

THE WOOFINGTON POST VOL. 1

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WEATHERFORD PARKER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 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 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, Recognition for Supporting the Shelter and more!

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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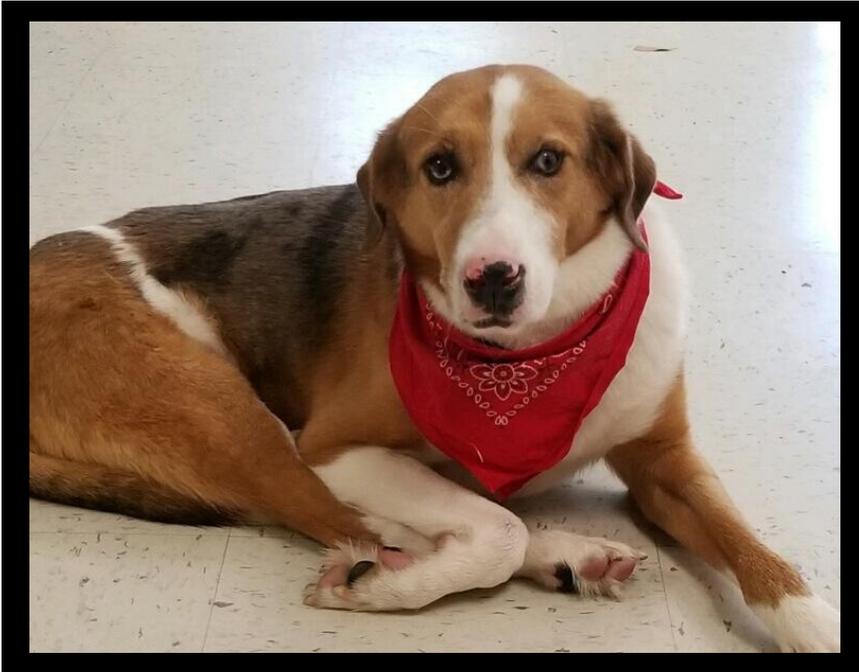
Upcoming Events

June is ADOPT A CAT MONTH!

Special Days

May 25th: Memorial Day
June 21st: Father's Day
July 4th: Independence Day

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



NORMAN'S NOOK

by Emily Laszczak

Dear Norman,

My dog has really bad breath, and his teeth look really gross. How important is dental health?

Sincerely,
Stinky Kisses

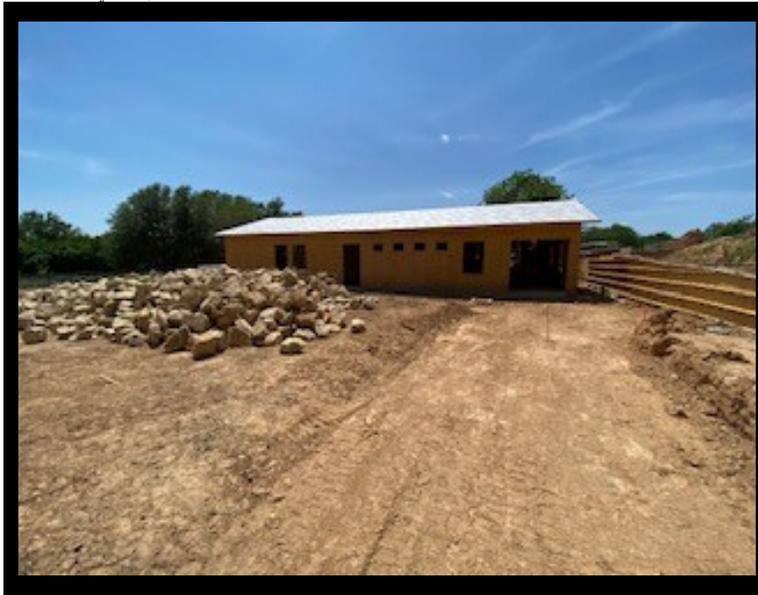
Dear Stinky Kisses,

Without proper dental care, your dog can develop bad breath, inflamed gums, broken teeth, and dental disease, which can lead to other health problems. Gum disease is an infection that is caused by the bacteria found in dental plaque. Gum disease can lead to pain, discomfort, and infection. The infection can also result in the bacteria entering the bloodstream and damaging other organs or body systems in your dog. It can also complicate other diseases, like diabetes.

