THE WOOFINGTON POST

VOL. 1

Issue 4

April 15, 2020

Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter Newsletter

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 enjoyable. 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, Operational Update, 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

Currently all future events have been canceled.

Special Days

April 19th - 25th: National Volunteer Appreciation Week
May 10th: Mother's Day
May 25th: Memorial Day

If you would like WPCAS to attend your event, please email animals@weatherfordtx.gov to discuss opportunities and availability.

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NORMAN'S NOOK

by Ashley Woolnough

Dear Norman,

I found some baby kittens by my house the other day. They are so cute but I am afraid their mom has abandoned them because I never see her anywhere. I want the kitties to be safe but don't know what to do. Should I bring them to the shelter?

Sincerely,
Concerned about Kitties

Dear Concerned about Kitties,

Many times baby animals are found "abandoned" in someone's yard or in covered areas. These babies are usually just fine and the mother is either hiding from you or out searching for food. The mothers of kittens, bunnies, or other wildlife may be gone for hours during the day or night searching for food and they do not like to be seen by people. Many times you will never see mom because she is an expert in staying hidden. Our advice is to leave the kitties where you found them. Clean, quietkittens are likely not abandoned by mom. Remove the kittens/wildlife babies ONLY if they are in immediate or grave danger. The best chance of survival for the babies are WITH MOM. Once the kitties are about 8 weeks old, you can coordinate with the shelter to bring them in for TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and trap the mom as soon as possible to get her spayed and released.

Thank you!
Norman

Want to ask Norman a question?
Send him an email at
animals@weatherfordtx.gov

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Progress Picture taken 4/9/2020

GIVING SECOND CHANCES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

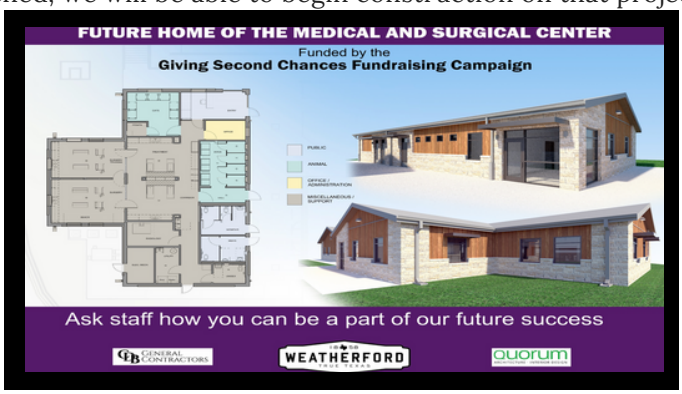
by Ashley Woolnough

We are so excited to see our new Medical Surgical Building taking shape! I hope you all are as excited as we are. We are starting to get antsy with excitement!

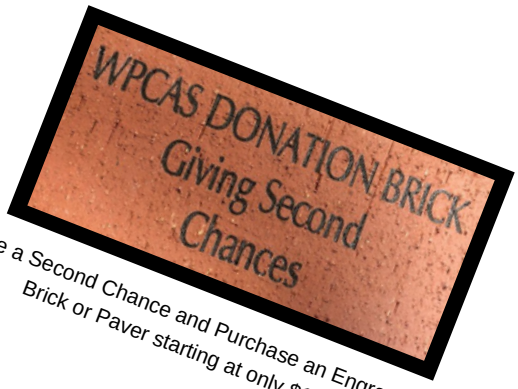
Construction of our new medical building, funded by the generosity of our community and supporters, is due to be substantially completed by June 2020, delayed due to rain and poor weather conditions. This building will help to grow the partnership between the City of Weatherford (the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter) and the Weatherford College Vet Assisting & Technician programs. We are excited to see the positive impact this building will have in our community upon completion. At this time, the roof is being installed as well as the plumbing rough-in. The electricity is set to begin installation soon and the retaining wall construction is about to start. We are excited to see the building coming together! We can now see what it will look like and how it is structured in person. 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!

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. This will also 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!



Floor Plan and Digital sketch of what the building will look like.



Give a Second Chance and Purchase an Engraved Brick or Paver starting at only $100!

