
**Preston County Humane
Society Newsletter**

Spring, 2015

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Inside This Issue

Page 1

*2014 A Record Year for
Spay/Neuter Assistance*

*Partnership for Trap-
Neuter-Release Program*

Page 2

PCHS News and Notes:

*January Social Event
Honorary Members
Website News
Memorial Donation
Donut Sale
Outreach Display*

Contact Information

Page 3

*Snowbird Notes
by Dana Rexroad*

Page 4

*New Options for Spay and
Neuter in Preston County*

Preston Paws



A Record Year for PCHS Assisted Spay/Neuter

Our organization set a new record in 2014 of 211 animals receiving spay and neuter procedures with the help of Preston County Humane Society. Assistance was provided through three programs: PCHS assisted 87 pets with discounted procedure costs funded by membership dues, donations, and fundraising. A generous grant from the Peterman Foundation allowed us to pay the full cost of spay/neuter for 86 pets of families meeting grant income guidelines. A special PCHS program targeting community cats funded 38 additional procedures. Community cats include, for example, unowned cats like those in feral cat colonies and “barn cats.”

We were able to reach this record number of animals, and families, helped by getting our message out all year. Community outreach included PCHS presence at events from the Family Life Expo to the Buckwheat Festival. We publicized our programs with a month-long window display in Kingwood and advertisements in county newspapers. Spay/Neuter Program Director, Alix Evans, offered applications to families served at the Raymond Wolfe Center. Fundraising also occurs throughout the year including spring and fall donut sales and seeking sponsors for our *Run For It* team.

Unique Partnership Targets Feral Cat Colonies

Negotiations are ongoing to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding bringing together PCHS, the Preston County Animal Shelter and County Commission, and PURR, an organization operating a low cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. Working together we hope to create a trap-neuter-release (TNR) program to control feral cat colony populations around the county.

Animal Shelter staff will trap cats in targeted colonies, transport them to the PURR clinic and, when recovered, return them to the colony territory. PCHS will budget designated funds to pay PURR as part of our Community Cats project. TNR is a proven strategy to reduce feral cat populations and, because cats are tested for feline leukemia and receive rabies vaccinations, safeguard the health of the cats and our communities. PCHS has a history of working with concerned citizens willing to help TNR and care for feral cats; we welcome this new partnership and look forward to expanding this essential program.

Your Humane Society - News and Notes

Members and Friends Social Enjoyed by All

PCHS was pleased to host a social and networking event on January 29 at the Preston County Inn. We welcomed current members and new honorary members, local government representatives, Dr. Cary, PC Animal Shelter staff, Diane Hinkle from Tucker Community Foundation, and other partners who work with PCHS throughout the year.

Great food and conversation along with door prizes and gift raffles made the evening lots of fun. You don't want to miss it next year!

Stay Tuned

We have a new webmaster! PCHS owns the domain name prestoncountyhumanesociety (.org), but it has been difficult finding a web-savvy volunteer to take on the challenge of building and managing our site. Now Joseph Morasco, husband of Board member Ginger Larew, has stepped forward. Thank you, Joe. Stay tuned to your computers for updates.

Memorial Donation Received

PCHS would like to extend our sympathy and thanks to the family of Robert Allen Isner for their thoughtful donation in his name. Mr. Isner's obituary included mention of his faithful canine companion, Patch.

Welcome 2015 Honorary Members

We are pleased to honor these new members for their valuable support of PCHS, community engagement, and concern for animal welfare in our county.

Dwayne and Susan Fearer of Hazelton worked with PCHS through a long and frigid winter to trap, spay/neuter, and find new homes for cats belonging to a neighbor who could no longer care for them. Their concern and neighborliness are truly exemplary.

Dr. Lynn Housner is a dedicated supporter of PCHS and is becoming more involved since his retirement from WVU. He holds the position of Associate Dean Emeritus of the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, capping a long career and many leadership positions in the field. Dr. Housner also serves as the Preston County Parks and Recreation Commission President.

Spring = Blueberry Cake

That was an extraordinarily popular flavor in our recent Krispy Kreme donut sale. Orders were delivered to happy customers all over Preston on April 2nd. Thanks to all who ordered and helped deliver!

Community Outreach

Did you catch our colorful Spay Day display in the Chamber of Commerce window through the month of February?

