
**Preston County Humane
Society Newsletter**

Summer, 2015

Volume 11 Issue 2

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Canine Flu Outbreak – A Reason to Worry?

Frightening media reports about an “epidemic” of canine influenza (CIV) in the Midwest have alarmed pet owners everywhere. As is often the case, these reports don’t contain much thoughtful, practical information. It is true that this spring more than 1000 dogs in the Chicago area were diagnosed and a few other cases have been reported around the country. Here is a brief update.

“Dog flu” is a respiratory infection caused by a virus easily spread from dog to dog through the air or from contaminated toys, bowls, or other objects. Humans are not at risk, but we can spread the virus when not using good hygiene like hand sanitizing. Symptoms are similar to human flu: fever, lethargy, decreased appetite, cough and runny nose. Most dogs have a mild case, but some develop pneumonia or other serious complications. There is no antiviral treatment for CIV, but antibiotics may be prescribed to treat secondary infections like pneumonia.

A vaccine for one type of virus, called H3N8, is available and effective. Like human flu vaccines, it may not guarantee protection, but symptoms will be milder in a vaccinated dog. A different strain of CIV called H3N2 has been identified in recent outbreaks in the US. Research is ongoing to develop a specific vaccine for H3N2, but it appears that the H3N8 vaccine offers some protection. There is concern that cats may be at risk from the H3N2 virus

Prevention is key, beginning with regular vaccinations. If you are exposed to a sick dog, clean and disinfect clothing, surfaces, and hands to prevent spreading infection. If your dog develops a cough or respiratory infection, your veterinarian may perform a nasal swab test and/or blood test to diagnose CIV. Treatment is supportive, making sure the dog is comfortable, hydrated, and eating well. Keep your dog at home for at least two weeks to allow a full recovery and reduce spread of the disease.

Ask your veterinarian, groomer, and boarding kennel if there is a plan in place to minimize risk of infection. Finally, stay informed and aware if you hear news of an outbreak in our area. A helpful website, doginfluenza.com, has lots of information and answers to FAQs.



Your Humane Society - News and Notes

Do We Seem to be Obsessed with Donuts?

Each newsletter is either reporting fundraising success from our last Krispy Kreme day (we earned \$1561 in April!), or announcing the next sale. That's because donuts have been very good to PCHS!

Watch for our next delicious sale in October with delivery on the 29th - just in time for Halloween.

Meeting Location Changes

We are very grateful that the beautiful new Preston Memorial Hospital has offered PCHS space for monthly meetings. The new location is the Dogwood conference room located on the first floor. Enter the main door, turn to the left, continue past a registration desk to the end of the hall, turn right, and join us in the first room on the right.

Kind News Program Update

We've had heartwarming positive feedback from Preston County teachers receiving *Kind News* for their classrooms. In the 2015-16 school year, 952 students from kindergarten to sixth grade will receive *Kind News*. Your membership supports this great program.



Spay/Neuter Program News

Year-to-date we have assisted with the cost of 87 spay/neuter surgeries. Of these, 61 were funded with a grant from the Peterman Foundation, 22 by PCHS awarded funds, and 4 by a PCHS Community Cats fund.

Community cats will continue to be a focus this year. Working with Preston County Animal Shelter, we hope to fund trap-neuter-return for several feral cat colonies around the county.

Volunteers Needed

We have financial resources to help feral cats, but PCHS needs a volunteer - or several - willing to spend time evaluating identified feral cat colonies, setting traps, and transporting cats to and from the vet. This is a chance to really make a difference for the cats and for our communities.

Donations Received

PCHS is pleased to announce three recent donations that reflect our growing community support. One was a generous donation from Rotruck Lobb Funeral Home, Kingwood, at the time of our Krispy Kreme sale.

We received a check from the Upper Cheat Crime Watch organization in Rowlesburg thanking Alix Evans for her presentation about PCHS at a meeting.

And Ellen Pifer, a *Kind News* teacher, donated to fund a classroom subscription.

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 the new Preston Memorial Hospital in the Dogwood conference room, main floor past the cafeteria and to the right. All are welcome to attend.



Preston County Humane Society

Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2015

We invite each and every member to attend this meeting. Our influence for animal welfare in our communities may be measured by the involvement of our members. Please bring your ideas to advance the mission of PCHS and help us to keep improving and planning for the future.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the new Preston Memorial Hospital, Kingwood, in the 1st floor "Dogwood" conference room. Enter through the front entrance, turn left, pass the registration desk and continue straight to the end of the hall, turn right, then first room on your right.

Time: 7:00 pm Refreshments will be served.

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and introduction of board members and other attendees
- Treasurer's report and financial review for 2014; 2015 year-to-date – Debbie DeLauder
- Spay/Neuter Program report – Alix Evans
- Membership report – Helen Nikirk
- Communication and Education report – Dana Rexroad
- *Kind News* Project – Dana Rexroad
- Proposed 2016 budget planning
- Election of officers for 2016 - 2017 terms
- Other business

The following Board positions are up for election:

President	Helen Nikirk is running for reelection
Membership Director	Vacant – seeking a volunteer to serve
Treasurer	Debbie DeLauder is running for reelection
Communication & Education Director	Dana Rexroad is running for reelection

All of the offices above are open for nominations. Any dues-paying member is eligible to run for office and may nominate herself/himself or another member of PCHS for office if that member has agreed to serve. Nominations must be received by Helen Nikirk, President, by July 9th at 304-282-8463.

Board members elected at the annual meeting will take office on January 1, 2016, but may be appointed to serve sooner if they wish to begin serving this year.



Support The PCHS Run For It Team!

This will mark our fifth year fielding a team for Tucker Community Foundation's **Run For It** race. This exciting fundraising event will take place on Saturday, September 26, in the beautiful mountain town of Davis. You may have heard radio spots running on WFSP promoting the race.

This year, it's easier than ever to join or support our team because you can do it in just a few minutes online. The website is: raceroster.com/4874. On this site you can complete registration to run the 5K or walk 2K and make a donation to our team using a credit card. Just select PCHS from the list of teams on the site. Member support really means a lot for helping us win additional grants and awards.



West Virginia News

The story is just coming out about a dog fighting operation broken up in Jefferson County, WV. The local Sheriff credits help of the Humane Society assisting in the investigation, seizing and caring for dogs on the property, and with charges filed against the owner. Twenty-one "pit bulls" were seized, from young dogs to 10-12 years old. Fourteen had scars showing they were fighting dogs, as judged by a veterinarian.

The Sheriff made a point to say he "had petted every one of those dogs . . . they are not vicious." He is hopeful that they will all find kind new homes.

The Humane Society of the United States offers a \$5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a dogfighter. The number to call is 1-877-TIP-HSUS. Caller identity will be protected.

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

