



Humane Society of Morgan County, WVa

The Animals' Voice

President's Corner

by Ed Duncan

As this hectic and important year comes to a close and we move into the 30th Anniversary year of the Morgan County Humane Society, we have many things to celebrate and many more challenges to address and find solutions. Some of the things we have to celebrate are the successes of the past year: the improvement in our financial posture, the completion of the Cat Isolation Building, the improvement in the operation of our cattery, and the growth of our off-site adoption program. The challenges before us are many and the most important of these are: the continued improvement of our financial health, the recruiting of many more volunteers and even some additional board members to help guide the growth of the

society, the expansion of our grant writing program, the search for additional ways that we can successfully address the cat over-population problem in Morgan County, and the continuation of the upgrades to the facilities at our Adoption Center complex on US 522 south of Berkeley Springs.

There are many more things that we need to address and accomplish. All the things listed in the previous paragraph, all the things we need and hope to accomplish are through the generosity and efforts of those in the county who care about the proper care of the animals that are either abandoned, abused or otherwise cared for improperly to act, to give, to help.

In closing, we need volunteers for the following

tasks (to name just a few): serve on one of the fundraising events committees (so that we have adequately staff and support to plan and execute each event in advance), make telephone calls to develop volunteers, come to the adoption center to work with the socialization of the animals that enhances their adoptability, help with maintenance tasks at the society's complex and support the funding stream HSMC through grant-writing for spay/neuter and capital improvements.

We sincerely thank all those who have helped and who continue to help in caring for these otherwise forgotten creatures in our midst - with your help they are not forgotten.

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NOVEMBER 2007

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We Are Your Humane Society

by Paul Murtha

We are the Humane Society of Morgan County (HSMC), and we exist for the benefit of the animals and the education and assistance of the people who own them. Our formal goal is to provide safety, food, medical support, and a caring home to ALL animals in our facility.

We are a private organization. We receive NO financial support from any federal, state or local agency or any other animal welfare organizations. We exist exclusively on donations, grants and the good will of our unpaid Board of Directors, volunteers and the people of Morgan County. We

are not formally connected with the Morgan county government in any way.

Our facility has an 18-run dog kennel, two cat containment buildings, and a donated trailer we use for administration and animal display. We usually have about 75 cats and 20 dogs under our care at any one time.

Morgan County's government currently has two people responsible for animal disposition: the Dog Warden and the Animal Humane Officer. The Dog Warden is responsible for taking possession of all stray, abandoned, and mistreated dogs. Dog Warden can offer a

dog that officer has obtained to us if the animal is not considered unadoptable because it is vicious, seriously injured or terminally ill. Otherwise the Dog Warden will maintain the dog for a period determined by him and then have it euthanized. The Animal Humane Officer is responsible for insuring that all animals in Morgan County are treated humanely.

Morgan County does not have a policy covering the general disposition of all animals. Therefore, we have assumed a voluntary responsibility, a shared responsibility with the people of our county, for animal welfare that goes beyond just dogs and general

humane treatment of animals. We will provide shelter, remedial and preventative medical support, socialization, and adoption services for any animal we are physically able to take in. Our underlying objective is to preserve life. We will never allow indiscriminate euthanasia.

This is our promise to you, the people of Morgan County.

We are a proactive organization that works for the universal benefit of our county. We conduct subsidized rabies clinics to encourage proper medical support of pets. We operate a Trap/Neuter/Return feral cat program that returns cats to their colony. We have an

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Adoption Program Success Stories

by Linda Pineski

With the increased visibility of HSMC animals through our PetFinders site, our growing off-site adoption program and our developing relationships with rescue organizations like Tails of Hope Dog Rescue and Commonwealth Cat rescue, more and more of the dogs and cats that come to our Adoption Center are finding good homes. Here are two of the most recent happy endings.

