



Humane Society of Morgan County, WVa

The Animals' Voice

President's Message

by Ed Duncan

I'm pleased to report that we are making great progress in renovating the mobile home that is our cattery/Adoption Center office as well as working toward the completion of the Cat Isolation building. The renovation of the cattery will entail removing many of walls to open it up, relocating the washer and dryer, taking out the old kitchen area out in favor of a work area with a large utility sink and creating functional storage for the many products needed to care for the animals. We have replaced the worn out central air conditioner with a new unit with a heat pump package added to supplement the building's furnace. The cat Isolation Building, when completed by the end of the summer, will allow us to quarantine newly arrived and sick cats from the general population. This will

allow us to treat them without infecting others, thereby lowering our medication costs plus having a more healthy and adoptable selection of cats.

We wish to thank all of the supporters who made our St. Patrick's Day Challenge a success. The generous response to this challenge has allowed us to continue the renovations cited above. We are also working diligently to identify and qualify responsible cat rescues so that we can avoid euthanizing animals, if at all possible. As you may be aware, until our spay/neuter efforts began to have an impact in this county we are faced with always having many more cats coming in then we can ever place in good adoption situations. We are also trying to ramp up our Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) program for feral cats. To that end, we desperately need

volunteers that can assist us with trapping these feral cats and transporting them to the various local veterinarians. We will provide the guidance/training and equipment to accomplish these efforts. If you are willing to assist us with this, please give me a call at 258-9410.

We also need volunteers in numerous areas of our operation, such as administrative help at the Adoption Center, assisting on fund-raising projects, socializing dogs and cats, walking dogs, calling rescue organizations to place animals, maintenance projects around the Adoption Center...just to name a few of the areas. If your interested or know someone else that could help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Terry Kane @ 258-6654.

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Angel Gets Her Wings

by Susan Kemenyas

On Sunday, April 29th Grant and Dena Yeary of Martinsburg adopted Angel (a chocolate lab/hound mix) from the Humane Society of Morgan County at a weekly off-site adoption event held by HSMC Board member, Joe Pinieski with his wife, Linda Pinieski (assistant manager of the Humane Society Adoption Center) at DogGone Pets in Martinsburg. The next day, while on the evening walk with owner Dena Yeary, Angel proved what an excellent companion animal the Yeary's had added to their family.

According to Dena Yeary, the walk progressed normally until Angel insisted on going onto the cul-de-sac that they would otherwise have passed as darkness was falling and no one else seemed to be out. Despite being otherwise very obedient to owner-promptings, Angel could neither be persuaded nor commanded to bypass the barren cul-de-sac. Angel seemed anxious to get to something, or someone, that Yeary could not see in the lonely twilight. The someone that Angel had detected, and wanted her owner to discover as well, was a tiny

toddler who had apparently slipped out of a nearby house, where the garage door was open, unobserved. Yeary and Angel returned the child to the home where a parent had been frantically searching for the missing toddler upon realizing the child was missing.

When reporting the incident that made their new dog a real hero, Yeary commented that Angel had seemed to know that the child should not be outside at that time. More than locating and helping



Angel

to safely return a "missing" toddler, Angel may have averted tragedy that could have befallen the child especially since there is

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Rescue Society Report

by Susan Lee

The Rescue Society has had a major success. HSMC has started working with Commonwealth Cat Rescue in Fairfax, Virginia. Groups in northern Virginia have been successfully running TNR (trap/neuter/return) and other spay/neuter and education programs long enough to see the results in lowered numbers of stray and unwanted cats. (It really can happen!)

We transported five of our adult cats to Commonwealth's facility about three weeks ago. One of them has already been adopted. All of these cats had been at our Adoption Center for over six months. When

these cats get adopted, we'll be able to take more.

We will also be able to put photos and descriptions of our cats on Commonwealth's PetFinders page. Since people usually look close to home to adopt animals, people in the metropolitan area rarely ever see our PetFinders listings. By posting our cats on Commonwealth's site, our animals' exposure and adoption options are increased by leaps and bounds.

If you'd like to join the Rescue Society in their exciting and truly worthwhile endeavor, please call the Adoption Center.

