

RCHS 2014 NEWS

A Tail Twisting Good Year!

Between January and October 31, 2014, RCHS has provided shelter for 734 dogs and cats. 64 of those residents were reunited with their owners, and 104 were adopted in our community. 241 were successfully adopted outside our community through various rescue organizations, and an additional number of that 734 still reside at RCHS. Thanks to PetSmart Charities's Rescue Waggin® partnership with RCHS, our adoption rate continues to stay markedly above the adoption rates of close to all WV shelters, which gives us wagging rights!

Finances and Fundraising: Our shelter operating costs are holding at about \$200,000 annually. In 2014 RCHS again 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 2014 fundraising generated \$17,000. Our fundraising period begins in January and continues through September. Be watching for news on facebook and at www.rchs-pets.org, for announcements of fundraisers for 2015. Want to help? To learn more, contact our VP of Fundraising, Larissa Fowler, lfowler@mountainvalleybank.com.

CAT NEWS: As reported last year, our county and, as a result, the Randolph County Humane Society, have been overrun with cats and kittens, with no significant change in numbers since last year: We remain over capacity and continue to receive calls daily to take in more. We are hopeful that two recent RCHS initiatives may help:

•Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR): The RCHS has started a pilot program of Trap/Neuter/Release for feral and stray/neighborhood cats of Randolph Co. This program involves humanely trapping, sterilizing, and vaccinating cats and then returning them to the area where they were trapped. With this program in place, we will reduce the number of kittens being born in our county. This program requires support from a person or persons who live in the area who are committed to feeding and caring for the group of cats released back to their original habitat. If you are feeding and caring for a group of cats in your area, please give us a call to see if we can help with spay/neuter.

•RCHS Spay/Neuter Assistance Fund: We are giving out assistance vouchers for low income S/N of dogs and cats, as funds are available. Please understand that these funds deplete quickly. You may call the shelter for availability. Also, be sure to thank all of our local vets for their assistance.

New! EMS Cat Social Club: Maria Kostakos, a RCHS board member, has established a Cat Social Club. "This has begun as a Saturday volunteer group of middle school kids and RCHS board members for now," says Maria, "but we hope to expand it eventually to other days of the week. The focus is to socialize with the cats, allow them to exercise and play outside their kennels, gaining experience interacting with people and other cats, all in the effort of improving their quality of life and adopt-ability." This has been a wonderful new program and if you walk in on a Saturday morning you can see for yourself the joy being shared among kids and cats. Thank you Maria and assistants, Pam Johnson and Jennifer Gouer, also board members.



FOHO Spay Neuter Initiative: We reported last year that WV Spay/Neuter Bill 202 passed during the 2013 legislative session and the rules and regulations for this initiative have been developed. The next step is to secure funding:

FOHO News, Oct, 2014: "The ASPCA has offered a challenge to West Virginia. Provide funding for the current WV State Spay Neuter Fund and they will put the first \$25,000 into that fund. Right now, we have a fund which will have the rules and regulations presented for passage in the 2015 WV State Legislature. But, what we need now is revenue for that fund! Help us to find it! Thanks to the ASPCA for their continued support of our spay neuter effort in West Virginia!" fohowv.org



In 1 year, 1 unspayed female dog & all of its unaltered offspring would have 16 offspring

In 1 year, 1 unspayed female cat & all of its unaltered offspring would have 12 offspring

"THANKS!" to the following supporters:

- Phil Isner, Esquire**, for serving as legal counsel and advisor in all matters of the law. His assistance to date has been greatly appreciated!
- Denise Campbell and Bill Hartman** for the 2013 grant of \$4,000 which has provided six new dog kennels with kennel covers, a new gas furnace and two window air conditioning units for the cat building. It also made possible a new bathroom in the cat building and provided gravel for the parking area of the shelter.
- Girl Scout troop #4050 from JRES** who have collected a truck load of donations for RCHS and have placed donation boxes all over town for continued collection of food and supplies for our RCHS residents.

If you shop in Elkins you have probably seen them! (picture at left)

- Lisa Armstrong w/Ajuga, Inc.** for designing our beautiful new website which will be unveiled soon.
- Dr. Tanya White, owner of Appalachia Animal Hospital**, for allowing RCHS to sell parking spaces in their lot during Forest Festival and keep the proceeds. We also wish to thank her for the generous donation of equipment for use at the shelter.
- Walgreens** for donating the proceeds of parking in their lot during Forest Festival to RCHS and for the bake sales and general support they continue to provide RCHS.
- Anne Weber, owner of Fancy Paws**, who offers a free grooming to all pets adopted from RCHS and to **Tina Vial, owner of Pups and Pals Obedience Training**, who offers a free one-hour training session to those who adopt dogs from RCHS.
- Dr. Lammie, Dr. Pritt, Dr. Crissman, Dr. White, Dr. Haddix and Dr. Walker** for working with RCHS to provide spay neuters for both the TNR program and the low income S/N initiative.
- Youth Build North Central:** For the past two years Youth Build members have served as volunteer dog walkers, almost weekly, rain or shine. 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.
- Payton Shields** for building our outdoor holding kennels for his Eagle Scout project.