Katie came to the Adoption Center in the early summer of 2006, along with her six brothers. They had been born in Dec. of 2005 and spent their most formative months in an out building. They were all extremely shy when they came to the Center. Two of the brothers were adopted after a few weeks. As time went on, they all began to trust people more but still seemed to prefer the

company of other dogs. Eventually only Katie and one other brother remained - waiting for their own families and forever homes. Finally some very nice people applied to adopt Katie. A relative had a dog that looked as if he could be one of the brothers. Katie was her usual shy self when she met them, but unlike other people who had tried to get to know Katie these people were very patient. They understood her shyness. With a little encouragement, Katie got in the car and never looked back. At last report Katie was settling in nicely. Her new family includes another dog for her to be friends with, a nice fenced-in back yard to run and play in, and every night Katie sleeps in their bedroom in her own special bed. It was a long journey for Katie from a

chicken coop to her own bed in her own home. We are glad we could care for Katie during the time in-between and are so happy she has finally found her forever family.

Our other success story is GiGi. GiGi came to the shelter in the summer of 2005, a beautiful long haired kitty. But GiGi was not a kitten any more. She had a reputation for not liking other cats and barely tolerating people. Slowly GiGi settled in and life was pretty good as long as she could have her own space. Time and again she was passed over by people looking to adopt because of her aloof manor. The first time GiGi went to the off site adoption program in Fairfax she almost got adopted but it wasn't to be that time. Then a month later the right person came along. Finally, someone

who understood her retiring nature. GiGi turned out to be a Norwegian Forest Cat and this person had another of this breed who needed a friend. GiGi is now spending her days a pampered kitty with windows to look out of, a whole house to roam in and a cat just like her for companionship. Best of all, GiGi has become part of a forever family with someone who "gets" what GiGi is all about.

We Are Your Humane Society

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aggressive adoption advertising program that includes showing available animals at area pet supply stores, adoption days, other adoption facilities, and two websites.

Our commitment to our community is simple and straightforward. We will give the best possible within our means to the animals of this county, and we will strive to make our facility the pride of this county and see that it continues to exist and improve. We, in turn, need you, the people of Morgan County, to support our donation drives, volunteer, and tell your elected officials that your Humane Society is a critical part of this community that requires financial support that it does not currently receive.

New Policies At Adoption Center

The Humane Society of Morgan County, Inc. has instituted new animal population limits at their Adoption Center on Route 522 south of Berkeley Springs. These limits are being implemented to ensure the best possible health conditions for the protection of the animals in our care and to enhance the chances of finding good homes for the animals we do have. Limiting the number of animals that are placed under our care will enable us to operate within our budget and other resource constraints.

The following animal levels will be reached within the next few months and will be maintained in the future:

- We will care for up to 17 dogs at any one time.
- We will care for up to 40 cats in the Main Cattery building.
- We will care for up to 20 newly admitted cats in our Cat Isolation building.
- We will no longer accept feral cats at the Adoption Center since they are not suitable for adoption as pets. The following exception applies. If in the course of our Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program we find a feral mother with newborn kittens, we will place her and her kittens in our isolation building (space permitting) while she nurses the kittens. She will then be spayed and returned to her natural habitat. The kittens will be evaluated for their altering, socialization, and adoption potential.
- Effective immediately, the intake or acceptance of new animals will be done by appointment only and will only occur after an evaluation has been done and only if space is available, in accordance with the above stated limits.

We are instituting these policies to more effectively serve the community and the animals of Morgan County. We must operate within the limits of our available resources. We are increasing our off-site adoption efforts and will be contacting additional rescue organizations in an attempt to successfully place the animals under our protection more quickly. We will continue to place animals in foster homes to expand our animal care capacity. We will allocate more funding for Spay/Neuter programs to significantly and humanely reduce the number of unwanted animals in Morgan County. We will cooperatively work with local government officials to significantly and aggressively improve enforcement of animal-related state and county laws, and will be a tireless advocate organization for

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What's That For?

by Kelvin Langley

For those of you who may have visited the Adoption Center within the past 3 weeks, you would have seen a new concrete pad that has been poured and is located on the right side of our driveway near the main building.

The pad was constructed and poured by volunteers on September 10-11, during our annual United Way Day of Caring. The gravel and concrete were generously donated by the LeFarge Company (formerly HB Mellott) of Warfordsburg, Pa. We encourage our supporters to contact Lefarge for your concrete needs and thank them for their support to the HSMC.

This pad is going to be the location for a new business office and visitor reception building. These functions are currently taking place inside our main cat building (the trailer). By adding a separate building and moving these 2 functions into this new building, we will provide space for the creation of a cat "adoption room" where perspective adopters can visit, one-on-one with potential animals and interact with them in a "confusion-free" environment. The new building will also provide a quiet location for visitors to check in upon arrival at the center and for our staff

to handle administrative functions, complete paper work, and greet guests away from where our animals are cared for and housed.