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VET TIP OF THE MONTH

by Dr. Glenn

Mosquito Season Means Heartworms Are Spreading

Spring is a time of year that we need to consider the heartworm status of our pets. Parker County and the surrounding area have many sources of infection for your family dog and even your cat. We see hundreds of heartworm positive dogs in our area shelters. Please protect your pets from the heartworm transmitting mosquitoes that are now very active. Your family veterinarian has the tests, preventative medications and expertise to help you protect your pets!

A NOTE FROM OUR ANIMAL CARE TECHNICIANS

by Animal Care Technician Supervisor, Dustin Rich

Even though the Covid -19 virus has us shut down to the public, our Animal Care Technician team is still working diligently to make sure that the animals are well cared for. They all have access to fresh water and food, a clean and comfortable resting area and around the clock observations to make sure none of them are in pain, injured, or showing any signs of illnesses. All animals have the freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress. Even though we have suspended all volunteers from coming to the shelter, our team has been doing a great job of getting the dogs out for walks, play time in the play yards to give them a chance to stretch their legs and express themselves. We have even had time to take some photos of the dogs to help get them networked. We would like to thank all of the rescues who have pulled animals, the people who have adopted, and the volunteers working from home trying to get these animals networked for helping us out. If not for all of you we would still be overwhelmed with animals and we would not have the time that we do now to be able to get the dogs out of their kennels to help relieve their stress. Like everyone out in the world we hope this pandemic is over soon so that we can get back to normal operations and help do our part in Weatherford, building strong communities.

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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, in our community for our pets!

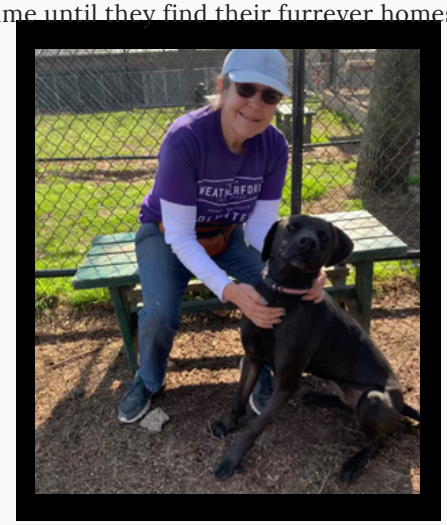
One way that you can help is by VOLUNTEERING for the shelter. We take our volunteer program very seriously as it is what allows us to do the extras we get to do such as: get each adoptable dog out of their kennel each day for a walk, provide enrichment to our animals, help adopters find their purrfect match, and so much more! We want the shelter 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 many opportunities to volunteer, we are sure we have the right place for you! Be sure to complete your online application and sign up today!

Currently, due to precautions for the COVID-19 pandemic, we have suspended all volunteering, but as soon as we open back up to the public, our volunteers will be welcomed back with wide open arms! We hope you will join us and become part of our shelter family!

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!



CREATING PHOTO-BARN MAGIC REMOTELY

with Lots of
Teamwork and One Dreamy Dog
By: Denise Josey

With the animal shelter having switched to an adoption-by-appointment-based operation and otherwise remaining closed to the public, including volunteers, my Saturday photo sessions with the shelter's catwalk-worthy canines are temporarily suspended. But that doesn't mean we can't create a bit of photo-barn magic remotely, right?

Here's what happened:
Jane, a fellow volunteer, shared an adorable photo of stunning Watson (figure 1) that she had taken when the shelter was still open as usual. Shanler, another, impressively crafty volunteer, had built a kissing booth for her photo sessions with the shelter dogs earlier this year and sent me a picture of it (figure 2). I then merged the two photos with some nifty image-editing software.
The result? Charming Watson showing off his dreamy looks from behind a kissing booth (figure 3). You're welcome, Watson fans! ;)

Please note: Watson has since been adopted and is off the market. Happy tails, Watson – enjoy your forever home!

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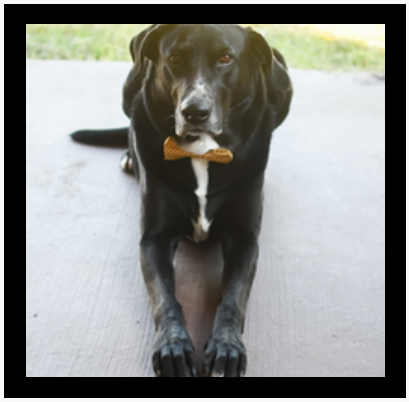

STAYING AT HOME

My Dogs' Five Favorite Activities
By: Denise Josey

In the spirit of social distancing, we're all staying home more these days, and that means we're spending more time with our four-legged family members. In my case, that's two charming canines named Tucker and Gunner.

