



Humane Society of Morgan County, WVa

The Animals' Voice

FIRST QUARTER ISSUE

WINTER 2010

Morgan County Commissioners Pass Dog Ordinance

On January 21, 2010 the Morgan County commissioners adopted an anti-tethering dog ordinance. The vote was 3-0. It became effective upon passage. The ordinance restricts the time that dogs may be tethered and requires that appropriate shelter, water and food be provided.

The entire ordinance may be seen at www.morgancountywv.gov. The ordinance effort was initiated by Unchain Morgan County, founded by Gary Brock. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of HSMC which

strongly supported the new ordinance.

Brenda Hutchinson, president of the county commission, was instrumental in her help that led to the passage of the ordinance. It took six months of tireless work by the commissioners, animal rights activists, farmers, hunters and law enforcement officials to craft a compromise agreement that satisfied all interested parties.

The Morgan County ordinance is only the second enacted by any county in West Virginia. Already other counties

and groups have shown interest in passing similar ordinances. HSMC and Unchain Morgan County will work closely with government agencies or groups to see that similar ordinances can be passed throughout the state.

"It is refreshing to see Morgan County take a leadership role in the state on this important issue" Brock stated. HSMC congratulates the county commissioners and Unchain Morgan County for all their hard work in making this ordinance a reality.

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New Vehicles

HSMC has purchased two new used vehicles recently. Last fall we put into service our mobile cat adoption mini-bus. It is equipped with nine cat cages and is used in our offsite adoption events. People are able to come directly onto the bus to view the cats that are available for adoption. Feedback on the bus has been very positive from both people and cats. It allows us to go places to take cats that were unavailable previously.

In addition, HSMC purchased a 2006 van to replace our aging smaller 1999 van. The new van can fit six cages for dogs instead of three in the old van. So now we can take twice as many dogs to adoption events at PetSmart and elsewhere. It also allows us to take greater number of animals at the same time to the vet eliminating multiple trips.



The new mini-bus with Steve McGuire, HSMC staff member and Larry Ziegler, volunteer dog walker with two of our dogs available for adoption.

Dog Runs Improvements

HSMC has greatly improved our facilities in the last two years. In 2008 we added two large dog runs where dogs can run free to exercise, meet new prospective owners and play with other dogs that they might live with together. The runs were made possible through the generous donation of long time supporters Laurie

and E.J. Fischer.

In 2010 we are making improvements to the runs, again through a donation from Laurie and E.J. Railroad ties are being added to the perimeters of the runs to prevent the dogs from digging their way out. Two gates are being added between the runs to prevent dogs from possibly getting loose

before they enter the runs. Also, stairs are being added between the runs to make it easier for the volunteers and staff to access the facilities on the steep slope leading to the runs.

HSMC is proud to have these runs. It is a wonderful improvement to our care and treatment of the dogs. They are able to get more exercise. It also

makes it easier for our volunteers to train and socialize the dogs before they find their forever homes. Thanks to Laurie and E.J. for making them possible and all their tremendous support over the years. Laurie has also recently joined the Board of Directors.

Animal Adoption Programs

In addition to being able to adopt dogs and cats from our shelter, HSMC has begun an offsite adoption program. New Board members Beth Reedy and Kathi Draper are heading up the offsite adoption program. On alternating weekends HSMC sets up at PetSmart in Martinsburg WV, Winchester VA, and Hagerstown MD with up to six dogs inside. When weather permits, up to nine cats are taken in our mobile adoption van.

Other adoption sites are The Rag Shop in Berkeley Springs; the Feed Store in Berkeley Springs and the

Hancock Pet Salon. The Pet Salon has also generously given HSMC certificates for a free pet grooming that are given out to new owners with every animal that we adopt out. Supporters of HSMC are encouraged to support these local businesses that are so supportive of our work.

In 2009 HSMC found forever homes for 130 dogs and 92 cats. With our new adoption sites we are hoping to greatly increase those numbers this year. Thanks to everyone who are helping to make our adoption programs so successful.

RAG Shop Supports HSMC

The RAG (Recycled American Goods) Shop, a local thrift store in Berkeley Springs, has been a huge supporter of HSMC. Trish Shunney is the owner and she donates a percentage of all her sales to local charities. HSMC receives a check each month for items sold that have been designated to HSMC. Some months it is our largest donation and checks have been received for close to \$1,000.

