



Friends of Bastrop County Animal Shelter

Friends' Quarterly

Friends Celebrates Its First Birthday

Volume 1, Issue 2, October 2009

On October 10, 2009, Friends celebrated its first birthday as a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. My, how time flies!



I can still remember the day that the idea for creating a "friends of the shelter group" originated. I was a new volunteer at the shelter and was visiting with the cats. Donna Harrison, a shelter staff person, remarked that they'd really like to improve the cat room but, because the shelter's a county agency, they had limited opportunities for securing capital improvement grants. I said, "There's a way to fix that. Have a nonprofit that supports the shelter." And so, the idea was born, and on July 11, 2008, I created a Texas nonprofit corporation called the Friends of Bastrop County Animal Shelter. A month or so later, Friends had a board and I set about the task of filing for 501(c)(3) status. If you've ever completed the long form for your income taxes, you have an idea how daunting the IRS's paperwork can be!

So, what have we volunteers accomplished in our first year? We held an open house at the shelter that was a lot of fun and resulted in the greatest number of pet adoptions for a single day. We raised enough money to purchase a veterinary scale, microscope, leukemia test kits for cats, a surgery light, and a TV and DVD player for showing informational DVDs to shelter visitors. These donations totaled \$6,700. And these gifts couldn't have been possible without the help of our small, but growing dedicated group of supporters.

Some of Friends supporters make monetary donations; some of you donate your time and talents to Friends events and the shelter; all of you have helped us make a little bit of a difference in the lives of animals within our county. As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." And so you have...and we thank you for that!

But our gratitude, and your accomplishments, doesn't end there. The Friends family gives its time to care for needy animals in their homes. Sherri and Fernando DeLeon regularly take in kittens and cats needing special attention. Ralph Goff recently took in a litter of four day-old puppies whose mother had been struck by a vehicle. Friends also assisted the shelter when more than 80 schnauzers were retrieved from a home last summer. In short, Friends – that's all of us – helps when, where and however it can. Happy birthday, Friends! And as the song goes, "...and many more!"

~Roxanne Hernandez

Fall & Winter Events

Flea Market

Aqua Water Parking Lot
415 Old Austin Hwy.
Bastrop
November 7th
9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Festival of Lights

Downtown Smithville
December 5th
10 a.m.—5 p.m.

TBA—Christmas Parade

Main Street in Bastrop
December 12th
Parade starts at dark

Surrogate “Momma” Ralph

Friends gets a lot of phone calls, and you never know what’s going to be asked of us when you answer the phone. Here’s a great example: Roxanne receives a call from someone who found a litter of four newborn puppies under her business and is informed that momma was struck and killed by a vehicle.

“Do you know anyone who can help us in feeding these pups?” the caller asks. “Well, let me make a couple of calls and I’ll get back with you,” she replies. So, Roxanne calls me, someone who knows little to nothing about hand-raising newborn puppies. And what do I do? I take on the challenge of surrogate momma.



My sister and I have been feeding, burping, cleaning, etc. these furry little black balls. Ten days have passed now since we took on this role and I’m happy to report that, despite our lack of experience in matters such as this, the pups are coming along quite well. Just a couple of days ago they started to open their eyes. They’re making new noises every day, learning that they call and we come runnin’! It’s exciting and an adventure – feeding babies every four hours can make one a bit loopy, as any parent can attest – and we’re looking forward to making these pups available for adoption as soon as they’re of age.

If you’d consider adopting one of these babies, please contact me at 512-629-9239. My only requirement is that the puppy be spayed or neutered. We’ll take the pup to the vet for the appointment, you pick up your new best friend!

~Ralph Goff

Why Spay and Neuter Your Pets?