To keep them, and myself, entertained and make the most of our increased at-home time, we have a few silly-to-some, fun-to-us activities that we regularly draw from. If you need some inspiration, here are our top five:

1. Hide-and-seek. Yep, you read that right. I take a few of their favorite treats and ask Tucker and Gunner to sit and stay; then I hide somewhere in the house and, once I have found my spot, I tell them to come find me. Silly? Yes. Fun? Absolutely! Please tell me I'm not the only one playing hide-and-seek with dogs.
2. Photo sessions. We probably all think our own canine pack members are just the cutest, and who, then, can resist snapping a few pictures of them to share with friends and family on social media? Not I. Besides, treat- and attention-filled photo sessions are fun for the dogs, too. And all those photo contests going on right now provide a bit of extra incentive, or the perfect excuse, to get that camera out, hold those treats up, and capture the dogs' most adorable poses.
3. Playing fetch and tug-of-war. While Tucker loves playing tug-of-war (preferably with my husband since I don't meet his high standards of a worthy opponent), Gunner's go-to playtime activity is running after and retrieving his treasured yellow squeaky balls (and regularly getting them stuck under the couch).
4. Cuddling. Okay, that's not much of an activity, really. But let's be honest, who doesn't enjoy lounging on the couch and watching that new favorite TV show next to a cuddly canine?
5. Tricks. Over the years, my husband has taught Tucker and Gunner various tricks, and they love showing them off when given the opportunity... and treats.

How are you and your canine companion(s) spending your time at home? We'd love to hear your story! If you'd like to tell us about your at-home adventures with your dogs, feel free to email the shelter at: animals@weatherfordtx.gov.

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HAPPY TAILS

by Emily Laszczak

This sweet, sweet face is Luke! He came into the shelter on February 27th, 2020 and he was named Rico. He was shy, timid, stayed to himself, and didn't make a peep. He would come up to you, and just lay his head on your lap, patiently waiting for head scratches.

His new momma came to the shelter just to see who was there. She knew it was love at first sight. She came back with her fiance the next day, and he immediately knew that Rico was theirs. They took him home and renamed him Luke. He got to meet his little brother, Tucker, and they are now absolute best friends.

Luke is now a, "rambunctious stinker," his mom says. He has come out of his bubble, and is starting to get more vocal, finding his voice! He is the best at cuddling, and truly found his perfect home. Congrats, Luke!

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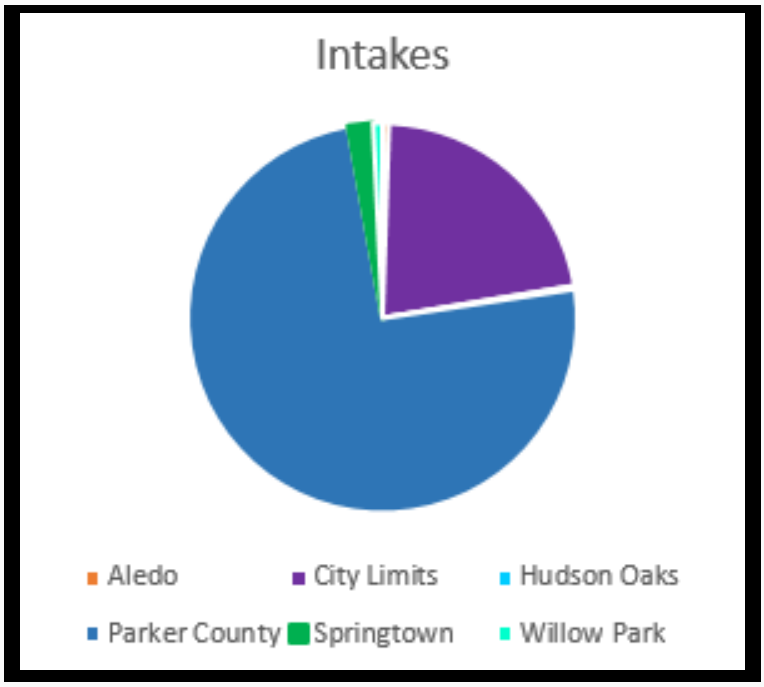

OPERATIONS UPDATE

by Ashley Woolnough

The Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter provided care for over 389 animals during the month of March, and over 2,766 animals so far this fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Mar. 31). Currently we have seen 321 more dogs, cats and ferals than we did in 2019.

