



RCHS 2016 News



The Board of Directors of the Randolph County Humane Society wishes to offer our

sincere gratitude to our community for making 2016 such a banner year for animals in Randolph County! We've been extremely busy, but with your help, we have done SO MUCH!

Between January and October 31, RCHS provided shelter for 727 dogs and cats. Of those, 77 were reunited with their families, and 339 were adopted locally, 167 were successfully adopted outside of our community with various rescue organizations, and some of them are still waiting for homes. Our adoption rate remains well above those of most shelters, so we will continue to claim wagging rights!

Our long-time partner, **PetSmart Charities**, made the decision this year to discontinue their former transport model. They no longer operate the Rescue Waggin' program, but are still active partners with us in supporting us as we continue transport efforts on our own. This is a challenge for us with limited staff, but we have developed relationships over the years with some stellar partners, and we continue saving lives through transport efforts.

Spay/Neuter Program. Every pet we adopt is already spayed or neutered, and we want to help you at home be part of this solution, too. We are committed to addressing the pet over-population issue at the root of the problem and have made this a priority program. Because of generous donations, this year we have been able to issue more spay/neuter vouchers than ever before. As our budget allows, we will have vouchers available. Please call the shelter at 304-636-7844 for availability and requirements. As we couldn't do this without our local veterinarians, please be sure to offer them your thanks for being partners with us!

TNR. The trap/neuter/return program involves humanely trapping, sterilizing and vaccinating feral and stray neighborhood cats and then returning them to the area where they were trapped. This program is designed to reduce the number of kittens born in our county, and we are already seeing the benefits. 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.

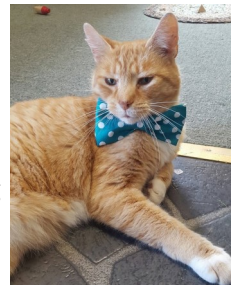
Neighborhood Investment Program

Again this year, RCHS was approved as a Neighborhood Investment Program organization. The NIP was established by the West Virginia Legislature in 1996 to increase charitable giving to local nonprofit organizations, in order to increase the capacity of nonprofits to serve low-income persons in highly distressed neighborhoods. In our case, qualified donors can receive state tax credits for donations to our low-income client spay/neuter fund!

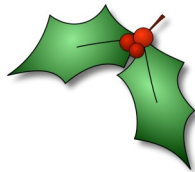
West Virginia residents or businesses who contribute to the RCHS low-income client Spay/Neuter Fund are eligible to receive up to 50% of the contributed amount in the form of state tax credits. Donor individuals or businesses must be WV residents and the minimum eligible donation is \$500. Donors may use the credits to reduce tax liability for West Virginia personal income tax, corporate net income tax, and business franchise tax. For more information about this program go <http://www.wvcommerce.org/people/communityresources/communityrevitalization/neighborhoodinvestmentprogram>

Off-Site Adoption Partner Program.

At the end of 2015, we launched our wildly successful off-site adoption partner program, beginning with Fancy Paws downtown Elkins. Since then, eight local businesses have participated in the program, resulting in over 50 cat adoptions! We are always looking for new businesses who would like to help us promote cats in Randolph County by hosting one or more in your business, giving those cats an opportunity to be in a non-shelter environment and gain exposure to potential adopters. Thanks to all of our partners who have helped us launch this program, and we look forward to others joining the fun! Cowboy here at Shabby Avenue thinks you should really consider it!



Did you know...



When you remember RCHS in your estate planning, you also remind others to celebrate the joy that our pets bring to our daily lives. Your gift will make a lasting impact and leave a legacy of love for the animals of Randolph County. Please let us know if you would like to talk about how to do this.

Adopt * Volunteer * Donate

These three words sustain RCHS and the work we do. Of course, the most important thing you can do to support RCHS is **adopt**. We always have dogs and cats of all ages, colors, temperaments, sizes, and breeds. We will work with you to ensure that we find just the right match for your family and your lifestyle. We also have the occasional rabbit, snake, rat, bird ... all seeking forever homes!

