

Happy Holidays!

December

2011

Greetings from the Randolph County Humane Society. The year 2011 presented us with sweet rewards as well as challenges in the daily routines, surprises, and the comings and goings of shelter life. No two days are ever the same at RCHS!

Ten Year Anniversary

One constant, for which we are all grateful, is the stewardship of our shelter manager, Kelly Scheidegger, who recently celebrated her 10 year anniversary with RCHS. Kelly's skills, training and experience, coupled with the compassion she brings to work each day are greatly appreciated by her staff, the board of directors, as well as all of our feline and canine residents at the Randolph County Humane Society. Congratulations, Kelly, and thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Some of the highpoints of 2011:

Rescue transports: Since 2007, RCHS has participated in the Pet Smart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® program which provides rescue transports of canines from pet over-populated areas, such as ours, to areas where there are shortages of pets available for adoption. Over 1000 canines have been rescued from RCHS with forever homes waiting on the other end. The impact of this program cannot be overstated; it continues to provide a life-line for our animals and helps Kelly and her staff deal with the perennial problem of an over-crowded house. We are one of only three shelters in WV participating in this program, and have provided more transport animal adoptions than any other shelter on the east coast. We have Kelly to thank for this program's great success.

Play Yard: Last spring, a few of the board members installed two play yards behind the building. The yards provide a place for dogs to socialize and to run and play, off leash. Watching them fetch a ball, splash in the wading pool and horse around with a

shelter mate has been fun to observe and we look forward to more play yard fun in the spring.

Home 4 the Holidays: RCHS is participating in the *Home 4 the Holidays* drive which began on October 1 and extends through January 3, 2012. The national goal is 1.5 million adoptions; our goal at the Randolph County Humane Society is 150. We began our drive during Forest Festival Weekend and had a wonderfully successful adoption event in City Park. Twenty six animals were adopted that weekend, which was an all time record. It was a very happy occasion for RCHS staff and volunteers. At this writing, we are well past the half way mark and still counting!

'Winter Wonderland' Adoption Event

On Sunday, December 11, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, **Santa** invites you to join him at RCHS for a festive end of the year celebration that will include hot chocolate and refreshments. Animals will be under the canopy, available for adoption and **Santa** hopes you will encourage anyone you know who might be considering a pet for their family to come and visit our animals. Contribute a bag of food, preferably Pedigree or Purina or a bag of kitty litter, and you and a pet, either your own or one of our shelter animals, can have your picture taken with **Santa**, printed on the spot, as our gift of appreciation. We hope you will come out and enjoy the afternoon with us!

Challenges for 2012:

Even with the support of the rescue transport program, our biggest challenge continues to be the staggering numbers of rescued and owner relinquished animals being brought to our shelter. We are over-crowded, short-staffed, and underfunded to meet the ever increasing costs of animal care. You can help our cause by spaying and neutering your pets and by advocating for the spaying and neutering of the pets of your friends and family members. Until spaying and neutering is standard practice, we will continue to face the daily challenges of providing lodging, medical attention and general care for more animals than we are equipped to handle. Spaying and neutering our pets is the only remedy.

The original RCHS structure, now the cat building, was built in 1950. The floors are caving and the building is deteriorating at a rapid rate. It has outlived its useful life and must be replaced. We hope the building will stand up to the hardships of one more winter, and that our building fund will grow to support replacement of our present structure, as soon as financially possible.

Fundraising is the first priority of the board of directors and we hope that many of you will help us by volunteering to help with the events, by attending and promoting the events, and/or providing sponsorship and assistance with monetary support. We are planning at least one fundraiser each month, January through August. You can learn about these events by following us on facebook and by checking out the monthly newsletter, which will be available on our website, rchs-pets.org, beginning in January.

Donate

We have begun our membership drive for 2012 and hope you will show your support by becoming a member of RCHS. Go to rchs-pets.org where you will find a membership form to be completed and returned to us. By becoming a member, you are making a difference in the lives of our shelter residents and affirming the importance of your pets in your own lives. You may also wish to make a donation to our Spay and Neuter fund or our Yelp for Help program. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Henry, who required a leg amputation, got the medical care he needed, is healing beautifully, and is now ready for adoption.

Volunteer

We are always recruiting volunteers. If you have some time during the work day, consider offering your services for a few hours or a few days during the week. There are many ways to contribute that do not require coming to the shelter. If you are interested, contact Ginny Zuboy, the volunteer coordinator, and speak with her about the various

projects that are ongoing and other tasks that need attention. Ginny is especially interested in recruiting dog-walkers during the week. We have a small group of retired, dedicated walkers but they would like to see their group grow so that all the dogs can look forward to a walk six days out of the week. In addition, we seek volunteers who enjoy the company of cats. Our felines also need exercise, stimulation, and attention. Ginny can be reached at gzuboy@gmail.com or at 636-2075.

Adopt

Our primary goal at the Randolph County Humane Society is to find loving and lasting homes for all of our shelter residents. Providing a home for a shelter animal is the best of all ways you can show support for our cause, and the reward is one that keeps on giving. If you have friends or family members or coworkers who are considering a pet for themselves or their families, please suggest that they consider adopting a shelter animal rather than purchasing one from a pet supply house or private breeder. Shelter animals did not end up at RCHS through fault of their own. They have simply been unlucky at love and they deserve a second chance. Please help us provide that second chance for these dear creatures who deserve nothing less.

Donate * Volunteer * Adopt

That is our slogan for 2012. Please help us by providing your support in one or all three ways denoted in our slogan. Every donation, every volunteer and every adoption makes a difference.

Finally, we want to thank you for your past support! We appreciate our friends of RCHS and look forward to the New Year with hope and resolve. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe and

Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!

RCHS 

Christmas Wish List: Food, litter, treats, cleaning supplies- would be much appreciated! "Woof!"