Of the intakes we had during March, 196 were strays and 103 were owner surrenders. The shelter currently is maintaining a 99% 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! For the month of April, we anticipate very low numbers due to COVID-19 precautions. Once we open back up for the public, we anticipate seeing very high numbers of intakes.

Currently we are gearing up for the most stressful time of year for the shelter, the spring and summer months. With the already higher than average intake numbers so far this year, we are anticipating higher than normal numbers through the spring and summer, specifically with the puppy and kitten intakes.

We can surely use your help to keep our pets happy and assist our customers! Join our volunteer team today!

Don't Forget Mother's Day!

Is your mom an avid animal lover? Support WPCAS in Giving Second Chances and give the gift that will last, a brick or paver engraved in her honor! Starting at only $100. Call us today to order yours! (817) 598 - 4111

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet David Sawyer

"I enjoy interacting with the dogs and getting to know their personalities."

David is our spotlight volunteer this month! He has been volunteering with us for the past 6 months or so, working with and walking the dogs. He says that his favorite part about the shelter is, "getting to work with the dogs and helping people find their new pet." Which is a favorite important volunteer role! Our volunteers like David, are a crucial step in helping to get dogs adopted. Taking them out of their kennel for walks and yard time every day, and truly getting to know their personalities really helps in finding the perfect home. David is a very dedicated hard worker, and we are so thankful that he is a part of our team! Thank you for everything, David!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Sarah!

Meet Sarah from our medical team! Sarah is a positive, fun-loving and caring veterinary technician who has worked at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter for the past 5 ½ years. Prior to working at the shelter, Sarah helped as an intern through the College of Weatherford while she attended classes to become a vet tech. Everyone at the shelter appreciates the care and dedication Sarah puts into each animal she works with while they spend time at the shelter.When Sarah isn't working she loves to spend time with her favorite kitten, shown here, named Mouse. (FYI Mouse is not really a kitten, it is a baby opossum she met while at a conference!)

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CATS OF THE MONTH

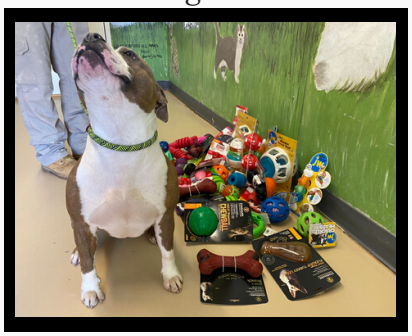
Meet bonded pair: Sadie and Molly
Sadie is an 18 year old kitty with a tumor on her side and Molly is a 13 yr old kitty who has had some tummy troubles her whole life. They were owner surrendered to the shelter and are looking for their forever home together.

DOG OF THE MONTH

Meet Bobbie!
Bobbie is a great pup who is incredibly playful and loves to be around people! His favorite thing to do is give hugs! Bobbie is more of a people person, prefering the company of his people friends over other dogs or cats.

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



WPCAS shout-out of thanks to volunteers for a toy donation! On April 10th, Pet Supplies Plus delivered a shipment of enrichment toys to the shelter. These dog toys were purchased by Deb Haller and Rhonda Manuel. Without being able to be present at the Shelter, many volunteers have been looking for ways to stay connected and also keep the animals entertained. Enrichment toys have always been a great way to keep animals busy and take their minds off the boredom of each day. So with the help of Pet Supplies Plus, Rhonda and Deb teamed up to purchase over $600 in value of dog toys to be distributed to the animals in our care. The toys were all selected for toughness, ability to be stuffed with treats or used as a puzzle, and for their ability to be sanitized and reused with other animals. Deb and Rhonda knocked it out of the park, these toys were perfect! All dogs received one as soon as they arrived and got to work figuring out how to get the treat out of them. Thank you so much to these volunteers and everyone behind
the scenes working to find homes for all the animals we have at WPCAS. Times like these truly show how Weatherford
is a Strong Community!