issues, though his condition will require lifetime treatment. Biggie is now in a hospice adoption where he will continue his special treatment. He is happy in his home with his two new Chihuahua siblings!

Microchipping is another powerful service that we are glad to offer at the shelter. Microchips are the best chance of reunion if a pet goes missing, no matter how long or how far they have strayed. Take Mini, for example, a beautiful barn cat who strayed a little too far one day in June. If cats could talk, we are sure Mini would have a lot to say about her adventures; she was missing for six whole months! At the end of December, Mini was finally found, several miles away from her home. After a scan of her microchip, she was able to make it back home safe and sound, albeit with a few fleas. Microchipping is an amazing tool and we are happy to see so many pets get home safe. Aggieland Humane Society offers microchipping to the public daily.



Medical rescues are a big part of what we do at Aggieland Humane. Sometimes procedures as major as leg amputations have to be undergone; such was the case with Riley, a Chihuahua/terrier mix. Riley had an injured leg that had not healed properly and had become a burden to him. Through donations, we were able to have the leg removed so it would not cause him any more problems. Riley seemed to adapt very quickly to tripod life, and kept his happy demeanor. His friendliness and uniqueness attracted an adopter for Riley, and he found himself in a new home. Fast forward a few months later, and Riley, now Mr. Goodbar, got to carry a very special ring- for his adopter's marriage proposal!

PROGRAM *Updates*

SUCCESS OF ANIMAL FRIENDLY GRANT: PITBULL WELLNESS PROGRAM

Aggieland Humane Society was awarded a Texas Animal Friendly Grant totaling \$15,470. By purchasing an Animal Friendly License Plate, residents have enabled AgHS to create the Pit Bull and Chow Wellness Package for spaying and neutering Pit Bulls and Chows in five counties; Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison and Robertson. These **free** packages include a spay or neuter, a nationally registered microchip, and a rabies vaccine.

The success of this program has been overwhelming. So far, each event has “sold out,” with a grand total of 75 pitbulls in the Brazos Valley getting spayed, neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Because of the success of this program, Aggieland Humane may land a renewal of the Animal Friendly Grant to continue this program next year.



Dandelion



Sesame

VISIT OUR LOCAL DMV

TO GET YOUR OWN ANIMAL FRIENDLY
LICENSE PLATE TO HELP CONTRIBUTE
TO THIS PROGRAM.

ONGOING PURRFECT PAGEANT: YOUR CAT'S CHANCE TO RULE THE WORLD

Purrfect Pageant is currently in full swing. The Purrfect Pageant is a fundraiser where your cat campaigns to raise funds for AgHS and the homeless pets we care for at AgHS. The top three fundraising felines will be declared the Aggieland Humane Society's Purrfect Pageant Court for the 2016-2017 year. Your cat can raise money now through May 11th, 2016.

All three of the winning cats will receive a professional photo shoot and prizes to celebrate and take place in the Crowning Ceremony during Adopt-A-Thon on May 21st. Visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/AggielandHumane/purrfect-pageant2016> to sign your cat up!

WAYS TO *Give*

CORPORATE MATCHING

A corporate match is a great way to extend your gift to Aggieldand Humane Society. Different companies offer different types of matches, so it's important to check the guidelines. Here are two examples.

Bob Gibbons walks dogs as a volunteer and his company (ExxonMobile) sends Aggieldand Humane a check for \$500 when Gibbons provides verification of the required number of volunteer hours. Terry Sheeley's husband's company (Sherwin Williams) provides financial matching funds whenever she makes a financial gift, doubling the impact.

ADOPT-A-KENNEL

When ANCO President and CEO Kathy Gregory and her husband lost their special Yorkie "Chewy", they honored her memory by sponsoring a kennel to provide a temporary safe home, food, and health care to pets until they could find a new home and family.

"What better way for us to show our love of animals, remember Chewy, and help a great organization," says Gregory. "Hopefully someone will adopt a pup that they will love as much as we loved our little Chewy."

A \$1,000 annual gift sponsors a kennel and provides resources for outstanding health care, high quality food and toys, and plenty of socialization, exercise and relaxation. The donor also gets a customized plaque on their kennel!

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOW PERMANENT

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 made the option for qualified charitable contributions (QCD) permanent. For individuals age 70 ½ and over, the QCD allows direct transfers from tax-deferred IRA accounts to qualified charities totaling up to \$100,000 each year.

At age 70 ½ individuals must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from their IRAs. QCDs are often more advantageous than taking the taxable IRA distribution and then contributing the money to charity. Taxable distributions from IRAs are included in adjusted gross income (AGI). Any money distributed through a QCD avoids being included in your adjusted gross income and may result in:

- Less of your Social Security benefits being taxed
- Avoiding AGI limitations on charitable deductions on Schedule A -Deductions
- Avoiding increased Medicare premiums due to income.

Qualified Charitable Distributions automatically apply to the RMD amount for the year they are distributed. This is a real advantage for the charitably minded IRA owners who don't need their RMDs to live on.



UPCOMING Events

March 15th.....Bark Leaders runs through September 30th
April 9th.....Madison County Pitbull/Chow Wellness Program
April 16th.....TAMU College of Veterinary Medicine Open House
April 23rdSt. Francis Fest, Blessing of the Animals @ St. Francis Episcopal Church
May 21stAdopt-a-Thon @AgHS
June 4th.....Robertson County Pitbull/Chow Wellness Program
June 18thSterling Subaru Share the Love Adoption Event @Sterling Subaru
August 6th.....Brazos County Pitbull/Chow Wellness Program @ AgHS
October 14th-16th.....Wiener Fest @ Wolf Pen Creek

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BEST IN BREED SPONSORS



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