
**Preston County Humane
Society Newsletter**

Summer, 2016

Volume 12 Issue 2

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Preston Paws



A Day of Caring in Preston County- Raymond Wolfe Center, United Way, and PCHS

On May 6, 2016, Preston County Humane Society participated in the first United Way "Day of Caring" pet food distribution in Kingwood.



Photograph by Alix Evans at Raymond Wolfe Center

The idea originated with Board member Alix Evans when she was asked to plan a "Day of Caring" activity at Raymond Wolfe Center. Alix immediately thought of food pantry clients and their pets. She brought together Catholic Charities of West Virginia; Don, an AmeriCorps worker at Raymond Wolfe; United Way volunteers from Mylan Pharmaceuticals; and PCHS.

Pet food donation boxes at Walmart, Dollar General, and The Dollar Tree collected a mountain of dry and canned food, treats, toys, and colorful collars and leashes. Mylan volunteers sorted and filled more than 50 reusable dog or cat tote bags.

Pet owners were invited to bring their pets along to Raymond Wolfe to collect their special bag, pose for a photo, and share a family story. Information was provided on spay and neuter financial assistance offered by PCHS. We believe helping pets helps their family. When pet food is provided there is more money for people food, and keeping pets healthy also saves money.

It was easy to see these pets are cherished family members and that receiving the food was really appreciated. Owners spoke proudly about Daisy Mae, Russel, Kaya, Gizmo, Chip, Prissy, Toby, and Bubbles. We share some of the best stories about pets we met on the next page.

Day of Caring Stories

Most of the pets visiting the pet food distribution event were dogs, and we heard some wonderful stories about them. Cats just aren't out-and-about like dogs, but one cute kitten named "Mr. Cuddles" was a delight. About the dogs:

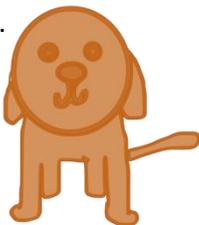
Buttercup is a little chihuahua who had a rough life living outside tied to a tree. Her new family rescued her; now she sleeps inside, in a bed, under the covers.

Ruffles is a confident, protective breed – a mountain feist. He's certified as a medical support service dog for his owner who suffers with an anxiety disorder. With Ruffles at her side, she is able to leave the comfort zone of her home when necessary.

Missy is an amazing 17 year old chihuahua mix. She's lost all her teeth, so receiving some cans of soft food was a treat.

Candy was an unwanted puppy. Now she is a year old, very much loved, and having new experiences. Her visit to Raymond Wolfe was her first trip out to make new friends.

Tiji is a poodle with a special trick – she learned to smile. She is a great help and protector for her owner who lives alone and is hard of hearing. Tiji signals with loud barks when someone is in the area.



Your Humane Society News and Notes

Spay/Neuter Program

Perhaps you have seen our ad running in the *Preston County News and Journal* in the past weeks. Thanks to a grant received from The Peterman Foundation, we can grow our spay/neuter financial assistance program. The amount we cover depends on household income; we are able to assist families or individuals year round.

As of June, 2016, PCHS funds have helped pay the bill for 56 pets. Peterman funds covered the entire surgery bill for 20 more.

Our Community Cats Program assisted a family in Reedsville with many feral or semi-tame cats on the property. Working with the homeowners, 11 cats and kittens were caught then examined by veterinarian Paula Young. Three adult cats had to be euthanized for medical reasons. Eight very young kittens found new homes and became tame house pets. We are working with the adopters to make sure all those kittens are spayed or neutered!

We've had some success dealing with feral cat colonies using both trap-neuter-return and neuter-new home strategies.

These are your membership fees and contributions at work!

Donations Received in Memory of Hunter McCartney

Hunter McCartney's family knew he was a true animal lover, so they thought of PCHS to receive donations in his memory. We hope to offer a special program to help cats- Hunter's favorites- in his name. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Preston County Teachers Share *Kind News*

Once again, we received nothing but positive feedback from teachers receiving subscriptions of *Kind News*. Kids love this magazine and look forward to fun stories and classroom discussions. They really enjoy searching for "Camille" the chameleon hidden in each issue. In the 2016-17 school year 32 classes will receive *Kind News*. At 5 issues each year - 4,480 copies.

Krispy Kreme Sales Reach New Record

Many loyal, and very hungry, supporters made our April donut sale a record success. Profit from the sale added up to \$1572! That's a lot of donuts. Our best customers seem to be at Preston Memorial Hospital, maybe thanks to champion salesman John Bucklew. We presented John with a special certificate in recognition of his support. Next sale is in October – you don't want to miss it!

Community Outreach

PCHS board members were excited to be part of the Main Street Kingwood annual Street Fair on June 17th. The weather was perfect, turnout was great, and family activities were lots of fun. Our table offered information on spay/neuter, coloring pages for kids, and “I am kind to animals” stickers. Alix Evans was honored with a certificate from the Governor as Main Street’s board member of the year. She’s a busy person!

Have You Visited our Website?

You will find membership information, an application for spay/neuter assistance, the latest on PCHS events, contact numbers, and past newsletters. For the latest news visit: prestoncountyhumanesociety.org. Feedback about our site is always welcome.

Emergency Help for Sick and Injured Animals

Each year in our budget PCHS includes money to care for sick and injured animals. Pet owners learn about this assistance from veterinarian’s offices, on our website, and by word-of-mouth. We are able to provide assistance immediately when needed. The amount is usually limited to \$50. Sometimes these funds help a family in the very difficult situation when a pet must be euthanized. It’s good to know that families can turn to PCHS for this aid.

“Paws of Valor”

Raffle Quilt Fundraiser

Military service dogs are honored on unique fabric designed for The American Quilters Society. We will soon be selling tickets to win a stunning patriotic quilt made with this special fabric. What a great way to honor a family member serving in the military, a veteran, or anyone who admires the work these brave dogs do alongside our soldiers. For tickets, contact any board member or see the quilt on display at The Preston County Inn during the Buckwheat Festival.



Run For It Team Runs Again!

2016 will be our sixth year fielding a team at the Tucker Community Foundation *Run For It* event. This fun 5K run and 2K walk will be held on Saturday, September 24, in Davis, WV. The PCHS team welcomes team members, donors, sponsors. Registration is easily completed online; the fee is only \$10 and \$5 comes right back to PCHS. For information and sponsor or donation forms contact Dana Rexroad or visit the TCF website tuckerfoundation.net.

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: Deb Corley

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. Please call to confirm the meeting date.

All are welcome to attend.

Volunteers are Needed at Buckwheat Festival Time

We know it's a busy weekend, but if you have some extra time any day of the Festival, how about helping PCHS raise some money? There are several ways to help – serving diners, bussing tables, selling raffle tickets. If you can spare some time it's a fun way to share the hospitality and excitement of the Festival. Contact any board member for more information.

Want a More Colorful Newsletter?

To receive a digital, full-color copy of this newsletter instead of a Xeroxed one ☺, just send an email address to your editor.



Mark Your Calendar!

Preston County Humane Society Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 pm

All members are invited to share your ideas to help us keep improving and planning for the future.

The meeting will be held at the new Preston Memorial Hospital in the Dogwood Conference room on the first floor. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting agenda includes: introduction of Board members and attendees; Treasurer's report and 2015 financial review; program, committee, and Director's reports; 2017 budget planning; and election of officers. To learn more, please call 304-435-1084

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