Annual cleanings are always recommended, and they should start as soon as your dog is one year old. Your vet will preform a dental examination, as well as clean their teeth, which removes the plaque and tartar above and around the gum line. Brushing your dog's teeth at home daily with a soft toothbrush will help prolong the benefits of professional cleaning. The dog's diet can also aid with dental health! Dry food is generally better than canned food, when it comes to dental health. You can ask your veterinarian about specific brands that will help with preventing plaque and tartar build up.

Love,
Norman





Progress Picture taken 5/9/2020

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 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/July 2020. 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 about to be installed, along with concrete for the ramp and wall. The electricians are finishing up and soon the building will be inspected. Once the building is inspected spray foam and dry wall can then go in.



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



VET TIP OF THE MONTH

by Dr. Epps

Now that spring has sprung and many of us are still homebound, our dogs are thrilled that we have the time to take them on more walks. In addition to spending time with their best friend, we can make their walks more pleasurable for them with these few tips. Make sure you have a good leash and a collar that fits well. Even better than a collar is a harness, which takes the pressure off their necks. You'll also want to make sure you have doggy poop bags, or your neighbors may not be too happy with you. As the summer heats up, remember the sidewalk does too, so take care to make sure your dog walks on grass as much as possible, or he may burn his pads. And if it's a long walk, pack some water for your four-legged friend.





HOW YOU CAN HELP

by Ashley Woolnough

Volunteers Are What Makes Us Great! The mission of the Weatherford Parker Animal Shelter (WPCAS) is to improve the bonds between humans and their animals through effective outreach and exceptional customer service to our community. We encourage the active involvement of volunteers at all levels of our agency.

Volunteers work in partnership with staff to improve the bonds between humans and animals, increase the number of animals with loving homes, keep the community safe, and offer a municipal service of excellence to our community.

The WPCAS Volunteer Program Volunteers are involved to help promote animal awareness within the community and to educate the public about responsible pet care, ownership and safety for and around animals. Volunteers also make it possible to provide opportunities for residents to interact and with animals at WPCAS and help guide families through the adoption process. Because volunteers interact with animals in our care on a regular basis, they can offer meaningful insight into the personality and behavior of the animal, which helps the public make informed choices. Ultimately, volunteers help us find compatible homes for as many animals as possible. Volunteer Positions are Now Open We are currently recruiting for the following two positions:

1. Animal Care Team and
2. Customer Care Team

Anyone age 16 and older is welcome to apply! For as little as four hours a month, you can make a BIG difference in the life of an animal in need. Take this opportunity to invest in a cause you believe in!

Upcoming orientation Saturday, June 6th! Due to precautions, space is limited.

GET STARTED IN FOUR EASY STEPS!

- 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!



GIVING SECOND CHANCES: RESCUE COORDINATION

What it takes to get animals into rescue.

By: Denise Josey



If you've ever wondered what a rescue coordinator does, you're in luck. I got Deborah Haller, Rescue Coordinator at the Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter, to share with me the details of what her volunteer role entails. And let me tell you... the list of tasks and responsibilities is impressively long. In short, Deborah is a multitasking powerhouse of a woman who seems to be able to magically squeeze 48+ hours' worth of work into a regular 24-hour day.