HSMC supporters are encouraged to donate used items to The RAG Shop and designate the shelter as the beneficiary. Items accepted are furniture, clothing, appliances,

videos, records, electronic devices and small items of all sorts. The RAG Shop is located at 109 North Washington Street in downtown Berkeley Springs. Trish can be reached at 304-258-7742 to check on the best possible times to drop off items. All items should be clean and in working order.

Trish also has six permanent cat cages at her store and cats are often there from the shelter on weekends for adoption. Trish is also the proud new owner of a dog she adopted at the shelter. Thanks to The Rag Shop for all their support, it is greatly appreciated.

Spring Dance; Upcoming Events

HSMC will host a spring dance at the American Legion on March 20th from 7-11 P.M. Called Petapalooza 2010 the dance will feature three live bands, including The Flashbacks, refreshments and a cash bar. Tickets are \$25 per couple and are available on the website at www.hsmc-wv.org or by mailing payment to HSMC, Box 705, Berkeley Springs WV 25411. Tickets will be also available at the door. Jonathan McBee is organizing the music and a fantastic time is guaranteed for all.

Other upcoming events are The Mutt Strut on April 24th. A rabies and microchip clinic will be held in early May. HSMC will sponsor an open house in June to allow our supporters to tour the facilities and visit the wonderful animals we have for adoptions. Additional information on these upcoming events will be posted on the website.



Virgil (pictured above) will soon celebrate his one year anniversary in his forever home.

“We adopted Virgil at the HSMC Valentine’s Day Dance in 2009. He is a fantastic cat and we could not be happier with him. We encourage everyone to adopt a cat from the shelter.”

Kathy and Herb Martin



Shadow and Butternut Farnham (front)

“The cats in the front are Shadow and Butternut who were adopted from HSMC four years ago. They are still best friends and made a wonderful addition to our cat family.”

George and Pam Farnham

Website Expanded

Check out the newly expanded HSMC website at www.hsmc-wv.org. Many new features have been added. It is better organized and looks wonderful. People are now able to make donations to HSMC through Paypal (hint, hint). There is a new section on successful adoptions through HSMC complete with photos along with much other valuable information on our activities. Thanks to Ellie Gomez for all her hard work in making these improvements and maintaining the site.

A letter from our President . . .

February 2010

Supporters of Humane Society of Morgan County:

Thank you for your past support of HSMC. We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. This is the first issue we have sent out in a while and the newsletter will now become a quarterly publication. We are sending it out to past supporters and select people who we hope will become new supporters. The newsletter will be available in print form, as an e-mail and on our website.

HSMC had a successful year in 2009 and are looking forward to an even better 2010. In the last year we have improved our dog runs, built a cat playroom in the cattery, bought a mobile mini-bus for cat adoptions and a van to transport a larger number of dogs to adoption events. We also successfully connected our property to the sewer system next door at Caperton Furniture Works, which will save us money in the long term as well as being more sanitary.

Those projects used all our cash reserves along with the money we raised for them. We are now appealing to our supporters to help us fund new projects for the coming year and to keep the shelter running on a daily basis. We are requesting that all our supporters send a minimum of \$25 as an annual membership fee. This will entitle you to receive the printed form of the newsletter. If you would prefer not to receive the printed version with your membership please check the box on the reverse side and return it to us.

Of course, larger donations are also encouraged. For the first time we are giving our donors the option of choosing where their donations are spent. Donors may choose to fund our feral and homeless cat spay/neuter program; buy new Kuranda beds for the dogs so they do not have to sleep on concrete floors; make improvements to the cattery to improve the cat playroom, add insulation and otherwise improve the facility; make construction, plumbing and electrical improvements to our intake facility so it can be expanded including allowing the animals to be bathed in our large newly donated tub; or donating funds to help hire people to walk, exercise and train the dogs. In addition, we always need funds to pay the everyday expenses. Simply check the box on the reverse side to specify where you would like your donation spent. Unspecified donations will be used for everyday expenses. You can also contact us for information on having a monthly donation automatically sent from your checking account

As always we love to hear from and see our supporters. Please stop by the shelter at 5366 Valley Road for a tour and to see the animals. Visit the website for updates at www.hsmc-wv.org or call us with any questions at 304-258-5592. Please return the form on the other side with your donation or if you're willing to volunteer. Thanks for your past support and we look forward to having your continued support in the future.