Off Site Adoption Program

by Joe Pinieski

We want to send thanks out to P.J. and Melody and to Gabriel and Matt for giving so generously of their time to help support this program. To the staff and Board of Directors at the adoption center for all they've done. To Joe Barb, owner of Dog Gone Pets in Martinsburg, and his staff for all they've done to help. To Mary O'Toole, store manager at PetSmart in Hagerstown, MD. These stores have been the base of our operation for the past six months. We look forward to continue our program which is helping to place more pets in good homes. Hoping our

volunteer staff will continue to grow allowing us to increase the adoption rate. Anyone interested in assisting with our program please call (717) 294-6608 or e-mail Joe Pinieski <dogs4evr@frontiernet.net>, thank you Joe and Linda Pinieski.



Sweetie

Sweetie Finds A Home

by Susan Kemenyas

The last edition of this newsletter featured the photo of Sweetie, a little black and tan hound mix, who was still looking for her forever home. We are pleased to report that Sweetie has found an excellent forever home with Pat and Steve Unger of Berkeley Springs. Our best wishes to the Ungers and everyone else who has adopted an animal (or two or more...) from the Humane Society. May you enjoy many years of love and companionship with your adopted companion animal(s).

Spring Challenge Report

by Kelvin Langley

I am pleased to report that counting the original challenge donation along with the matching contributions our St. Patrick's/Spring 2007 Challenge resulted in \$22,000. This is the single largest response we've ever had to an appeal. It represents approximately three months of operating expense for our adoption center. Due to the very positive response, we have decided that this will be an annual appeal.

Proceeds of the Challenge have been used to do some much-needed maintenance and renovation at the Adoption Center including replacement of worn out and torn flooring. It was also used to replace an aging/broken heating and air-conditioning system, which is vitally needed to keep the animals comfortable. Some funds will be used to complete the Cat Isolation Building within the next few months.

In addition to thanking everyone who has so generously given to make the Spring Challenge 2007 a resounding success, I am pleased to report that we have made monthly giving even more convenient. You can send us your Visa or Mastercard information once along with the amount you designate for your monthly donation and the rest is automatic. Once each month, the credit card you've designated will be charged for the amount you've designated and your monthly credit card bill will be your receipt. It couldn't be easier or more painless. Giving this way also saves you the time and postage of mailing in your monthly donation. Drop us a line at PO Box 705, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 to let us know you want to donate this way and we'll send you the form by return mail.

Spayed Cat Becomes A Mama

by Susan Kemenyas

At the beginning of May, two orphaned litters of kittens were brought into the Adoption Center. Although the tiny kittens were being well-cared for by the caretaker staff, Squeaks, a spayed female cat at the Adoption Center thought that she could do better. She stayed in front of the cage where the kittens were kept for two or three days waiting for an opportunity to prove herself as a foster mother. Caretaker Janet Ace wisely decided to give

Squeaks a chance and let the cat into the cage with the orphaned kittens. Squeaks promptly took over all mothering duties of washing and personally tending to the kittens. The tiny orphans couldn't have picked a better foster mother and Squeaks (so named because her voice is more of a squeak than a meow) got to do something few spayed cats can ever do - become a mother. Way to go, Squeaks.

Angel Gets Her Wings

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an open pond not too far away in their neighborhood. In addition to the event where she officially earned her wings, Angel is a faithful guardian of the Yearly's child.

Way to go, Angel! The Humane Society of Morgan County salutes you.

Quilt Guild Raises Over \$5,000

by Susan Kemenyas

Every year the Delectable Mountain Quilt Guild makes about three dozen excellent yard square quilts that they place in businesses throughout Morgan County to auction off for their charity of choice for the year. This year the Quilt Guild selected The Humane Society of Morgan County to receive the proceeds from the 39 fabulous quilts they had made. I watched with great interest as the quilts were hung in area businesses appreciating each piece for it's exquisite work and the labor of love each quilt represents. I tried to get to as many locations as I could to see these beautiful quilts in person. I gave out lots of maps showing where the quilts were located to get others involved in the bidding.

On May 28th, I was working in The Rock Shop for the day when a member of the Quilt Guild came into to take down the adorable dog-themed quilt that had hung there and garnered one of the highest bids among the quilts featured in this year's auction. My sadness in saying good-bye to the now-familiar quilt was more than eclipsed by my elation when I heard a day or so later that the

final tally on the auction was over \$5,000 - nearly a month's operating expense for our Adoption Center. Words can barely convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Delectable Mountain Quilt Guild for the grand gesture of generosity in donating these proceeds to help us as we help the homeless animals of the area!

Special Thanks

The Humane Society of Morgan County thanks Cacapon Resort State Park for donating the use of the gazebo for the 2nd Annual Concert for the Animals on Sunday, May 27, 2007.

