
Preston County Humane Society Newsletter

Fall, 2014

Volume 10 Issue 3

Inside This Issue

Page 1

Run For It Team Brings It home – Again!

Page 2

PCHS News and Notes

Krispy Kreme sale

Spay/Neuter Program News

Contact Information

Page 3

PCHS and Preston County Animal Shelter – Can We Work Together?

Myths About Shelter Pets

Page 4

Kids Love Kind News!

Preston Paws



2014 PCHS Run For It Team



Saturday, September 27 was another great day in the West Virginia hills as the PCHS team participated in the Tucker Community Foundation *Run For It* event. Our largest team ever joined more than 1000 other runners and walkers raising money for community projects and organizations in eight surrounding counties. This is our fourth successful year raising funds for our Spay/Neuter program. Total race day dollars add up to \$2369. This amount includes 15 team member race entry fees, sponsorship and donor dollars, and \$875 in *Run For It* awards.

For the first time this year, the Preston County Commission sponsored a race day purse of \$1500 for county teams. We shared this award with three other teams, receiving \$375. We are also very grateful to receive for the second time an award from the Bernard McDonough Foundation, this year in the amount of \$500.

Thanks go out to our sponsors and supporters in the community for making it possible to raise \$1491 for our team. Many \$2 donations to the 2\$-2K-2 Save Lives campaign came in from friends, neighbors and coworkers. These local businesses also made generous donations: BB&T Bank, Scott Shaffer at The Auto Source, Storage Plus, Success Floor Covering, Dr. Lindsay Jenkins of Dream Dental, Ray Thompson Insurance Agency, The Preston County Inn, Therapy Works Kingwood, Spa Roma, and Joe's Globe Distributing. Please stop in to say *Thank You* in person!

Your Humane Society - News and Notes

Halloween Means Donuts !

Of course – we need lots of goodies to share at this time of year, and PCHS can deliver delicious donuts just in time. We are taking orders now for Krispy Kreme donuts to be delivered on Thursday, October 30. Prices and flavors available are: regular glazed at \$7.50 per dozen and kreme filled, raspberry filled, lemon filled or chocolate iced at \$8.50.

This time we will be receiving the truck - loaded with the freshest possible donuts - at the Preston County Inn, so it's easier than ever to pick up your order or to help out with sorting and deliveries.

Everyone loves Krispy Kremes, especially when you tell friends how the sale supports caring for animals in our county. Orders are due by Monday, Oct. 20. Please call with questions and orders to 304-435-1084, or fax orders to 304-789-2862, attention Debbie DeLauder.

And The Ribbon Goes To...

Did you know our President, Helen Nikirk, and Vice-President, Sheila Williams, were chosen to serve as judges at the Buckwheat Festival Pet Show?



Spay Neuter Program News

At our September meeting, Spay/Neuter Program Director Alix Evans reported that we are well above 100 animals assisted in 2014. Thanks to generous grants from the Peterman Foundation, we are able to pay the full cost of spay/neuter surgery for pets of low income families – and have done so for 47 procedures. PCHS funds have discounted the cost for 66 more pets.

You may have seen recent ads in the *Preston County Journal* and *Penny Saver* promoting our Peterman Grant offer. The headline “Free Spay/Neuter” generated lots of calls to the Spay/Neuter hotline, so we hope to help many more families before the end of the year.

Let’s get the word out to everyone we know about how PCHS is helping to save lives by reducing the number of unwanted and homeless pets. All that’s required to receive assistance is a phone call to 304-435-1808 and/or completing an easy application.

A copy of the application is being sent with this newsletter. If each PCHS member makes a few copies to share with friends, family, and neighbors, and offers to help complete it, our program can truly reach throughout our county.

Contact Information

Preston County Humane Society

P.O. Box 395
Kingwood, WV 26537
304-435-1084

Spay/neuter Program

Alix Evans 304-435-1808

To report animal abuse/cruelty/neglect call the Preston County Sheriff’s Department – ask to speak with a Humane Officer. Call 304-329-1611

Poison Control Hotline available 24 hours/day. A charge may be billed to your credit card. 888-426-4435.