A woman walks into the county pound and asks to drop off a mother and her 3 puppies. The staff member says yes, but there is \$20.00 drop off fee for the dogs. The woman quietly walks out to get the mother and her puppies. A staff member meets the woman at her car to help take the animals into the impound cage. The dogs are left cowering and trembling at the back of the run, not sure where they are and what has just happened to them. The woman asks if the dogs will be able to find good homes. Sadly, the staffer says that they will try, but they have more animals dropped off than they have room for at the shelter. The puppies will be assessed to see if they are adoptable, and if they are, they will be held at a typical shelter for 10 days. After that time, if the puppies have not found a home, they will be “put down.” The mother will typically be given 5 days before she is “put down” because fewer people will adopt an adult dog. This is a common event that happens at many shelters and pounds all over the country. An estimated three to four million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters each year, which works out to one pet every eight seconds.



To understand the problem of pet overpopulation, let’s look at how quickly a dog and cat can reproduce. A female cat can start to reproduce as early as 5 months of age, and give birth to 3

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Uh-oh! I think I'm in trouble. Yesterday I came into the kitchen and posted about snout high on the refrigerator door was the following:

Pookie's Parade

Dear Pookie,

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of a plate of food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king-sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to me stretched out to the fullest extent possible.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years - canine attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's behind. I cannot stress this enough!

You are still my sweet Pookie and to show my love I have posted the following message on our front door.

To All Non-Pet Owners Who Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why it's called "fur"niture.)
3. I like my dogs a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's animal. To me, it's a short, hairy, baby that walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

Remember: Dogs and cats are better than kids because they:

1. Eat less
2. Don't ask for money all the time
3. Are easier to train
4. Usually come when called
5. Never drive your car
6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
7. Don't smoke or drink
8. Don't worry about having to buy the latest fashions
9. Don't wear your clothes
10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and
11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children.

After reading the note to the non-pet owners, I realize that my Granna really does love me and I'm crazy about her. I don't know why she put that bit in about the sleeping because she likes for me to sleep curled next to her with my head resting on her shoulder!

Until next time,
Pookie the Dachshund



to 6 kittens in one litter. Hence the saying, "Kittens having kittens." The cat can also produce as many as 3 litters of kittens in one year. It is easy to see how quickly a cat overpopulation problem can start. Female dogs can come into heat about every 6 months and can produce from 3 to 12 puppies depending on the breed of dog. Community involvement is the first step in trying to change these sad numbers. Simply having your pet spayed/neutered is a proven solution to having to euthanize healthy, adoptable animals.

There are other advantages to spaying or neutering your animal. Spaying can greatly reduce the development of breast cancer and various reproductive tract disorders in females. Spayed females do not go into heat or need to be confined indoors to avoid pregnancy. Spayed female cats will not howl and cry as they will when they are in heat. Neutering your male dog or cat will often reduce undesirable behaviors such as aggression, roaming, and territorial spraying. It also reduces the risk of testicular diseases and cancer. Your dogs' loyalty and protectiveness is not affected as a result of being spayed or neutered. In most cases the results will be a more sociable pet that could have a long and healthy life span of 12 to 18 years.

Many people believe it is too expensive to have your pet spayed or neutered. The cost of surgery may seem high initially, but it is cheap compared to the cost of raising a litter of puppies or kittens. Also, there are a couple of organizations that will do low cost spay and neuter of animals in the Austin area, and one group will come to Bastrop in a mobile van. Friends is working to increase affordable spay and neuter in the Bastrop area.

Help to end this senseless cycle of euthanizing healthy companion animals. When you bring an animal into your family, you are assuming the responsibility for the animal's well being. So, be a responsible owner and have your pet spayed or neutered. Also, ensure that they have routine health examinations, good nutrition, grooming, playtime and LOVE.

~Sheryl DeLeon

Recipes You'll Beg For

After nearly three months in production, the Friends cookbook is done—and just in time for the holidays! With over 350 recipes submitted by 52 contributors, and featuring 14 adoption stories, this cookbook is sure to satisfy the taste buds of humans and pets alike.



How do you get yours? First, wait until after November 16th (because they're still at the printer); second, visit the Friends web site at FBCASFriends.org after the 16th to place your order online or to see a list of local businesses who are stocking them for us. Too impersonal? Send an email to bcasfriends@gmail.com or give one of your board members a call—we'd love to hear from you and we can take your order now!

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