Acknowledgments

The Humane Society of Morgan County acknowledges donations given in honor of the 55th Anniversary and 5th renewal of vows of Bill and Maria Makinson of Berkeley Springs.

The Humane Society of Morgan County acknowledges the donation given by Victoria and Larry Scriggins, in Memory of Mary, constant friend and faithful companion of Lula Belle Robertson.

Adoption Center News

by Susan Lee

Since the pet food recalls began, we've been checking, rechecking and taking a closer look at all the different kinds of foods donated for the animals here at the Adoption Center. We've learned a lot. Not only do we have to watch for contaminated food, but we've discovered that a lot of the food brought here has insufficient food/nutritional value.

We've also realized that many of the foods cause a great deal of digestive distress in the animals that eat them, which, in turn, causes the caretakers and visitors distress. (Yes folks, we are talking about the animals puking and having diarrhea).

Please check the ingredient

list before purchasing the foods you intend to donate. Make sure that real meat (chicken, turkey, lamb, beef, etc.) not a meat meal or meat by-product is list as one of the first three ingredients. Dogs and cats are carnivores (meat-eaters) and that is what they need in their diets to stay healthy. Also, avoid any foods that have red dyes. They too cause upset to the digestive tract. Cats and dogs tummies are more sensitive than many people realize.

Foods that meet these criteria may be a little more expensive, but the benefit to all the animals' health is invaluable.

Dog Bite Prevention

by Susan Kemenyas

Humane Society members Sharon Tebben and Sue Green held a Dog Bite Prevention class on Saturday, June 2 at the 8th Annual Morgan County Children's Health & Safety Fair hosted by War Memorial Hospital. Green used her stuffed dog Patches to demonstrate how to approach a dog and Tebben ran an 8-minute Dog Bite Prevention video at the event, gave children a coloring handout

and adults a "how to prevent dog bites" handout. Tebben reported a steady stream of attendees at Dog Bite Prevention class for the duration of the event. Many, many thanks to Sharon Tebben and Sue Green for the dog bite prevention education event.

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 e-mail.

E-mail: _____@_____

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.

Board Secretary Scribblings

by Susan Kemenyas

Spring has been such a busy time for the Board of the Humane Society of Morgan County. In addition to it's many meetings and ongoing projects, here is just a sampling of things undertaken during April and May.

Saturday, April 14th at the Ice House, **Jim Fredo** performed an excellent **concert** with guest appearances by other local musicians in the cozy concert venue. Local artisans, businesses and generous individuals donated many excellent items for the silent auction. Fredo donated sales of his newest cd at the concert and continues to donate the sale of this cd, which is also available for purchase at The Rock Shop. Many thanks to Jim Fredo and friends for an enjoyable and memorable concert that helped raise much-needed funds for the Adoption Center.

Spring Clean-Up/Work Day at the adoption center was held on Saturday, April 21.

Directors involved were Ed Duncan, Susan K. and Heather Osborne. Jean Aarons, a longtime volunteer and new volunteers Sandra Block and Dennis Gainer that came out to help that day. This small crew accomplished everything that was on the work roster for the day. Many thanks to all who helped.

Spring and Summer are times during which there is often an increase in active cases of rabies in wildlife. In addition to informing the community of this fact, the Humane Society is continuing its program of providing semiannual low-cost rabies clinics to help protect the people and pets of the community from the deadly, but preventable disease. In an effort to give back to the community for its generous outpouring of donations in response to the St. Patrick's Community Challenge, the Humane Society of Morgan County paid for the rabies shot for one animal from each family that attended the **Spring Rabies Clinic** at the Adoption Center on Sunday, April 29th. There was an excellent turnout of 103 pets for the clinic. One person brought in 9 pets for rabies vaccines administered by Dr. Sally Pepper, DVM. assisted by Tina Cross. Many thanks to Dr. Pepper and Tina Cross