We now need your help to raise the \$6,000 that it will take to buy the prefabricated building and to finish it off inside. The Amish American Company of Martinsburg has agreed to provide us with a 12' X 24' building complete with vinyl siding, windows, and main door for a discounted price of \$4,500. This price is tax-free and includes delivery and setting up on our new concrete pad. We will need an additional \$1,500 (includes donated materials and labor) to finish the building inside with drywall, electrical, heating and air-conditioning. We will move recently acquired office furniture and supplies from their present location into this new building. The new building will also be large enough for some casual seating for our center visitors and staff.

We are once-again asking for proven generosity and kindness of our supporters to "come through" for the animals and help us meet this new goal. The sooner we can raise this \$6,000 through special donations, the sooner we can have our NEW OFFICE BUILDING!

HSMC Financial Planning

by Kelvin Langley

The Humane Society is very pleased to announce our ongoing year-long relationship with Mr. David W. Young, III. Mr. Young is a Regional Vice President of The Householder Group, a well-respected nationwide Estate & Retirement Planning Organization headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. Young's regional office is located in Fairfax, Virginia and he makes frequent visits to Berkeley Springs to assist and provide guidance to the HSMC directors in the area of long-range financial planning and estate gifts made by members of the society. Mr. Young was a featured speaker at our Annual Dinner held at the Cacapon State Park on September 17.

In addition to working with individuals and families in meeting their estate and retirement planning goals, Mr. Young volunteers many hours of his time working with Christian and other charitable organizations, like the HSMC, in meeting long-range financial planning goals and assisting members in tax-advantaged charitable giving, and charitable estate gifts.

Mr. Young is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and is

licensed to practice in Virginia and West Virginia. He is a member of the National Association of Security Dealers and is a graduate of James Madison University. As part of his commitment to providing financial advice and planning services to the Humane Society, Mr. Young has also most generously agreed to work with all individual supporters and member of the HSMC who may like to speak with him regarding their own financial, retirement, and estate planning requirements. Mr. Young would be most qualified and able to assist anyone who would like to include the Humane Society in their estate planning or who would like more information on providing a tax-free legacy gift or endowment to the Society while they are still alive and able to see the huge positive difference their gift could make "for the animals." Please call Mr. Young directly at (703) 631-4800 and tell him you are a friend of the Humane Society of Morgan County or call Ed Duncan (President) at 258-9410, or Kelvin Langley (Treasurer) at 258-1486.

Donation Form



- Please send the form for automatic monthly giving by credit card
- Please put me on the list to receive the Animals' Voice newsletter via email.

Email: _____@_____

Please print all information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- This donation is specifically for the Friends for Life for Ferals TNR Program, Otherwise, please use my donation specifically for:

(If not specified, donation will be used wherever the need is greatest.)

Please make checks payable to: Humane Society of Morgan County and mail to: P.O. Box 705, Berkeley Springs, WV, 25411.

The HSMC is a 501(C)3 not-for profit organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Adoption Center News

by Susan Kemenyas

Since the last issue of The Animal's Voice, there have been important changes at the Adoption Center including promotion of Linda Pinieski to Adoption Center Manager replacing former manager, Susan Lee. Mrs. Pinieski grew up in Morgan County (Linda Peck) and is a 1968 graduate of Berkeley Springs High School. She has been a Humane Society caretaker since March 2006, is a retired nurse and had been promoted to the position of Assistant Manager of the

Adoption Center in June. Mrs. Pinieski brings a wealth of administrative experience as well as a great deal of skill with and genuine concern for the animals.

Many thanks to Susan Lee for her long years of service to the society and especially for her willingness to serve as Adoption Center Manager for the previous 16 months when we were in need of her services. Susan Lee has left the area for an extended period of time due to a family emergency.

The Rock Shop's last foster kitty gets a home

by Maya Fredo

In the last issue of The Animal's Voice, I wrote about how the second Rock Shop foster kitty was ready for her forever home. Well, after 5 months of living as "Queen of The Rock Shop," I'm happy to report that Abbie finally got her forever home in late August.