24/7 Veterinary Emergency Care

Fairmont exit off I 79 304-363-2227
Cheat Lake, off Rt. 43 304-594-1124

PCHS Board of Directors

President: Helen Nikirk

Vice President: Sheila Williams

Treasurer: Debbie DeLauder

Secretary: Ginger Larew

Membership: Helen Nikirk

Spay Neuter Program: Alix Evans

Education/Communications:

Dana Rexroad

Newsletter: Dana Rexroad

304-379-9821

danarex@frontiernet.net

Regular Monthly Meeting

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm at Preston Memorial Hospital in the first floor conference room near the cafeteria.

All are welcome to attend.

PCHS Board Discusses Relationship with County Animal Shelter

PCHS has always expressed our support for the work done by Preston County Animal Shelter staff, and we recognize and encourage the commitment of county officials to continue improvements there. But should we define a more formal relationship between PCHS and PCAS? That topic was discussed at our recent meeting and in a conversation between President Helen Nikirk and County Administrator (and PCHS member) Kathy Mace.

We recognize that we share common goals but that both have limited resources. Because PCHS has worked hard to fundraise and obtain grants, at this time we are in good financial shape; but board members simply cannot make additional time commitments. Perhaps for the same reason, member participation in events is low. Our key programs will continue to be spay/neuter financial assistance and sponsoring *Kind News* for elementary school classrooms.

Here are some points raised in our discussions:

- ◆ Lack of communication has been a barrier to working more closely with PCAS. We would like to have regular updates, phone calls returned, and coordination for spay/neuter referrals.
- ◆ We cannot make a commitment to volunteer hours at the shelter, but encourage our members and animal friends in the community to do so.
- ◆ We hope to work together at local events offering information about our missions, public education, and promoting shelter adoptions and spay/neuter.
- ◆ We will invite shelter staff to join us at our Member Appreciation event early in 2015.
- ◆ Any joint activities must meet our high standard of financial accountability and transparency.

Members – please share your thoughts on this important relationship with PCHS board members by calling or attending our monthly meeting.

Common Myths About Shelter Pets

PCHS members can help shelter animals find new homes by sharing the truth about these common misconceptions:

Owners bring animals to the shelter because they are bad pets

In most cases, people reasons – not bad behavior – bring animals to a shelter. Owners may pass away or relocate, may move to an apartment where pets are not allowed, or may realize they can't afford to care for a pet. Owners didn't spay and end up with a litter of unwanted puppies or kittens. Sometimes pets are removed from inhumane care by authorities.

Animals in shelters are sick or unhealthy

The majority of animals are perfectly healthy, they just need a home to thrive. Shelter workers assess animals and provide needed care, often including spay/neuter and vaccinations.

Shelter pets have trouble bonding to a new family, especially older ones

Shelter pets do form new bonds; some seem to understand they have been rescued from a scary situation. At first, they may fear being left alone and need reassurance. Older pets may need more time to adjust to physical aspects of a new home, such as stairs, but emotional attachment is not hampered.

Strays don't make good pets

Stray animals are not the same as "feral" ones. Most strays were socialized in a home with people, then lost or abandoned. Strays can be especially grateful for a new home, food and shelter.

Shelter animals have behavior problems that indicate they were abused

Of course animals in a shelter may seem shy or frightened, this does not necessarily mean they were abused. In fact, many pets who truly were abused are friendly and forgiving.

Sometimes shelter pets just need more exercise, training or socialization –in a new, loving home.





Students in Ms. Jones' third grade class at Kingwood Elementary, really enjoyed a recent *Kind News* story about elephants.

Kind News is reaching 980 students, grades K to 6, in elementary schools throughout the county thanks to subscriptions sponsored by PCHS.



Remember

Krispy Kreme donut orders are due on October 20 for delivery Thursday, October 30.

Call orders to 304-435-1084



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P.O. Box 395
Kingwood, WV 26537

Address Correction Requested