A group of eighth grade girls from Faith Christian Academy in Martinsburg, along with the mother and father of two of the students, visited the Humane Society of Morgan County Adoption Center on Friday, May 4th as a part of their school's annual **Labor of Love Community Service Day**. Susan "Mrs. K" Kemenyas, Board Secretary, was there to

greet the group and give them their project assignments. The volunteer group did what Kemenyas called "much needed beautification" at the facility grounds by clearing out untended garden spots, filling them with topsoil and planting them with annuals, perennials and various ground covers. Although the group took on this project with diligence and good cheer, it did not compare with the gusto they took on their other assignment for the day; namely, brushing the cats and dogs. Larissa Greenleaf and Liz Bell went with adult leader, Sherry Bell, to greet and groom some of the cats in the facility's main cat building with the able help and oversight of caretaker, Janet Ace. Michelle Montayo and Stephanie Butcher went with adult leader, Jim Butcher, and HSMC volunteer "Mrs. K." to greet and groom some of the dogs in the kennel with the capable help and oversight of caretaker, Joy Dailey. When the group finished, they knew that in coming all the way from Martinsburg over the long winding stretch of Rt. 9 that day, they had made a real difference and left their mark at the Humane Society of Morgan County.

A **Supply Drive** for the adoption center was held on Saturday, May 5th at **Pittman's Market** in Hancock. Board

Secretary, Susan Kemenyas and husband Jeffrey Kemenyas set up and manned the first half of the event. Kelvin Langley, Board Treasurer, and his wife, Mary Langley, manned the second half of the event and took the day's proceeds back to the Adoption Center. Generous Pittman's customers filled the donation jar with cash and filled the Humane Society van with supplies for the Adoption Center. A Fall supply drive at Pittman's is planned. Thanks to Pittman's for hosting this event and for offering to host a Fall Supply Drive as well.

The **2nd Annual Concert for the Animals** took place on Sunday, May 27th at Cacapon State Park. Presented by The Red Guitar School of Music and The Rock Shop, attendees were treated to a day-long concert that included performances by Alleghany Uprising, The Shifters, Flash, Hi Frequency and The Tone Hounds. This year, the concert was nearly 4/5 done before the rain came, but not before children had plenty of fun on the two moon bounces from "Pro Magic Bounce" and the adults enjoyed bidding on the many excellent items in the Silent Auction and in the Chinese Raffle.

Summer Fundraising and Community Events Involvement

by Maya Fredo

Summer events include participating in the Ice House Motorcycle Month event at Berkeley Springs State Park on Saturday, June 23 with the first of several impromptu yard-sales at the vacant lot on Wilkes street next to Himalayan Trade and Tour. HSMC will have an off-site adoption event at the Morgan County Fair on August

4 and 5. The Third Annual Ruff Rider Poker Run will be held on Saturday, August 25. September 17 is the annual meeting and dinner where we look forward sharing with the membership all that's been accomplished over the past year as the organization has grown and changed.

Upcoming Events

August 4 & 5 County Fair - Be sure to stop by the Humane Society booth

August 25 - 3rd Annual Ruff Rider Poker Run

Sept 1 - Supply Drive at Food Lion

Sept 17 - Annual Member Meeting and Dinner

Sept 22 - Fall Clean-Up and Work Day at the Adoption Center 10am - 3pm

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

Abbie is Ready For Her Forever Home

by Maya Fredo

Sometime in early December 2006, a fluffy little flat faced "Blondie" cat was turned over to the Humane Society Adoption Center. This girl looked as if she had been neglected for some time. The person who left her with the caretakers only had Abbie for about two months. Both in that household and at the previous, Abbie spent most of her time in hiding. She continued this while she was at the Adoption Center.

In March, a few weeks after Mimi was successfully adopted from The Rock Shop, it was time for a new shop foster kitty. When I went to the Adoption Center looking for the next candidate, I saw this cute little face hiding behind some totes in

the office and I knew that I'd found my next Rock Shop cat. I brought her to her new safe haven. I had everything set up for her and though she was starved for attention, she was also very scared and wanted to stay in hiding in the stock room. Little by little I'd introduce people to her and she really liked it. Then one day, about 3 weeks after she arrived, she decided to come out into the shop and has been out here greeting customers ever since.

Her hair had been a mess from lack of grooming and there was residue from a past flea infestation. She now looks beautiful and loves to be brushed and petted. She even loves to give kisses on people's hands. Abbie is somewhere

around 5 years old and looks like a pure bred Himalayan. She recently had a cyst removed from her back and has been spayed. She's fully vaccinated for the coming year and has been feline leukemia tested (neg.). She is strictly an indoor cat. She does fine with children as long as they are older and not chasing her. She has very much enjoyed being the only animal, but I think that she may do fine if there were very docile animals in the home that would not chase or hurt her.