• **To the young people of our community**, Kelly wishes to again relate "A big thanks for being so generous and selfless--from donating birthday gifts, walking shelter dogs and socializing shelter cats." She is very impressed and touched by their acts of kindness.

• **Brian McDonald, Steve Johnson, and Nick and Betty Jo Kostakas** Brian and Steven are spouses of RCHS Board Members Mary Ann McDonald and Pam Johnson, respectively, and Nick and Betty Jo are parents of board member Maria Kostakas. All four of these individuals have assisted us in a variety of ways, whether it be helping with construction, grounds work, loaning equipment, delivery of supplies and materials, and in general being willing to volunteer their time to see that things get done. Betty Jo has been a dedicated dog walker, cat cuddler, blanket provider, sponsor of adoptions and spay neuter, and she would probably say her most enjoyable role is providing toys and treats for our residents.

• **A special Thanks to Bruce Dillon** who has developed a unique fundraising program called *Pianos for Pets*. Bruce takes donated pianos, works on them to make sure they are playable and in good tune, then sells them at a very reasonable price (\$100 - \$400 range). All proceeds go to the RCHS spay/neuter fund. **He sold the first Piano for Pets in June of 2012 and since then he has recycled 19 pianos for a total of \$5,000 for the s/n fund!** At present he is not taking donations, but if you wish to purchase a first piano or have one to donate, give him a call and he will put you on the list. Bruce thanks his piano donors and his friends who help move them. Bruce and Jane Dillon have dedicated over 15 years of service and volunteer support to RCHS; Jane's love of and dedication to the dogs of RCHS has facilitated many successful adoptions. A very special thanks to them from all of us at RCHS! You can reach Bruce at brucedillon@gmail.com.

2015 Rescue Calendar Our second annual RCHS Rescue calendar, which features RCHS pets adopted in 2013, is now available for sale at RCHS, Fancy Paws, the Delmonte Market, and the local Vet offices. The price is \$16 and all proceeds go towards providing Spay and Neuter for companion animals. We hope you will show your support for our organization by purchasing a calendar for yourself and/or an animal loving friend or family member.

Meet Josie and Isabella Josie resided at RCHS for about a year and had been adopted unsuccessfully two times before 5-year-old Isabella spotted her on petfinders. She pointed and said to her mom, "This is the one." Her



mom tried to convince her to select a smaller dog but Isabella was set on Josie. When these two finally met for the first time this October, it was more like they were being reunited- it was magical! Josie jumped into the car next to Isabella like they had been sharing that back seat her whole life. Josie and Isabella have continued to be the best of friends and her mom, Tracy, says they couldn't have chosen a more

perfect dog for their family. Thanks to our shelter manager, Kelly Scheidegger, the heart and soul of RCHS, for allowing Josie the gift of time. In this case, the third time was the charm!



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!

Always on our **wish list** are **donations of** blankets, towels, high quality dog or cat food, cat litter, toys, newspapers, cleaning materials, computer paper, office supplies.

Donate a Crate, a new item request to add to our wish list: If you have a clean, reusable crate to give away, RCHS would appreciate the donation. We would like to be able to provide crates to our fosters and our adopters who perhaps cannot afford a crate at the time of adoption. We believe that crate training can be instrumental in facilitating successful adoptions, and may even help convince

landlords that the adopter is a responsible pet owner.

Consider **VOLUNTEERING** for jobs both on and off-site. Download the volunteer brochure to learn more. Interested in serving on the board? Come sit in on a meeting. Contact gzuboy@gmail.com



dog walking on a summer day

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, at no cost to you. To learn more, call the shelter manager, Kelly Scheidegger, at 304-636-7844, or email her at kellys@meer.net

~We Wish to THANK our wonderful Volunteers!~

To our dedicated dog walkers – You are their heroes! To our cat cuddlers, who understand that cats also need human quality time. And to Richard Khan, who continues to serve RCHS, now as a volunteer. Tails are twitching and thumping with sincere gratitude!

RCHS 2014 Board Officers:

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



And finally, please **ADOPT** from RCHS. We are almost always at full capacity and have wonderful animals, like sweet Josie girl, who waited patiently for Isabella to come take her home. Come visit us and find your new forever friend.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff and an active board who are working together on plans for positive change and future growth. We continue to move forward with improvements to the facility, sound fiscal management, 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

"Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!"