

# RCHS 2013 NEWS

## Another Year to Woof About!

**ADOPTION NEWS** Between January-October 31, 2013, RCHS has provided shelter for 927 dogs and cats. 96 were reunited with their owners and 278 were adopted in our community. An additional 392 were successfully adopted outside our community in partnership with various rescue organizations, including our valued and enduring partnership with the PetSmart Charities® Rescue Waggin'® program. Since forming this special partnership, over 1400 dogs have been adopted from RCHS through this life- saving rescue service! Our adoption rate, which includes animals returned to their owners and adopted through rescue organizations continues to impress, at just below 90%.

### 2014 RCHS Rescue Calendar

We are excited to offer our first annual shelter calendar, featuring dogs and cats adopted from RCHS during 2013. It includes their pictures and a short story about them and their families. It is high quality, colorful, and fun, and it will make a great holiday gift! Buy one for yourself and another for a friend or relative and show your support for RCHS. All funds from calendar sales go directly into the RCHS spay/neuter fund. They are \$16 and can be purchased at local Vet offices, at the shelter, and from Ginny Zuboy or other RCHS board members. If you want us to mail it or if you can help with calendar sales, please contact Ginny Zuboy, 304-636-2075/ [gzuboy@gmail.com](mailto:gzuboy@gmail.com).



**Finances and Fundraising** It costs \$200,000 to operate the Randolph County Humane Society. In 2013 RCHS received \$80,000 from the City/County and \$8,000 from United Way. The remainder of our costs must be met through donations, grants, adoptions fees, and fundraising. In 2013 fundraising generated approximately \$14,000; grants, \$4,000. We hope to have one fundraiser scheduled each month from January through August. Be watching for news on Facebook and at [www.rchs-pets.org](http://www.rchs-pets.org). Have some interesting ideas for new fundraisers? Want to help? Call Ginny Zuboy, 304-636-2075.

**RCHS Spay/Neuter Policy:** The Randolph County Humane Society has established a policy that requires all animals be altered prior to adoption from the shelter. We are grateful

that we have been able to sustain our spay/neuter fund with monies largely received from donors and sponsors, followed by adoption fees, fundraising and special projects.



### Congratulations Rich!

After 10 years of dedicated service to RCHS, we all wish Richard Kuhn a happy retirement, effective August 2013. His years of kind and heart-felt service made the difference for more lucky animals and grateful families than we can count. His sense of humor, his love of practical jokes and his big, tender heart will be missed by all who have worked with him. So, many thanks to you, Rich, and good luck... But wait! While his first love is fishing and he intends to spend lots of time in his boat with a line in the water, don't be surprised if you see him at RCHS. His is still a familiar face, and is now a much-appreciated RCHS volunteer. Thanks, Rich!

**FOHO Spay/Neuter Initiative Update** Senate Bill 202, initiated to create a **WV spay/neuter program, passed** during the last legislative session. That's good news for WV! FOHO suggests that we "stay tuned for further details."

**CAT NEWS** RCHS is in the planning stages of reconfiguring the cat room to allow some residents to "free roam" and have access to outdoors, after assessing their individual personalities, needs and conditions. This will allow them more room to socialize and to play, and the room will be easier to clean with less disruption.

We are excited about these changes and believe it will benefit the cats in our care by reducing stress and will allow our visitors to see the cats engaged in "being cats" and hopefully will increase our adoption numbers. This year we have been overrun by cats and kittens and there seems to be no relief in sight. We are over capacity and continue to get calls to take in more. As it is, our numbers are unsustainable. PLEASE spay and neuter your cats; do not allow them to breed. Spay /neuter is the only effective way to reduce our numbers. If you are unable to adopt a cat or kitten, consider fostering a cat or two or a litter of kittens, to help relieve shelter overcrowding and better prepare them for adoption.

### RCHS Wishes to THANK a few of our partners:

•**Youth Build North Central**, for partnering with RCHS. They have provided volunteer construction of improvements to the cat building and will assist us with other grounds improvements. The YB students have also served as volunteer dog walkers and helpers in the cat room. These young people have been a pleasure to work with and we greatly appreciate their help.

