

THE WOOFINGTON POST VOL. 1

Issue 2

WEATHERFORD PARKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
15, 2020



WELCOME

by Ashley Woolnough

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter would like to welcome you to read our monthly newsletter, the Woofington Post.

We hope you find this newsletter fun, informative and enjoy reading about everything going on at the shelter. In this newsletter you will find: Happy Tails, Upcoming Events, Staff and Volunteer Spotlights, Norman's Nook, How YOU Can Help, Statistics for the Shelter, Opportunities to Volunteer, Operations Updates, Pets of the Month, and Recognition for Supporting the Shelter.

We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we have enjoyed putting it together!

*Remember: Give a Second Chance and Adopt,
Don't Shop!*

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Upcoming Events

Feb. 15th - Aledo Environment Club and Trinity Christian Academy will be volunteering with us

Feb. 19th - Volunteer Orientation

Feb. 25th - World Spay Day

Feb. 29th - PetSmart National Adoption Weekend

Mar. 12th - Animal Services Advisory Meeting

April 4th - First Monday



NORMAN'S NOOK

by Emily Laszczak

Dear Norman,

A friend of mine's dog was recently found to have a Pyometra. She has advised me to get my dog spayed, but I'm weary. Is it worth it?

Sincerely,
To Spay or Not to Spay

Dear To Spay or Not to Spay,

I'm sorry to hear about your friend's dog's diagnosis of a Pyometra. But, let's talk about it! Bear with me here. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus, where the uterus fills with pus. Yuck! Cats and dogs both can develop them. From Ernest Ward, DVM and Malcom Weir, DVM, "Pyometra is a secondary infection that occurs as a result of hormonal changes in the female's reproductive tract. Following estrus (heat), the hormone progesterone remains elevated for up to two months and causes the lining of the uterus to thicken in preparation for pregnancy. If pregnancy does not occur for several consecutive estrus cycles, the uterine lining continues to increase in thickness until cysts form within the uterine tissues (a condition called cystic endometrial hyperplasia). The thickened, cystic lining secretes fluids that create an ideal environment for bacterial growth."

Left untreated, a Pyometra can cause the uterus to rupture, which can be fatal. Among many other reasons, this is why I always suggest getting your dog or cat spayed at a young age.

Love, Norman





Progress Picture taken 2/15/2020

GIVING SECOND CHANCES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

by Ashley Woolnough

How exciting is it to know we are so close to having a brand new Medical/Surgical building? Let me tell you, its an incredible and awe-inspiring feeling to know we are so close to achieving our dreams to do more for our pets!

The building is currently being prepped for the pour of our foundation! It is incredible to see the strides we are making to improve the lives of pets in our community and the help we will be able to provide through this building being erected. With the support of our community and the partnership with the Weatherford College, we are anticipating many accomplishments and improvements in the shelter's future! With the substansial rain and poor weather conditions the building's completion date has been postponed slightly. We are now on track to have the building substantially completed by May 2020!

Although the first phase of the campaign is under construction, there are still many opportunities to help! The shelter's next goal is to build an Outreach and Classroom Center that would be available for Weatherford College to use as a classroom while working at the shelter, as well as open up opportunities for the shelter to host industry leading continuing education courses and community classes to expand knowledge and practices at the shelter, as well as improve animal welfare and responsible pet ownership in Weatherford and Parker County. The goal to make this next step happen is to raise **\$250,000**. Once we have that goal reached, we will be able to begin construction on that project as well!



Digital sketch of what the building will look like.





HOW YOU CAN HELP

by Ashley Woolnough

We get asked quite often, "how can I help", which is one of our favorite questions to answer! There are so many ways that YOU can make a difference in our shelter, our community and for our pets!