Are you looking for ways to serve your community? **Volunteering** at RCHS is rewarding and so important to help us keep the animals clean, safe, socialized, and ready for their new homes. Visit our website at www.rchswv.org to let us know you are interested in volunteering, and we'll find just the right way to help you become a part of our efforts. Whether it is walking dogs, playing with cats, fostering pets, maintenance projects, fundraising or any of a number of other options, we can always use help!

Monetary donations, no matter how small, are greatly appreciated and critical to our efforts! 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. When we receive your donation you will receive a heartfelt thank you, as well as a receipt. **We also appreciate donations of needed supplies** such as blankets, towels, high quality dog or cat food, cat litter, newspapers or cleaning materials. Here is a list of the items we use and need on an ongoing basis. Your donations matter!!

Thanks to all of you who have been a part of our efforts in big or small ways! We couldn't do what we do without YOU!!!

Compassion in Action

This program, launched in 2014, assists families in need by:

- providing food for their pets during hard times, so they are not forced to give up their pets;
- supplying straw bedding during extreme weather for pets who live outdoors; and
- assisting families with spay/neuter of pet breeds difficult to adopt, to reduce unwanted litters.

If you need assistance, please call the shelter at 304-636-7844.

FOHO of WV Update

This past legislative session, Delegate Denise Campbell sponsored a bill which would provide funding for the the WV Spay Neuter Fund through an increase in the existing pet food fee paid to the WV Department of Agriculture. She was able to secure co-sponsors for this bill from both parties. Unfortunately, it did not pass, so we are still without a funding source. Please discuss this important measure with your legislator this year so that we can save lives and taxpayer dollars in WV.



The shelter uses these supplies each week

- Dry/Canned dog food —300 lbs of dry and 40+ cans
- Dry/Canned cat food —140 lbs of dry and 240+ cans
- Puppy/kitten food —40 lbs. of puppy food and 25 lbs. of kitten food
- Dog/cat toys —10 lbs. of dog cookies and 15 lbs. of chewies
- Paper towels — 8+ rolls
- Yellow/Blue PineSol —3 bottles
- Bleach — 8+ gallons
- Laundry Soap — 3+ large bottles
- 55 Gallon Trash Bags — one full roll
- Cat litter — 300 lbs
- Break-away cat collars
- Blankets/Towels/Rugs
- Leashes/Collars
- Mops/Brooms
- Copy paper
- Office Supplies
- Printer Ink (HP 61)

Finances and Fundraising

As every business experiences, shelter operating expenses have increased due to a number of factors, including our expanded spay/neuter program. We operate on a budget of approximately \$300,000 annually. We receive \$80,000 from the County and \$6,000 from United Way, and the remainder of our costs must be met through donations, grants, adoptions fees and fundraising. In 2016, fundraising has generated approximately \$15,000. This is down from last year. **We still need the help of our friends and supporters to reach our budget goal.** Be watching for news on Facebook and at www.rchswv.org for details of fundraisers planned for 2017. While we're still working out details, here is a snapshot of our plans for the upcoming year.

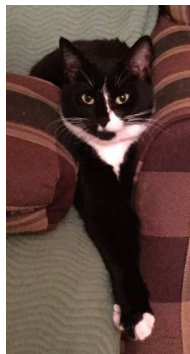


Calendar of Events

- January: Snowshoe Treasure on the Mountain Tickets
- February: Saturday Feb. 25th, Spay-ghetti Dinner in conjunction with Coalton St. Patrick Church at Elkins Recreation & Events Center
"A Dog's Purpose" movie event
- March: Wine, Spirits & Whiskers at Vintage
- April: Ramp Festival
Furbaby Rocks Concert at the Jabberwock
- May: Cheshire Tea
- June: Bob Evans Fundraiser
- July: Woofstock in Elkins City Park with a Reunion of RCHS adoptees and their families!
- August: Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
- October: Forest Festival
- November: United Way Blackout Period
- December: United Way Blackout Period

