



Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc.'s Friends' Connection

June through September 2014

Editors: Judy Goodwin and Anne Greene

Happy Tails

Our mission...

...is to act on behalf of unwanted and abandoned pets in order to achieve the following: provide a safe clean environment, provide needed medical treatment, and give healthy pets the opportunity to be adopted. We also encourage sterilization by providing a portion of the cost when possible to low-income, current pet owners, and we educate young people about the satisfaction associated with responsible pet treatment.

We're learning how to transport animals to rescues

Our board is beginning to learn about the world of animal transport – not necessarily to individual adopters, although that can be part of it – but to reputable shelters and rescues throughout the nation whose mission is to help find homes for discarded animals, one animal at a time.

A wonderful Fayetteville lady, Gail Tolleson, has begun monitoring what dogs are in our shelter and working to move some dogs to western rescues who want them. Gail's help is invaluable for a couple of reasons. First, she's been dealing with western rescues for nine years, and they trust her judgment. And second, she knows, in turn, which rescues to trust. Sadly, some "rescues" are in the market to turn big bucks. Gail knows which ones really evaluate the adopter and release dogs only to good homes.

Since early April, Gail has helped us move a dozen dogs who might very well have had less happy futures. We are a small shelter, and too many dogs plus too few adopters means too many animals are euthanized. We are trying to make it so that happens less and less. But even if we have room and keep a dog, chronic confinement often makes him or her aggressive and then harder to adopt out. Our best tactic is to move animals out ASAP, and Gail is a master at that.

Here's the drill: Gail, will select a dog that she thinks a particular rescue will want, then begins communicating with that rescue. She will move the dog to a half-way place, either to a foster home or to a clinic or shelter able to house the dog for a few days or a couple of weeks. During this time the dog gets needed tests and treatments.

At least every two weeks, selected dogs from throughout NWAR move with a transport network called C.A.R.E., which follows transport protocols established by the Animal Shelter Veterinarians Association. The dogs are delivered to the receiving rescue, some of which include Western Australian Shepherd Rescue in Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Lab Rescue in Broomfield CO, and Animal House Rescue in Ft. Collins CO.



Here's Gail and the beautiful chocolate Lab, Hershey, for whom Gail found a home.

By helping us participate in the rescue network, Gail has moved a dozen good dogs from the MCPS to either good homes or vigilant rescues who will find the best adopters. Some of our doggies were adopted by local people during the process of moving west, which is also good news. Thank you Gail!

Contact us at **Paws and Claws Thrift Cottage**, downtown Huntsville, **479-738-1572**,

OR at mcpsfriends@gmail.com,

OR at MCPS Friends PO Box 364 Huntsville 72740

Pets in Prose and Poems

The Housedog's Grave

(Haig, an English bulldog)

by Robinson Jeffers
1941

I've changed my ways a little: I cannot now
Run with you in the evenings along the shore,
Except in a kind of dream: and you, if you dream a moment,
You see me there.

So leave awhile the paw-marks on the front door
Where I used to scratch to go out or in,
And you'd soon open; leave on the kitchen floor
The marks of my drinking-pan.

I cannot lie by your fire as I used to do
On the warm stone,
Nor at the foot of your bed: no, all the nights through
I lie alone.

But your kind thought has laid me less than six feet
Outside your window where firelight so often plays,
And where you sit to read – and I fear often grieving for me –
Every night your lamplight lies on my place.

You, man and woman, live so long it is hard
To think of you ever dying.
A little dog would get tired living so long.
I hope that when you are lying
Under the ground like me your lives will appear
As good and joyful as mine.
No, dears, that's too much hope: you are not so well cared for
As I have been,

And never have known the passionate undivided
Fidelities I knew.
Your minds are perhaps too active, too many-sided....
But to me you were true.

You were never masters, but friends. I was your friend.
I loved you well, and was loved. Deep love endures
To the end and far past the end. If this is my end,
I am not lonely. I am not afraid. I am still yours.

The Selected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers, Stanford University Press, 2001

Spay Arkansas offers a helping hand

The board of directors of Spay Arkansas, a non-profit low cost spay-neuter clinic in Springdale, voted to dedicate proceeds from their May 17 fundraiser to help spay and neuter Madison County animals.



\$10 Spay-Neuter for Madison County dogs

This fund will target dogs that weigh at least 25 pounds or puppies expected to weigh as much when grown. Dog owners must live in Madison County, earn less than \$30,000 per year, and provide proof of income.

Pet over population is the root of shelter overcrowding, and 70 percent of the animals that enter shelters come from the lowest income households. The programs offered by Spay Arkansas for low-income Madison County pet owners can only help our shelter. Call our shelter at 738-1505 or Spay AR at 479-756-1100 for more information. Thank you Spay Arkansas!

Spay Arkansas, located at 1909 West Huntsville Ave. in Springdale, began its low cost altering of dogs and cats in 2011 and has spayed or neutered more than 14,000 pets in our region since then. Learn more about Spay Arkansas at <http://spayarkansas.org/> and spread the word.

We are working to reduce our euthanasia rate

We're proud of the Madison County Pet Shelter. It has alleviated the suffering of hundreds of dogs and cats, and it has provided loving and loyal pet companions to hundreds of people since opening in 2002.

But our building is small and the pet over-population problem is large, therefore, we are faced with the unpleasant necessity of euthanizing too many animals.