One way that you can help is by VOLUNTEERING for the shelter. We take our volunteer program very seriously as it is what allows us to do the extras we get to do such as: get each adoptable dog out of their kennel each day for a walk, provide enrichment to our animals, help adopters find their purrfect match, and so much more! As the shelter, we want to be a fun place (not a sad place) for families to come to and enjoy as well as be a resource for our community when animal problems are encountered. By having a family of dedicated staff and volunteers, we are able to achieve so much more and help so many more. There are so many opportunities to volunteer, we are sure we have the right place for you! There are plenty of opportunities to attend an in-person orientation coming up soon! Be sure to complete your online application and sign up today!

Orientation dates are: Saturday, **March 7th at 10am**, Saturday, **March 14th at 10am** and Friday, **March 20th at 2pm**.

Another way you can help is by donating. We accept monetary donations, as well as in-kind donations. All donations we receive help us to do more for our animals and our community. Our monetary donations go towards building new facilities to serve our animals and community better. Our Amazon Wish-List contains several items that help us to better serve our animals and provide fun things for them to do in their kennels to help pass the time until they find their furrever homes.

WONDERING HOW TO GET STARTED?

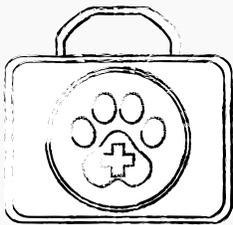
- Step 1: Complete your online application.*
 - Step 2: Watch the 4 online training modules.*
 - Step 3: Sign up and attend an In-Person Orientation*
 - Step 4: Submit your background check*
- After that, we will help you get plugged in right away!*



HAPPY TAILS

by Emily Laszczak

Mac's story is definitely one of my favorites! The shelter started receiving multiple calls about a tan Pit Bull mix that was out in the county, living in some shrubs. He seemed to have an injured leg, and wouldn't come to anyone. One woman started consistently going out there, leaving food, and slowly earning his trust. Over time, he started warming up and finally came to her. She brought him to get scanned for a chip, and to get medically evaluated. While waiting for his forever home to come, he unfortunately got sick and had to move out of the available buildings. Thankfully, after 28 days in the shelter, the woman who originally gained his trust came to adopt him and take him to his forever home. This sweet boy has totally flourished. He loves blankets, his rescue siblings, and to be in your lap!! His mom's favorite thing about him is the little dance he does anytime he sees his parents.

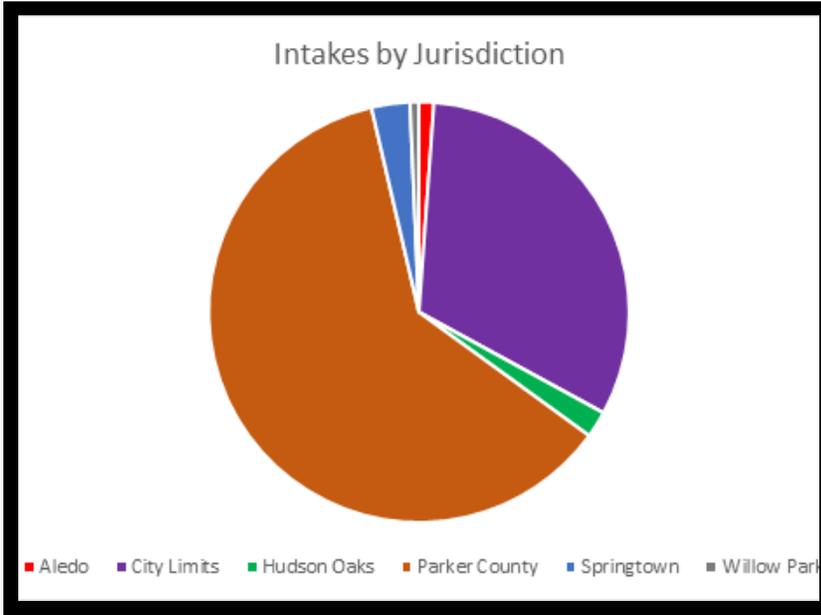


Vet Tip of the Month:

The most important thing to begin as soon as you get a new pet is an appropriate vaccination and parasite control program. The best place to get this care for your pet is with your family veterinarian.