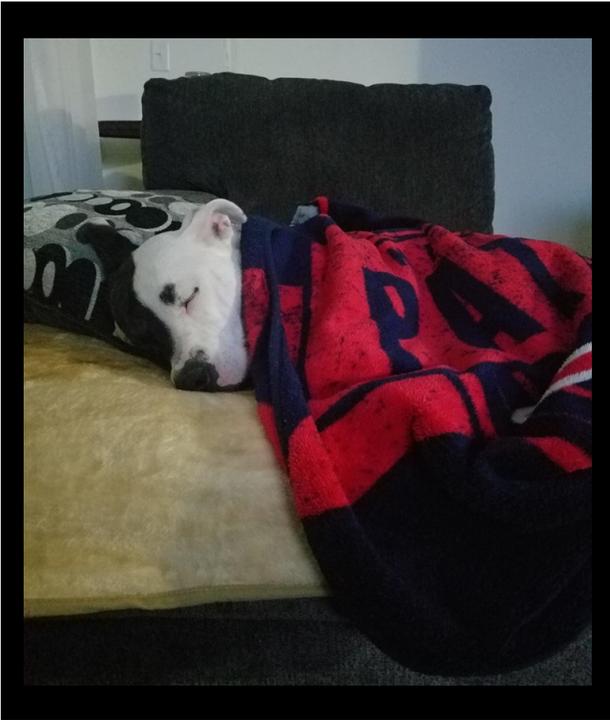
The longer story is that Deborah helps dogs check out of the shelter and into their temporary foster homes by working with 501c3 rescue partners. To be able to match the shelter dogs with appropriate rescues, she (1) keeps a log of rescue partners, which she has researched and determined to be credible and with which she has built a relationship, and (2) dedicates a lot of time to getting to know the dogs by interacting with and evaluating them, including taking them on parallel walks on the trails behind the shelter, observing the dogs' behavior around cats and children, and working with the scared dogs to help them come out of their shells and show their true personalities.

Sounds like a lot? Wait, there's more. Deborah also works with shelter staff to determine which dogs need to be networked most, keeps an eye on which dogs have medical needs outside of the shelter's scope, so she can arrange for them to receive additional care, and keeps a record of quarantine dogs that are approved to be networked to rescue partners. In collaboration with other volunteers, she compiles photos, videos, bios, and descriptions of dogs to share with rescue groups, so they have as much information as possible about each dog. She even offers to assist with finding fosters and arranging for transport, boarding, and fundraising to entice rescue partners to choose the Weatherford Parker Co. Animal Shelter's dogs.

But it doesn't stop there. Deborah also reaches out to donors, networks dogs daily, is available more or less around the clock to answer questions, and meets with representatives of rescues at the shelter to help them select dogs. What's more, she finds fosters, connects them with rescues, and provides instructions for bringing the new foster dogs home from the shelter. Lastly, she also arranges vet visits for dogs who will travel out of state, so they can receive their health certificates.

If you're thinking, "Wow, that's a lot for just one person to tackle on a regular basis," then you'll be happy to read that our shelter is looking for a few dedicated animal lovers to join Deborah and turn her one-woman show into a whole rescue coordination TEAM. So, if you want to make a difference for the animals in our community and see something on Deborah's long list that you would like to help with, we'd love to hear from you at animals@weatherfordtx.gov.