Ms. Abigail May, otherwise known as Abbie, had been surrendered to the HSMC Adoption Center in early January. She was very underweight, her hair was a mess from a past flea infestation, she had a cyst on her back that needed to be removed, she needed to be spayed, and most of all she needed lots of love and attention. All of her needs were met by myself, Dr. Murphy, and the many people she befriended while living as a shop kitty.

Colette D. of Berkeley Springs happened upon her after visiting the Rock Shop one day with her grandchildren. As they were leaving, Abbie caught her eye and took her breath away. Abbie had been transformed from a scrawny and scared cat into a beautiful, fluffy, blondie, with her cute

flat face and blue eyes and a fabulously fun and affectionate personality. After hearing Abbie's story, Colette completed an application, passed the ownership references checks and came by the following week to pick up her new "Queenie." Now Abbie has her forever home where she's loved and continues to be spoiled.

I'm sorry to say that the closing of The Rock Shop brings an end to the in-town foster program (at least from this store). In the past year that I have been here, I've helped 2 cats get into loving homes, helped raise awareness of the many needs of the homeless animals of our community, and with the "Paws Fur a Cause" thrift room helped support our Animal Adoption Center.

Many thanks to all who frequented the shop, visited myself and the shop kitties, and to all who donated items or volunteered time to the PAWS room.

Supporter calls out County Commissioners

by Susan Kemenyas

We were so pleased when a faithful supporter took up the cause of making the public aware that the Humane Society does not receive any funds from the county (or any government funds, for that matter). For readers of The Animals' Voice who may not get the Morgan Messenger or missed when the letter ran, we have reproduced it here:

Dear Editor:

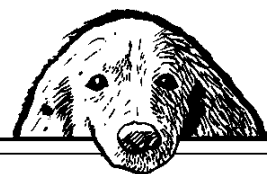
We recently attended a dinner given by the Humane Society of Morgan County, which does so much for our county to alleviate suffering of county animals.

I know the Society is a private, non-profit organization, but I was surprised and disappointed to find that the society receives no funding at all from the county government to help maintain its facilities and operations. The society performs a role that, certainly, the county government would have to perform directly if the society did not exist.

Is this fair?

I urge the Morgan County Commissioners to include some amount in the county budget to help fund the activities of the society, since county citizens certainly expect there to be an agency, government or otherwise, to help meet the needs of animals now served only the society.

*Victoria Scriggins
Great Cacapon*



Upcoming Events Holiday Bazaar

*More details on this event on our website - www.hsmc-wv.org
Want to rent a table to sell from? Are you willing to donate baked goods or an item for the silent auction? Are you willing to help with this event by making phone calls or posting fliers? Are you willing to help at the event?
For any of these things, please call Susan K. at (304)258-7841.*



Volunteer Opportunities with the Off-Site Adoption Team

by Susan Kemenyas

Want to help us find good homes for cats and dogs? Consider joining the off-site adoption team! Teams take qualified adoption center animals to pre-scheduled events at DogGone Pets in Martinsburg and PetsMart in Hagerstown and Fairfax. Contact one of the team leaders for more information. To help with events in Martinsburg or Hagerstown, contact director Joe Pinieski at (717) 294-6608 or dogs4evr@frontiernet.net. To help with events in Fairfax, contact director Kelvin Langley at (304) 258-1486 or langkcmv@aol.com.

Wanted - Alumni Stories

Have you adopted an animal or two (or more) from our adoption center or through one of our off-site adoption program events? Would you be willing to share your story in The Animals' Voice or on our website? If so, please contact Susan Kemenyas at "Mrs_K_25411@yahoo.com" and put "HSMC Adoption Alumni" in the reference line. All you need to do is provide her with the information. Susan will write the story and email it to you for corrections/review. Then she'll get your approval of the final story before placing it in the newsletter and/or on our website (depending on where you choose to have it placed).

Special Thanks

Many thanks to VFW Post #4019 for their support of the Third Annual Ruff Rider Poker Run on Saturday, August 25th.

Douglas Motors for their support, including posting our events on their electronic sign.

Acknowledgements

The Humane Society of Morgan County acknowledges all those who gave donations in memory of Jeffrey Kemenyas, Mary L. Duffey and Irving Metzner.