RCHS Board of Directors

Tina Vial, President
Pam Johnson, Treasurer
Katie Bright, Treasurer-Elect
Chelsea Langevin, Secretary
Larissa Fowler, VP Fundraising
Carrie Shupp, VP Outreach
Debbie Strader
Barbara Heasley
Maria Kostakos
Laura Ferguson



Collection Banks

Around Elkins you may have noticed some little collection banks that are quietly doing a big job for the animals at the Randolph County Humane Society.

In about 20 locations such as local businesses, veterinary offices, restaurants, and movie theaters, customers are depositing their spare change into these collection banks. Those small donations add up. RCHS is receiving an average of about \$400 each month from these little banks! All the money received from these collection banks goes into the Spay/Neuter and Medical Expense fund at RCHS. With our shelter operating at full capacity most of the time, this fund serves a wonderful purpose - helping to prevent future pet overpopulation.

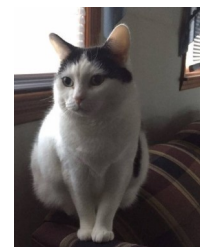
So as you run errands and shop around town, please donate what you can into these collection banks to help the pets at RCHS. Thanks so much!

Pet Spotlight

Cleo was approaching her year anniversary at RCHS. No one could figure out why she was overlooked. She came to a Woof Wednesday event at Davis & Elkins College and showed off her skills, winning everybody's heart. The next day a friend of one of the students drove 2-1/2 hours to adopt her! She now lives happily ever after with her new family!

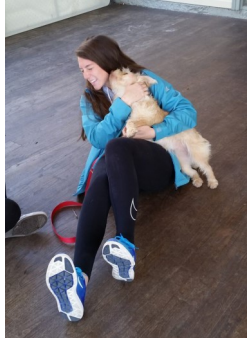
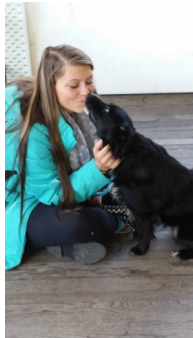
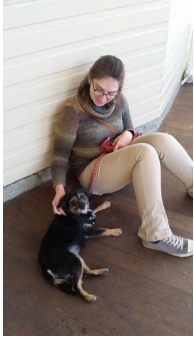


Sisters Belinda and Nettie had been at the shelter for more than a year. While they were well cared for, they were beginning to stress out in shelter life. They went into respite care to give them a break. Then along came our Off-Site Adoption Partner Program and they went to our partners, The Holistic Housewife where they were adopted. Now they are happy and healthy in their new homes!

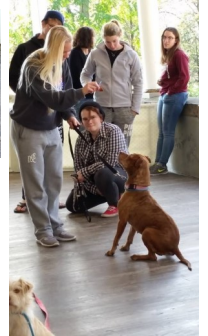


Woof Wednesday at D&E

RCHS has partnered with Davis & Elkins College to host the wildly successful Woof Wednesdays! Periodically, we take a few dogs up to the College for a couple hours and students get to play with, walk, and just hang out with them. You can watch the stress of College life melt away from the students, while the dogs really enjoy the interaction. Events frequently result in adoptions, too! (But not on campus!) What a win-win! Just look at these faces!



Look at this little photobomber!



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Notice Regarding PayPal Donations

Beginning in 2017, we will no longer be accepting donations through PayPal. The purpose for this decision is that we receive no notice that donations have been made or who made them, so we are not able to acknowledge the donations or provide tax receipts. You will still be able to make donations safely and securely online through our website at www.rchswv.org. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Holiday Adoption Special

Through December 31

Dog Adoption Fees \$50

Cat Adoption Fees \$10



Happy Holidays

From the Staff, Board of Directors, and the Pets of Randolph County