HAPPY TAILS

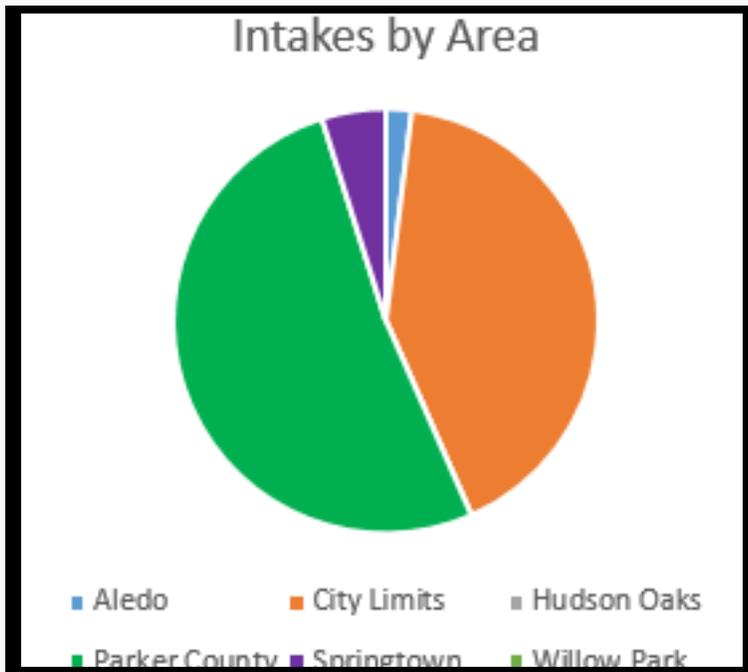
by Emily Laszczak

Meet Chimichanga! He is a 5 year old Pit Bull Mix that first came to the shelter on February 19, 2020. He was skinny, and appeared to have some skin issues. But his one little eyebrow stole the hearts of the staff members and volunteers. Chimi patiently waited, watching people walk by his kennel day after day.

Finally, after 34 days in the shelter, his new people came for him, and boy did they fall in love! They say that he will eat just about anything... except pickles. He loves to play with toys, throwing them in the air to catch them, and tear them apart if they have stuffing. His favorite is his chicken toy that squeaks. He loves to go for car rides, and he knows no stranger! Everyone is a friend!

He is a HUGE lover, loving to cuddle and gives kisses. He thinks their cow, Agnes, is just another, significantly larger dog, and tries desperately to play with her. Chimi, who did indeed keep his name that was given to him at the shelter, found the perfect family, and the perfect life for him. Happy Tails!





OPERATIONS UPDATE

by Ashley Woolnough

During the month of April, we accomplished a Live Release Rate of 97% and were able to help a total of 195 animals (2,961 animals total for the year) and averaged a length of stay of 8.2 average days an animal is in the shelter. Our medical team provided a total of 87 spays and neuters for animals in our care, aiding in reducing the numbers of unwanted litters in our community.

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In response to precautions for COVID-19 the shelter is practicing precautionary measures to keep our staff, volunteers and our communities safe from COVID-19. The shelter is taking the following measures for the foreseeable future:

- The shelter has re-opened to the public, however, due to low staffing at this time, we have changed our hours to:
 - Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, we are currently no longer open until 6:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays
- TNR surgeries on Wednesdays and Fridays only, drop off between 8:30 and 9:00 am
- We are limiting the number of visitors in our kennels and building at one time and are currently providing most services via curbside
- We have resumed normal Animal Control and Shelter Services
- We have opened our volunteer program back up and volunteers are welcome to help during scheduled time frames
- In following national recommendations in regards to COVID-19 precautions, all feral cats brought in by the public in city limits will be sterilized and returned as a TNR cat. We will not accept feral cats unless the citizen agrees to TNR the cat. Our Barn Cat program will continue, we expect feral cats to enter this part of the shelter due to special situations.

CAT OF THE MONTH



Meet Louis!

Louis is a 4 year old, gorgeous male kitty. He is a love bug with the cutest personality! This boy will never turn down a head scratch. Come fall in love with Louis!!

DOG OF THE MONTH

Meet Mellow!

This sweet girl is a 6 year old Pit Bull mix that has been at the shelter since April 30th. She is laid back, calm, and loves cuddles! Come meet Mellow soon!



Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter's adoption fees are \$100 for female dogs, \$90 for male dogs, and \$50 for cats. Animals 5 years and older, or labeled as special needs/urgent animals are only \$25 to adopt! Each adoption includes spay/neuter, core vaccinations, rabies, and a microchip. Please don't be sad if you find they have been adopted, there are many more animals here looking for their furever home and would love to be a part of your family!

RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORT

Thank you so much to Adopt-a-Pet.com and their partners, Purina and Chewy, for teaming up with Bayer Animal Health to send the Weatherford Parker Co. Animal Shelter an entire PALLET of Coraxis parasite prevention!! This is awesome! All current and future residents of the shelter will receive this topical solution (as supplies lasts) and our animal's health will be much improved. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

