



Humane Society of Morgan County, WVa

Shelter Voices

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

Humane Society Volunteer of the Year

by Ed Duncan

There were several outstanding volunteers at the Humane Society during 2006; however, one clearly stood out above the rest. That person was Kelvin Langley. He came to the society in the spring of 2006, answering a call to attend volunteers meeting and from that point on he began coming to the shelter and finding things that needed to be repaired.

He replaced a badly corroded sink and tackled several electrical problems. He then stepped in and took on a stalled project to complete the interior of a Cat Isolation Building. He has almost single-handedly worked on that building, leveled it, extending electrical service, insulating it,

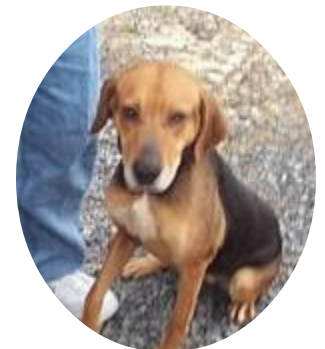
and selecting interior equipment (such as individual heaters, air conditioners, utility sinks and work cabinets). When a large tree fell on the kennels during a windstorm he removed the downed tree and cut it into firewood that was later sold for a donation to the shelter. He also provided temporary supports for the damaged area to shore it up until a repair team could get to the project. After several teams scheduled to complete this repair were indefinitely delayed for various reasons, Mr. Langley seized upon the first good weather to dive in and undertake this project himself. These are just a few of the many things that he has done in donating his time.

In September 2006, Mr.

Langley agreed to become a member of society's Board of Directors and in October accepted nomination to become Treasurer. As Treasurer, he has taken an extremely active role in improving the short and long term finances of the Humane Society through Herculean effort, skill and perseverance to get the society's finances under control. He's an active participant in society fundraising activities. His efforts in both has brought much-needed and marked positive change. For these reasons and more, Mr. Langley is our overwhelming choice for Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Kelvin!

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This is Sweetie. She's still looking for her forever home.

Raising Money and Having Fun in 2007

by Maya Fredo

Because we do not receive any money from federal, state or county government, we operate on funding from the United Way, from donations and from what is raised from our fundraising events throughout the year. With that in mind, The Humane Society of Morgan County is planning many exciting events for 2007. We held a successful "Spay-ghetti" Dinner in January and a very successful Indoor Yard Sale in February. March has brought us our St. Patrick's Day Community Challenge Grant. Attic Treasures antiques and

collectibles appraisal fair scheduled for April 7.

On April 14th, in his 4th show to benefit the homeless pets of the community, Jim Fredo and friends will "Rock for the Animals". The 3-hour evening performance at the Ice House will include original music, classic rock and blues. During intermissions, you can enjoy refreshments, participate in a silent auction of item from local artisans and admire the articles on display in the Ice House Gallery. The gallery display features the kick-off of the annual quilt show by the Delectable Mountains Quilt

guild. This year, The Guild, has chosen the Humane Society to be the recipients of their fundraising efforts. The performance show time is 7pm - 10pm. Tickets are \$10 per person and all proceeds go directly to help the animals. Call The Rock Shop (304) 258-6770 for tickets.

The second annual "Concert for the Animals" is scheduled for Sunday, May 27th at the Cacapon State Park Gazebo. This free concert is an all day event. There will be a variety of music from several local bands, a moon bounce and face painting for the kids

and a Chinese raffle. All donations and musician tips will go directly to help the Humane Society of Morgan County. So have your Memorial Day weekend family gathering at the park enjoying the music and fun all day while you help the animals.

Check us out on our website www.hsmc-wv.org for information about this event and other upcoming events. If you are interested in helping out at any of these events, please contact Susan Kemenyas at 258-7841.

From the Adoption Center

by Susan Lee

It's now been a year since a healthy animal was euthanized at the shelter. This is an incredible achievement. However, with any change comes new challenges: keeping every animal physically healthy and emotionally sound during its stay at the shelter and finding homes for all of them. Last spring when we needed you to come out and clean cat cages and scoop dog poop, you responded to the plea and the challenge. This spring's plea and challenge is to work through and solve these new problems. To do this, we need help in the following areas.

Animal Care

Beyond feeding and cleaning - brushing, nail trimming, cleaning ears, walking, playing, socializing, etc.

These are things that that our staff would like to do for the animals here but are limited in how much they can do by the time they have. Volunteers to help with these things not only help the animals look their best, but also feel their best. It's a really good way for them to learn about being companions. People with vet tech training or dog obedience experience are especially needed.

Foster Homes

Many of dogs that come to the shelter need to be housetrained and taught basic manners. Some have other needs that are better met in a home environment. If a dog is housetrained, walks nicely on a leash, sits and gives a paw or lies down on command, its chance of being adopted skyrocket. If

you can help by providing a home environment where a dog can learn some of these things so it's ready for its forever home, then you may be prospective foster home.