Sincerely,

George Farnham
President, Humane Society of Morgan County



Volunteers Needed

HSMC is made possible through the dedicated efforts of our wonderful staff, Board of Directors and many, many volunteers. We are always in need of more volunteers. The Board of Directors has been expanded from seven members to up to fifteen. There are still a couple of openings on the board. Board members are not only expected to attend our monthly meetings but to work on fundraising and other projects. Many new members have been added in the last year but we still have room for more.

We are always in need of volunteers in many areas. People are needed to help with our expanded offsite adoption programs. Volunteers are needed at the shelter for many areas. Regular volunteers are needed to work with the dogs to help walk, exercise and train them. Our expanded cattery

now has a playroom to let the cats run free and exercise. People to work with the cats are always needed so that our cats can get out of their cages for longer periods of time. Volunteers are always needed to work in the office with answering phones and other administrative duties.

Fundraising is a never ending project. We are proud of how much we accomplish with limited funding. However, there are always improvements we wish to make and more animals that we want to help. We can always use more ideas to raise money and people to implement those ideas. Please contact us at the shelter and let us know how you want to help. It is always a gratifying experience to work directly with the animals and other volunteers in helping our homeless animals find their forever homes.

HSMC Supports Legislative Bills

HSMC and the Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia (FOHO) are supporting two bills in the state legislature this session. The first is SB 225 to add a fee paid by pet food companies to obtain a permit to sell pet food products in West Virginia. This fee would be used to fund spay/neuter programs in the state. The second bill is The Commercial Dog Breeding Operations Bill known informally as the "puppy mill bill". This bill would place limitations on large scale breeding facilities in the state.

HSMC supporters are encouraged to e-mail their state legislators in support of these two important bills. They can be contacted at: Delegate Daryl Cowles at dcowles@mail.wvnet.edu; Delegate Craig Blair at cblair@mail.wvnet.edu; State Senator Walt Hemlick at whelmick@mail.wvnet.edu and State Senator Clark Barnes at clark@barnesWVSenate.org.

HSMC Important People

Board Members:
George Farnham, President
Ed Duncan, Vice-President
Kelvin Langley, Treasurer
Cady Roberts, Secretary
Andrea Anderson, Shelter Mgr
Ed Vogel, Director
Laurie Fischer, Director
Pam Farnham, Director
Gary Brock, Director
Kathi Draper, Director
Beth Reedy, Director

Others:
Barbie Ginck, Asst Shelter Mgr
Ellie Gomez, Website Design
Clare Phillips, Newsletter Design
In addition, there are too many staff members, volunteers and supporters to list individually but HSMC could not be as successful an organization as we are without their constant support. Thank you everyone.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF
MORGAN COUNTY, WVA

Visit us at:
5366 Valley Road
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Phone: 304-258-5592
Fax: 304-258-2702

Visit us on the Web:
www.hsmc-wv.org

Shelter Hours
Tues. through Sat.
11am to 4:30pm
Closed Sun. and Mon.
E-mail: hsmc-wv@peoplepc.com

County Commissioners Give HSMC \$5,000 Grant

On December 15, 2009 the Morgan County commissioners voted 2-1 to give HSMC a \$5,000 grant specifically for our spay/neuter program. This program is designed to spay and neuter feral and abandoned cats in the county. This is the second time in the last two years that the commissioners have

voted HSMC such a grant. It is the only government support that the shelter receives. All other operating funds are from adoption fees, private grants, fundraisers and the generous donations that our supporters give us to maintain our facilities.

President Brenda Hutchinson and Commissioner

Stacy Dugan voted in favor of the grant. HSMC is grateful for their continued support. The commissioners only gave out three grants out of 15 requests from organizations. The grant that HSMC received was the largest of the three.



P.O. Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411



DONATION AND VOLUNTEER FORM

I would like to contribute \$_____ to support the following:

\$25 membership (all donations of \$25 or more from below automatically become members)

- The feral and homeless cat spay/neuter program
- Buying Kuranda beds for the dogs
- Make Improvements to the cattery
- Make improvements to the intake facility
- Hire dog walkers/trainers
- Everyday Operating Expenses

I would like to volunteer at HSMC

- I would like to be considered for the Board of Directors
- I would like to volunteer at offsite adoption events
- I would like to volunteer walking and exercising the dogs
- I would like to volunteer to play with the cats
- I would like to volunteer in the office

Newsletter

- Remove my name from the printed newsletter mailing list
- I am sending names on a separate sheet of people who may like to receive the e-mail version of the HSMC newsletter

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to HSMC

Please return this form to Humane Society of Morgan County
Post Office Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

