

Adoption event is a success

By Jane Weatherford
Brown County Humane Society

Wednesday, September 06, 2006



Saturday, August 26, lucky participants were dogs: Franklin, Snyder, Chaps, Pogo and Malcolm and cats: Millie, Shadow, Wire, Stephanie, Miller and Clinton. These privileged humane society pets got out of the shelter to go visit with admirers and potential adopters. They were showcased at the Nashville IGA by volunteers Cathi Eagan, Marge Cook, Jim Hahn, Julie Coykendall, Lanie Hines and Jane Weatherford.

Personality Trait	Task
Inventive	Public Relations team member
Logical	Grant writer
Outgoing	"Max" character representative
Quiet	Special needs foster
Responsible	Fund Raising event worker
Hardworking	Kennel/Cage/Building cleaning
Organized	Office assistant
Tidy	Groomer
Nurturing	Cat socialization
Friendly	Customer service
Generous	Program supporter
Caring	Adult dog foster
Spontaneous	Puppy socialization
Free-spirited	Puppy foster
Adventurous	New England driver
Innovative	Fund Raising planner
Charismatic	Off-site adoption worker
Creative	Write articles
Enthusiastic	Education presenter
Independent	Adult cat foster
Lively	Kitten foster
Efficient	Local Driver
Artistic	Cartoon creator, Photographer
Motivator	Volunteer coordinator
Imaginative	Education planner
Outdoorsy	Dog walker
Detail oriented	Organize dog transports
Resourceful	Breed rescue coordinator

The goal of these off-site adoption events is to socialize the pets and to give people who would normally not have a chance to meet shelter pets an opportunity to spend some time with them. Sometimes we get lucky and a shelter pet finds his perfectly matched forever family.

It appeared that everyone involved on this day (pets, volunteers and visitors) had a grand time. Max, the humane society mascot, made an appearance and kept everyone laughing. Pointer-mix Franklin, who was featured in the Democrat on August 2, showed off his athleticism by trying to engage all the other dogs in a game of chase, even with a bum leg. Chaps, a gorgeous black and tan coonhound, displayed his easygoing personality by snoozing most of the afternoon away (after munching on an apple pastry). Snyder won everyone's heart with his happy-go-lucky, everyone-loves-me personality. Malcolm charmed the crowd with his silly antics, and Pogo, the little Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, snuggled up to all visitors and showed them what a wonderfully calm puppy he is. The kittens had lots of visitors and were out of their crates more than in. They had children

chasing after them most of the day. The adult cats, Stephanie and Miller calmly took in all the commotion and enjoyed being admired.

These events are always rewarding for the humane society volunteers. People, and especially children, love to visit with the pets. It is heartwarming to see how much the pets enjoy interacting with the people and vice versa. The joy these pets exhibit for a chance to leave the shelter for a few hours is evident. They are always exhausted at the end of the day.

Outings like this really help the shelter get a good understanding of each pet's personality and what family it would fit best with. It also lets the general public see what absolutely terrific pets are available at the shelter.

All in all it was a terrific day. Franklin generated lots of interest, although no home was found. Pogo was adopted to a terrific family and will be living with kids, cats and dogs to play with and best of all a work at home dad. Snyder found the perfect home with a local family and will be living the life of a king.

The Brown County Humane Society would like to do more events like this and are looking for a few more volunteers to help. If you can spare some time on the weekends and would enjoy interacting with the pets and people, call the shelter at 988-7362 or e-mail jane@bchumane.org and let us know of your interest in helping with off-site adoption events.

Our next off-site adoption event will be held at the Brown County Art Gallery on September 9 and 10 and many more are planned after that.

By Jane Weatherford

Volunteer: Help the homeless pets

Little did I know 24 years ago that my father was setting me up for a lifetime commitment to better the lives of the homeless, abused and neglected animals in Brown County.

Shortly after I moved into the county in 1982, my dad asked me to attend a Brown County Humane Society Board of Directors meeting. He was the treasurer at the time and was hoping I would become involved.

I innocently attended the meeting and was fascinated by the dedication that this group of people had to the animal welfare cause. They were passionate about making the lives of animals better. I too had always been an animal lover and it was wonderful to be surrounded by people with similar values.

At the meeting I attended the directors had just been dealt a bit of a blow when they learned that they would have to close the animal shelter they were in. The lease on the building would not be extended. It was disheartening; however, their vow to move forward was heard loud and clear.

My first hands-on experience after attending that board meeting was to go to the old shelter on Creamer Road and help disassemble the kennels and salvage whatever equipment and building material we could. It was hard, hot work and most people would have been discouraged, but not this group. They were excitedly discussing the next steps they would take to buy property and build their own shelter.

Those many years ago, I had no idea I would become one of those dedicated, passionate people devoted to the Brown County Humane Society and its mission. (I think my dear deceased dad would be proud!)

I was recently asked why I donate my time and money to the humane society and my only answer was, "I have to. It is who I am. I could not imagine not dedicating my life to saving animals. It is the most rewarding work I have ever done."

My hope is that others of you will feel this same need to help the pets in our county and join our growing volunteer force. Just a few hours a month can be a tremendous help. You will get to work with some very dedicated and passionate people that care about the welfare of animals as much as you do. The satisfaction you will feel for having improved the lives of so many pets is guaranteed to be fun and very rewarding.

Volunteer opportunities abound both at and away from the Brown County Humane Society animal shelter. For every person who cares about animals, there is a task you can help the humane society with. Everyone has a talent to offer the humane society, which will help save pets' lives.

Many people tell us that they can't work at the shelter because they would want to take every pet home or because it would make them too sad to see the pets in cages. No problem, there are lots of opportunities to help the homeless pets in Brown County without going to the shelter.

Look through this list of 28 personality traits and find the task you'd be good at. Then call me, Jane Weatherford, at 988-0629 (evenings and weekends) to find out more and let me know how you'd like to help.

The homeless, neglected and abused pets in Brown County are counting on you.

Jane Weatherford