Adoptions

There are many ways to help find the animals here good homes. Here are just a few:

- Take digital photos of animals and prepare them for the Internet and print
- Help with review and processing of adoption applications
- Get to know the animals and talk with potential adopters to assure the right match of animal and home
- Help with Off-site Adoption events

- Volunteer with our Rescue Society
 - Tell others about the animals at the adoption center - encourage friends and family to adopt, not buy, animals
 - Come up with more ideas...your idea could be the one that gets another animal into its forever home.
- Team Leaders and team members are needed for all these areas. A few hours of your time can make all the difference in the life of an animal! To find out more about these and other opportunities, call me at the Adoption Center at 258-5592.

News from the Board of Directors

by Susan Kemenyas

Change is the word for what has taken place and what is taking place - lots of change. Many changes have taken place, both at the shelter and on the Board of Directors since Shelter Voices was last published in 2005. The current Board, including President Ed Duncan, Vice President Paul Murtha, Treasurer Kelvin Langley and Secretary Susan Kemenyas, is

8 directors, 6 of whom are new within the past 6 months. Although having companion animals is not a prerequisite for appointment to the Board, it would be hard to imagine being involved with the Humane Society and not having at least one pet. After surveying my fellow directors, I learned that we have a total of 16 dogs and 27 cats - of those 7 dogs and 7 cats are from the HSMC shelter, 2 dogs and 2 cats came from another shelter or rescue

organization and 5 dogs and 18 cats joined a director's family as a result of being rescued by a director. Growing up, the group of us had 15 dogs, 15 cats, 1 rabbit, hamsters, guinea pigs, miscellaneous snakes and frogs so it's no wonder that we would become adults

who have found service on the Board of the Humane Society as one of the ways we'd express our love for the animals.

Off-Site Adoption Team Report

by Joe Pinieski

We started the off-site adoption program at Dog Gone Pets (304-263-1771) in Martinsburg on January 14. We've been there every Sunday since and also maintain a book there with photos of all of the dogs and cats we have available for adoption. We've had 4 successful adoptions as well as many inquiries and adoption applications submitted. On Sunday 2/18, we began an ongoing weekly off-site adoption program where four of our cats stay at Dog Gone Pets available for adoption during the week. I'm happy to report that this has already helped a few of our cats find new homes. The same week we launched our "Cats rooming-in at Dog Gone Pets" Program, I met with the manager of PetSmart in Hagerstown to start another

off-site adoption location. With the help of any interested volunteers, we will be there every Wednesday. I have been working with volunteers to help cover the our events at Dog Gone Pet at least one Sunday a month in order to free up myself to do some events at other locations as the weather improves. With no shortage of places we can have adoption events, what we most need is more volunteers for this team. If you are interested in making a real difference for animals who need families and for families who need animal companions, consider serving on the Off-Site Adoption team. Please send your name, phone # and other contact information to Joe Pinieski to dogs4evr@frontiernet.net, or call me at (717) 294-6608.

The Rock Shop's Foster & Adoption Program

by Maya Fredo

After 17 years of managing other's stores and doing my arts and crafts only as a hobby, I decided it was time to have a shop of my own where I could combine all that I enjoy with what I do as a volunteer with the Humane Society of Morgan County. I opened "The Rock Shop" across from the 7-11 in late December. It features my hand-painted stones and hand-made jewelry along with a variety of handmade items from several local talented friends. Some items, like the quilts and handmade cards by Ann Darling, are for sale to help support the shelter. Another highlight of the shop is a Humane Society section. It includes a large adoption board of photos of some of the animals at the shelter that need loving homes, information on ways to help the shelter and on Humane Societies' upcoming fundraising events.

Even with all of this, I felt

something was still missing. Having ten animals at home, I decided I needed a companion at work. I first thought about permanently adopting a cat to be the official shop cat, but realized that would give a home to just one of the many homeless animals. That's when I decided to become a foster parent. That's when a displaced Himalayan I named Mimi came into my life. She'd been abandoned one icy January night outside the shelter along with two dogs. I met her when I went there to take pictures for the adoption board. She seemed unhappy about her situation and didn't seem to like being around all of the other cats. A week later, I picked her up and brought her to live at the Rock Shop. After a little exploration assured her that there were no other animals in the store, Mimi seemed happy.

At first she didn't like to be picked up or petted, but it

wasn't too long before getting daily hugs and kisses from her Nanny" that Mimi got began to enjoy attention and affection. As weeks passed, she became very social. She would run up to customers so they could pet her and tell her how beautiful she was. On March 1st, a warm, wonderful woman named Julia came to the Rock Shop, prompted by friends to come in and meet Mimi. It was obviously meant to be, as within minutes of meeting, Julia has fallen in love and Mimi had a new Momma and a home of her own. Now Mimi lives happily with her own forever family and the Rock Shop has a new foster kitty named Abigail. Come by some time and visit. You just might make a new lifelong friend too. The Rock Shop is at the corner of Wilkes and Union, opposite the 7-11. Call 304-258-6770 for hours.