- United Way** for raising funds for our community and including RCHS as a beneficiary.
- Yorkey & Associates** for their ongoing support and assistance with financial management
- Brian McDonald** for his dedicated volunteering to facility improvement measures. The bathroom being added to the cat building will be so helpful!!
- DMH** for loaning RCHS several large industrial fans to help fight the summer heat in the dog building last summer. They certainly helped!
- Beth Broschart** writer for The Intermountain, who has taken interest in the work we do and has written several stories to attract community attention to our cause.
- Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church** for volunteering a “work day” at the shelter.
- Delegates Denise Campbell and Bill Hartman** for delivering a \$4000 grant we received in October.
- Kelly wishes to relate “A big thanks to **the young people of our community** for being so generous and selfless--from donating birthday gifts, walking shelter dogs and socializing shelter cats. It’s so nice to see kids growing up humanely.”

**Meet “Willie Wonka”** Willie resided at RCHS for about a year. He arrived quaking with fear and shyness and the big guy had to be physically picked up and carried outside for his first walk. This shy boy turned into a funny, playful, and wonky boy whom we all loved. He learned to sit for treats and when those sweet brown eyes locked on yours, he made you feel like you were the only person on the planet. He developed enduring friendships, demonstrating loyalty and great promise as a loving family pet. He was adopted, mid-residency, and was abruptly returned for “biting” a family member. We knew there had to be more to the story and just couldn’t give up on him. His second chance came in October during Forest Festival when he was adopted again by a lovely family with 3 children, including a toddler. We told them his story, but they weren’t deterred. They were already in love! The picture above was taken of a nervous Willie, in the back of their car, right before



our last goodbye. We have since received reports and pictures of our handsome boy (left), happily ensconced in a loving home. He likes to “lay by the baby” and when she cries, “will give her kisses.” His seven year old master, Connor, has instructed mom to bring Willie along when she picks him up after school. Before

leaving the shelter, this precocious little boy told us that Willie would be “treasured” and indeed he has become a family jewel.

**DONATE•VOLUNTEER•ADOPT** These three words sustain RCHS and the work we do. Monetary donations, no matter how small, are greatly appreciated. You may choose to donate to **Yelp for Help**, which provides funds for emergency medical care for our residents; or **Sponsor** an adoption and/or a spay-neuter by paying the fees, increasing the likelihood of a timely adoption. To make a tax deductible holiday **DONATION**, please make your check out to RCHS, noting how you would like your dollars spent, and send it to RCHS, PO Box 785, Elkins, WV 26241. In return we will send you a tax receipt and a heartfelt Thank you!

We also appreciate **donations of needed supplies** such as blankets, towels, high quality dog or cat food, cat litter, toys, newspapers or cleaning materials.

Consider **VOLUNTEERING** for jobs both on and off-site. There are many opportunities listed on our website. Download the volunteer brochure and find out how you can help. Volunteer to foster a dog or cat or a litter of puppies or kittens.

Becoming a foster family for RCHS is very rewarding and provides a valuable service. To learn more, call the shelter manager, Kelly Scheidegger, at 304-636-7844, or email her at [kellys@meer.net](mailto:kellys@meer.net)  
**~We Wish to THANK our wonderful Volunteers!~**  
**Become a member of RCHS and get involved.** Sit in on a board meeting or join a committee. Much of the important work we do is behind the scenes and away from the shelter. Contact a board member to learn more. **RCHS Board Officers:**

- Tina Vial, President
- Mary Ann McDonald, VP of Operations
- Ginny Zuboy, VP of Outreach
- Larissa Fowler, VP of Fundraising
- Pam Johnson, Treasurer
- Julie Likens, Secretary



And finally, please **ADOPT** from RCHS. We are almost always at full capacity and have wonderful animals, like sweet Willie, waiting for their forever homes. Nothing makes us happier than an empty kennel!

This has been a great year! We have a dedicated staff and an active board and we are working together on a Plan for Progress to move us forward with continued improvements to the facility, responsible stewardship of our resources, and consistent quality care for our four-legged friends. We appreciate the support we receive from our community and thank you all for your generosity this holiday season and throughout the year. **RCHS Board of Directors and Staff**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**