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

All are welcome to attend.

Travels With Pete and Friends

Dana Rexroad

This winter my husband, Joe, and I were lucky enough to take a snow bird trip to the warm Southwest. Our dog Pete and cat Mosi went along. From Florida to Texas to Arizona, for nearly three months on the road, animal stories and events caught our attention everywhere. Some observations:

Animal stories are big news. In Alabama, seizure of a kennel of fighting dogs lead the local news for days with footage from the scene highlighting the key role of the Humane Society of the US. In Memphis, local TV stations reported the theft of two dogs from a well-known animal rescuer. The “Bring Them Home” campaign reached every media outlet with descriptions of the dogs and interviews with the owner. A veterinarians’ association advertised that the dogs could be returned, no questions asked, to any vet’s office in the city. In Phoenix, news media gave major coverage to the sad story of a pony critically injured on the highway when he fell from the back of a pickup truck. Public outrage increased when the driver protested his serious criminal charges by saying “it’s just an animal.”

The spay/neuter message is everywhere. On billboards, newspapers, flyers, and media stories, the word is getting out that spay and neuter saves lives. Most communities advertised low cost spay/neuter services, many had clinics dedicated for this purpose. Every newspaper, from small town freebies to big city dailies, had photos of adoptable pets – all were spayed or neutered before adoption. Trap-neuter-release programs for feral cats are gaining ground.

Pets are snow birds, too. Because so many travelers bring along furry family members, most campgrounds not only “allow” dogs, but walking trails and off-leash dog playgrounds have become expected amenities. Cats usually stay in their campers, enjoying the view.

Every good-sized town has a dog park, or two. Austin, TX has thirteen; *The Austin Statesman* covered the opening of a huge new public dog park with a full page color spread in the *Lifestyles* section. Dog parks in

every town are busy places from morning to evening. In Cottonwood, AZ a nice dog park adjoins municipal soccer and softball fields – those fields were always empty, but the dogs came out to play. It seems owners enjoy socializing as much as the dogs do. Wouldn’t it be great if we could get a dog park added to the Parks and Recreation plan for Kingwood?

Large animal care is a special challenge in the West. Many animal shelters had separate large and small animal facilities. The expense of transporting, feeding, and caring for neglected or ill horses and livestock is a drain on the resources of shelters. Vet clinics often include a barn with corrals for horses and cattle. Near Lexington, KY we saw a beautiful thoroughbred retirement farm. Near El Paso, TX it was shocking to see “factory farming” of thousands of Holstein dairy cows kept in bare dirt pens like feed lots.

As always, some stories are heartbreaking and some are hopeful. The good news is that in every small town and big city, caring individuals, private groups, the media, and government agencies are engaged in efforts to improve animal welfare. Be assured that, as a member of PCHS, you are part of that effort.



From Almost Home Rescue on Facebook:

Rescuing dogs will tear your heart out, stomp on it and bury it where you never think you will find it . . . Then along comes another dog that digs it up and fetches it back to you.



*What do you get when you
cross a bulldog and a shitzu?
Nothing – they're both fixed.*

ASPCA billboard for Spay Day, 2015

Spay/Neuter Options Expand in Preston County

Preston County has really come a long way in making spay/neuter services convenient, affordable, and available to all. This has always been a goal for PCHS, and we are excited to share news about three new options:

☺ The Preston County Animal Shelter organizes one or more trips each month to the PURR low cost clinic for cats in Grafton. Families of all income levels can participate by calling 304-329-3461 to sign up. On the appointment day, owners bring their cats to the shelter in Kingwood at 7:30 am, complete required paperwork and payment, then pick up their pet(s) the same afternoon.

☺ Drs. Cary and Alvarez at Mountainland Animal Hospital offer discounted spay/neuter clinics several days per month with designated days for dog and for cats. Spaces fill up fast! Call 304-329-1586 for more information. PCHS may cover all or part of the cost when we receive an application for assistance.

☺ Homeward Bound, a Preston County animal rescue organization, recently announced a grant from the Peterman Foundation to help families in need with spaying or neutering their pets. Call the “fix-it” line at 304-864-6843 or find info online at fixit@homewardboundwv.org.

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Preston County Humane Society
P.O. Box 395
Kingwood, WV 26537