If you are interested in meeting Abigail May and picking up an adoption application and contract, stop by The Rock Shop Thursday - Sunday or call 258-6770. You can also e-mail me at

bsrockshop@verizon.net. A veterinarian reference along with personal references is required. I also reserve the right to do a home visit before any decision is made. The adoption fee for Abbie is \$150. This continues The Rock Shop foster program. I adopt another cat in need of rehabilitation and we make a trip to Dr. Murphy to receive any testing or vaccines that are needed that are not available at The Humane Society Adoption Center.

If you think that this could be your new forever friend, stop by for a visit and meet Ms. Abbie!

Summertime Safety Tips

Summer offers up many situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. It's very dangerous, and in some states illegal, to drive with a dog in the back of a pickup truck. Flying debris cause serious injury or the dog may be thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a crate secured in the bed of the truck. Make sure your

pet is always wearing a collar and identification tag. If you're separated from your pet, an ID tag may very well be his or her ticket home.

Other pet hazards are related to people fertilizing their lawns and working in gardens. Plant food, fertilizer, insecticides and cocoa mulch can be fatal. In addition, more than 700 plants are harmful or toxic to animals. Pets and pools can equal disaster. Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool. Pets can get sunburned too, and your pet may require sunscreen

on his or her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.

Extra care needs to be taken exercising older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. For all pets, limit outdoor exercise to early morning or evening hours. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws. Walk on grass or shaded paths. Provide plenty of water and shade for your pets while they're outside to prevent heat stroke.

With the increase in

mosquitos, pets should take heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease, transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal in dogs and cats. Ask your vet about Interceptor (once a month tablets) that prevent heartworm and other diseases carried by mosquitoes including west Nile virus. Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to

(continued on back page)

Spay/Neuter- Trap, Neuter, Return

by Ed Duncan

We are trying to ramp-up our Spay/Neuter and Trap, Neuter & Release (TNR) programs. In order to do that we need volunteers to assist in trapping feral cats and transporting them to local area veterinarians for spay/neuter. The Humane Society is helping local persons of limited means with partial spay/neuter

assistance. If you can help with just the cats in your neighborhood that would be a tremendous help. If you're willing to help with overall program, we will work hand in hand with you to provide assistance, equipment, training and, where needed, funding.

Maya Fredo, the Humane Society Board Member heading

up this program, is working with neighborhoods and volunteers. You can call Maya at Rock Shop (258-6770) or the Humane Society Adoption Center (258-5592) or call me Ed Duncan (258-9410).

This program is the most effective, long term solution to the cat overpopulation problem in Morgan County.

There is no way that the Humane Society is ever going to be able to place the number of cats that are show up at our doors in good homes or with cat rescue organizations. We do not want euthanize cats to solve the problem. Spay/Neuter is the proven answer. Won't you help?

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

Summer Pets SOS

In many states, it's against the law to leave a pet unattended in a parked vehicle in a manner than endangers the health or safety of the animal. Despite these laws, and the basic common sense that should guide pet owners, companion animals die every year from heatstroke. The worst part is that each death was preventable. Even in the shade with the windows cracked, degrees per minutes with suffocating hot air.

Pets are very susceptible to overheating. Their bodies are designed to conserve heat. It's best to keep pets at home if you're going anywhere pets are not allowed inside. Symptoms of heat stress: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, and unconsciousness. If the animal shows symptoms of heatstroke, gradually lower animal's body temperature immediately. Move the animal into the shade or an air-conditioned area, apply ice packs or cold towels to head, neck, and chest or immerse in cool (not cold) water, let pet drink only small amounts of cool (not cold) water or lick ice cubes.

If you see an trapped in a parked car, call local police to get help.

Protect Your Pets Around The House - *Wildlife Rehabilitation Today*

Don't use ultra bleach to disinfect things that will come in contact with your pets (floors, carriers, litter boxes, kennel runs, cages and food and water bowls). Ultra bleach contains lye which is caustic and difficult to completely rinse off. Regular bleach is simple chlorite with "inert ingredients." Always check label ingredients.



Pet Food Recalls. Due to the tragedy in which an unknown number of cats and dogs suffered kidney failure and died, after eating affected pet food, HSMC urges pet owners to regularly check for updates at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/petfood> .

Summer Safety Tips

Continued from page 5
instructions. Naturally safe treatments available at most health food stores are available at The Community Garden Market in Berkeley Springs.

Don't take your pets to crowded summer events such as concerts, fairs and fireworks displays. The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous for pets. For your pet's well being, leave it at home.

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.

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 e-mail. 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?