Humane Society of Morgan County Board of Directors

President - Ed Duncan
Vice President - Paul Murtha
Treasurer - Kelvin Langley
Secretary - Susan Kemenyas
Public Relations Officer - Maya Fredo
Director of Off-Site Adoptions - Joe Pinieski

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, 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.

Board Secretary Scribblings

by Susan Kemenyas

Since the Summer 2007 issue of The Animal's Voice came out, the Board of Directors crafted and published HSMC philosophy and policy (see article entitled "We are your Humane Society by Director Paul Murtha and article entitled "Humane Society Announces New Policies At Adoption Center." In addition to these official actions, the Board of Directors and others were involved in numerous activities - the following are just a few: The Morgan County Fair, 3rd Annual Ruff Rider Poker Run, United Way Day of Caring, HSMC Annual Dinner Meeting, 34th Annual Apple Butter Festival, and annual Fall Rabies Clinic.

New Policies

Continued from page 2

the health and welfare of all animals within Morgan County. All of our funding comes from private donations, charitable grants, and the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle. No public funds come to us from federal, state, or local government. We receive no funding from The Humane Society of the United States. All funding is used to promote the humane treatment of animals and to operate our Adoption Center and its programs. It is our stated policy to value life and to never euthanize a healthy adoptable animal for space.

We are a private, non-profit charitable organization and none of our Board Members is compensated for their service to the organization. We do not have the ability or legal responsibility to accept every animal brought to us. Within the limits of our resources and our capacity we will accept animals that are healthy and adoptable.

Unlike the Humane Society, the Morgan County

Animal Control office is legally bound to accept responsibility for sick, abused and abandoned animals that fall outside the scope of our purview.

~Board of Directors, Humane Society of Morgan County, Inc.

A New Way to Help HSMC

by Susan Kemenyas

By the time this issue of The Animals' Voice goes to print, Journal readers will be treated once a week to a photo of one of the cats or dogs from our Adoption Center looking for a forever home. Douglas Motors and Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals are the first to sponsor these ads. Other businesses, individuals and organizations are encouraged to take advantage of this on-going opportunity to put the animals at HSMC in the public eye. If you'd like to sponsor a Humane Society of Morgan County "available for adoption" ad, contact Patty Hoffman at the Journal at 263-8931, extension 120, phoffman@journal-news.net.

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

Open to the Public
Thurs. through Mon.
12pm to 5pm
Closed Tues. and Wed.



P.O. Box 705
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

THANKSgiving Thoughts

from Susan Kemenyas

Although Thanksgiving is still a few weeks away, the Humane Society of Morgan County is thankful for so many things and so many people - every single day. There are probably enough to fill a separate issue of *The Animal's Voice* . . . here's just a sampling:

- Clare Phillips, our layout artist, without whom there would be no "Animal's Voice."
- Rebecca Mallory, whose excellent graphic artistry created the new newsletter masthead.
- Ellie Gomez, our webmaster, who keeps the HSMC website attractive and interesting.
- David Green, whose web service keeps the HSMC site up and running on the Internet.
- Ann Darling, for all the ways she supports the HSMC, including selling her fabulous photography and quilts.
- Jean Aarons and other volunteers at the cattery preparing the cats for forever homes.
- Kathy Hausner and other volunteers who help prepare the dogs for forever homes.
- Ryan and Stephanie Rebant for keeping the lawn mowed at the Adoption Facility.
- Sue Miller and Lucile Sasser, whose skilled dog training efforts make dogs adoptable.
- All the people who volunteer each week helping the dogs practice leash manners.
- Our excellent Adoption Center Manager whose efforts make a world of difference.
- Our excellent caretaker staff who work so tirelessly, every day, caring for the animals.
- WDHC Radio 92.9 FM for providing Humane Society News to the community's listening audience



*Save lives...spay and neuter.
Remember annual shots and check-ups.*

Small Ways to Help HSMC that Add Up

- Help us save printing and mailing costs on upcoming editions of *The Animals' Voice*. Opt to get it via email. Go to "<http://www.hsmc-wv.org>", and post your request at our guest book to get *The Animals' Voice* by e-mail.
- Your on-line shopping can profit HSMC. Designate the Humane Society of Morgan County through our "<http://Igive.com>" link.
- Grocery shopping can help HSMC. Designate us as your charity of choice through our Food Lion Shop and Share link. This program needs a volunteer coordinator.

Can you help?