A Humane interest story . . .Gypsy Saves The Day

by Ed Duncan

The Graves Medical Practice is unique in Berkeley Springs as it has three unusual medical assistants, Sadie, Sedona and Gypsy. They are of the female variety. Sadie and Sedona are Labrador Retrievers and Gypsy is a German Shepherd. Last spring, Dr. Rick Graves and one his assistants, Charlotte Poole, were closing up the office when they noticed that Sedona had gotten out the dog enclosure behind the medical building and was heading up a steep hill to explore. Dr. Graves went out to bring Sedona back Charlotte felt he would need her help, so she followed him out. Well, that's when the situation became very interesting . . . the door closed and locked behind them. Both of their sets of keys were inside on the counter.

They retrieved Sedona, but couldn't get back in the building. After failed attempts to locate the maintenance man for the complex, Dr. Graves called to Gypsy. Sure enough she came to the back door. After some coaxing, Gypsy opened the door and saved the day. The medical office is equipped with lever type door handles which Gypsy has mastered opening. Gypsy has become very adept at gaining entry to various areas in the medical building on her own. In fact, I have witnessed her opening the door from the offices to the waiting room when she heard a familiar voice and came out to visit. One smart and resourceful dog, wouldn't you say? Way to go, Gypsy! The Humane Society of Morgan County salutes you.

If you have a "Humane" interest story like this that you are willing to share through an upcoming edition of the newsletter, please let us know through the guest book at our website www.hsmc-wv.org. Be sure to leave us your email or phone number so we can contact you to get your story.

Rescue Society

by Susan Lee

One of the ways we try to find the animals forever homes is to work with animal rescue groups outside of Morgan County. A small group of volunteers has pulled together a list of rescue organizations within a 200 mile area and is in the process of making initial telephone contact with those rescues. The goal is to find and network with as many reputable rescue organizations as possible. This will enable HSMC to utilize their resources over a larger geographic area, and greatly increase the number of potential adopters. There's still a lot to be done in this area. If you know of any rescue groups or would like to be a part of this important endeavor, please call the Adoption Center at 258-5592.

Small Ways to Help HSMC that Add Up

- Help us save printing and mailing costs on upcoming editions of Shelter Voices. Opt to get it via email. Go to www.hsmc-wv.org, and post your request to get Shelter Voices by email with your name and the email address.

- Your on-line shopping can profit HSMC. Designate the Humane Society of Morgan County through our Igive.com link.

- Grocery shopping can help HSMC. Designate us as your charity of choice through our Food Lion Shop and Share link.



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

Hours through April 15
Thurs. through Mon.
12pm to 5pm
Closed Tues. and Wed.

Public Service Announcement

Morgan County Animal Control and the Humane Society of Morgan County are not the same thing. If you need help with a dog issue, such as a dog running at large, the person to call is the Morgan County Dog Warden, Jason Bowers at 258-6363. If you need help with an issue related to animal abuse or neglect, the person to call is the Morgan County Humane Officer, Deputy Johnson in the Sheriff's office at 258-1067. The Humane Society provides this information to help the community connect directly with the Animal Control agency that can help.

Watch for these Upcoming Events!

Concert for the Animals, tickets \$10 for sale at the Rock Shop, from a Board Member, or at the door, **Saturday, April 14, 7 - 10pm**

Spring Clean-Up/Work Day, at the adoption center, **Saturday, April 21**

Spring Rabies Clinic, at the adoption center, **Sunday, April 29th, 12 - 1:30 pm**

For specifics on these and other events check our website: www.hsmc-wv.org



P.O. Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411



Current Maintenance Projects

by Paul Murtha

One of the longest standing projects has been the repair of the awning over part of the dog kennel run. The damage occurred when a tree fell on the kennels on October 29th just a few hours after we successfully completed Fall Clean-Up Day. For various reasons, including inclement weather when teams were lined up to make this repair, the job had not been done. Finally, after Herculean efforts to get the society's

finances under control, Treasurer Kelvin Langley dove in and undertook this project himself. A larger project in the works, is renovation of the interior of the main building. Through some carefully planned changes, space will be opened up to make the facility more accommodating to its temporary residents and to create a reception area for visitors. If you are able to help with the renovation, repair of

dog kennel water faucets, repair/overhaul of potable water supply or are interested in knowing about other small handyman jobs that are on our seemingly never-ending list of things that need to be done to keep the place going (including mowing grass), please call me at 258-9677 or e-mail me at Hawgley@yahoo.com.

Special Thanks

The Humane Society of Morgan County thanks Curves of Berkeley Springs for holding a Food Drive to help feed the animals at the shelter and the Potomac Pedalers and the Berkeley Springs Moose Lodge #1483 for their donations.

Acknowledgements

The Humane Society of Morgan County acknowledges donations given in memory of Judy Jenkinson and Rosemary Lardner . . . too numerous to mention her individually.