- Dr. Glenn





OPERATIONS UPDATE

by Ashley Woolnough

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter provided care for over 442 animals during the month of January, and over 1,945 animals so far this fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Jan. 31). Currently we have seen 264 more animals than we did in 2019.

Of the intakes we had during January, 247 were strays and 91 were owner surrenders. The shelter currently is maintaining a 98% Live Release Rate for the year thus far, however, the winter time tends to be our slower time of year. Along with providing care for the animals we have seen, we have participated in several community events!

To continue our efforts in being the best shelter we can be, we are in need of dedicated and supportive volunteers to help us further our mission! We have several goals, such as providing enrichment and participating in more community education events that we would like to reach this year, however, we need extra hands on deck to help us get there! If you have ever thought of volunteering with the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter, now is the time! We would love for your to join our team and be a part of our success!

Volunteer Opportunities include:

Animal Care, Customer Care, Communications & Marketing, Public Outreach, and MORE!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Denise Josey!

"I've come to think of shelter life as a kind of puzzle, and everyone involved can be a piece of this puzzle by helping in any way they can—from walking dogs, taking their pictures, and telling their stories, to donating food or blankets, assisting with off-site adoption events, and fostering... and everything in between."



Denise has been helping out around the shelter since July of 2018, but just recently became an official volunteer. She spends hours a day taking photos of the charming canines, writing the Pet of the Week articles, and creating content to promote the shelter dogs on social media. Outside of the shelter, she loves reading, studying languages, traveling with her husband, and spending time with her own dogs at home. When asked what her favorite thing about the shelter is, she states, "I love seeing so many people working together to make a difference for the dogs and cats in our community. Kindness is the new cool, right?" We are so thankful for Denise and her smiling face. Her laughter brightens our day, and her genius ideas keep things fresh around here. Thank you for everything you do!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kenzie Redington!

Kenzie has been the Senior Animal Care Specialist for a little over 7 years. She started off by working at 2 different vet clinics, and then spent 3 years at another shelter, before coming to join our family at WPCAS. Her spunky personality never fails to liven up the room and make everyone



smile. She is passionate, determined, and generous. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, and her animals. Her favorite part of working here at the animal shelter is, "the opportunity I have to make a difference in our community, and the reward of seeing all of the animals that I get the privilege of helping." Thank you for your dedication, Kenzie!

CAT OF THE MONTH

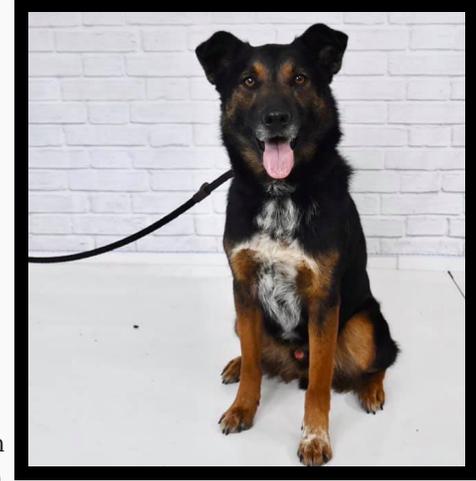
Meet Hunk!

Hunk (ID #81259) is a 2 year old, neutered male that is ready to go home! He is the cutest love bug and would make a great addition to your family!

DOG OF THE MONTH

Meet Bandit!!

This 32 lbs Collie mix would LOVE to go home with you! Bandit (ID #77576) gets along with other dogs and cats, as well as older children. He has a great personality, he is friendly, playful, and loves attention! I think his ears are a great representation of his adorable personality! Come meet him!



Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter's adoption fees are \$100 for female dogs, \$90 for male dogs, and \$50 for cats. Each adoption includes their spay/neuter, core vaccinations, rabies, as well as a microchip. Please don't be sad if you find they have been adopted, there are many more here looking for their furever home and would love to be a part of your family!

RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORT

We would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the gentleman that brought the staff homemade Triple Layer Chocolate Brownies with mint! We devoured this whole pan in the matter of days and they were DELICIOUS! We sure are spoiled!