According to the shelter manager, the Madison County Pet Shelter's euthanasia rate was about 74 percent in 2013. It is the highest in Northwest Arkansas. That is the unpleasant truth. That can change, and we're working to change it.

In April and May, we implemented practices that have made a dramatic difference already. The April/May euthanasia rate for 2014 is about 18 percent lower than it was for those two months in 2013. Your support and encouragement are helping us do that, and we hope to improve more each year.

A shelter needs donations, adopters, and *especially* volunteers.

Donations: Our shelter is deeply grateful for all of our donors, those who give cash and those who give good items for our thrift store to sell. Our donors have saved many lives. At the same time we need to work harder to increase adoptions.

Adopters: The goal of increasing adoptions requires a multi-pronged approach.

- We are working to cultivate relationships with reputable rescues, as cited on page 1;
- we are working to increase the number of away-from-shelter adoption events where we take our animals to you;
- we are working to improve our online presence to take full advantage of that incredible resource; and
- we are working to help lower-income Madison County residents spay or neuter their pets at affordable rates, because pet overpopulation is the root cause of abandoned pets.

Volunteers: Here is where you can become an invaluable resource with just a little bit of time. A volunteer willing to spend about 2 hours every couple months picking up and driving a dog from Huntsville to Springdale will really help us be better stewards of these good animals. (Of course, we'd be tickled pink if you'd like to drive over there more often, too!)

When we identify an animal that a rescue will want, we pull it out of our shelter quickly and get it to a half-way place. That's when we need a driver who is willing to drive an animal from our shelter to that half-way place.

Our dogs' first stop is often Spay Arkansas in Springdale where they are spayed or neutered before going to their foster home where they wait for the next westward bound transport (not longer than two weeks normally). But as a driver-volunteer, you'd just drop the dog off at Spay Arkansas and be done.

One lady hauls dogs to Spay Arkansas in a medium-sized 4-door sedan. She can get a large dog crate (about 32"x22"x24") into the back seat (she covers the seat with a tarp). It's easy. You don't have to have a pickup truck.

When you work with an animal accepted by a rescue, you know it has a good future lined up. It is very satisfying to move these guys. Think about it.

But transporting is just one way that a little bit of your time can help. Many ways to help exist, and they range from tasks with no animal contact to tasks such as socializing our animals (walking dogs or petting cats), which makes them much more adoptable. You can do as little or as much as you like.

Call the Paws and Claws Thrift Cottage at 479-738-1572 and ask for Mariette or Anne, or email us at mcpsfriends@gmail.com.

**Great Gifts
for the shelter –**

Items

- Food bowls, stainless steel, 2-quart
- Water buckets, metal
- Letter-sized paper for printer
- Ink cartridges for Canon 210-211
- Postage stamps, a roll of 100
- Envelopes, long and short
- Scotch tape, 2”
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Garbage bags, 30 gal. and 13 gal.
- Bleach
- Dishwashing detergent
- High-efficiency laundry detergent
- Scrub brushes
- Squeegee
- Sponges
- Fly traps
- Rake ‘n shovel pooper scooper

Cash designated...

1. To help w/transporting costs to rescues (meds, tests, gasoline, etc);
2. To sponsor a shelter dog or cat; we'd spay or neuter, then we can readily find an adaptor;
3. To subsidize the adoption fee for low-income people;
4. To subsidize the spay-neuter cost for low-income Madison County pet owners.

Get your next pet companion this summer

This is a good time of year to adopt a dog because it's warm. It's not much fun to take a dog outside in 25-degree weather as you try to houstrain him in February. Becoming familiar with your new pet during warm weather is better for both of you.

We have good dogs at the Madison County Pet Shelter and are working hard to find them homes. Come by this summer and find your loyal companion.

If you have your mind set on a particular breed, check out our shelter. Good, well-behaved pure-bred dogs come into our shelter quite frequently. Call Caren (479-738-1505) and ask her to call you when a dog of your preferred breed comes in.

But whether you're looking for any dog or a pure-bred dog, think about why you want a dog, what you want the dog to do, and what you absolutely do not want the dog to do.

AGE: Think about the dog's age and energy level.

TEMPERAMENT: Think about the dog's temperament in relation to your setting.

SIZE: Think about the dog's size in relation to your setting. (And just *how big will that puppy get?*)

COAT: Think about the dog's grooming needs.

And don't forget the cost, both up front and ongoing. The up front cost of adoption includes your dog's spay or neuter surgery and routine vaccinations. Some ongoing costs include food and treats, leashes and collars, routine veterinary care, and preventive medications.

Sounds daunting, doesn't it? And being a dog owner *is* a big responsibility, but doable and deeply rewarding.

**Visit Paws and Claws Thrift Cottage
112 W. Main on the Huntsville Square**

Aside from being a really interesting store with great-quality and varied items, the store provides a big chunk of the shelter's funding—about 27.5% so far this year. All items are donated, all store workers are volunteers, and as a 501(c)(3) shelter function we charge no sales tax.

A big thank you goes to all donors who take the time to donate clean, good quality items! Your care in this area allows us to direct our limited resources of space and labor to best effect—helping the county's abandoned pets.

The store is open Mon. 10AM-2PM, Tues.-Fri. 10AM-5PM, and Sat. 10AM-2PM. The phone number is 479-738-1572.

Madison County Pet Shelter's 2014 Intake (optimum capacity: 30)													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Canine	16	16	26	30	23								111
% of total	67%	73%	74%	100%	40%								66% dogs
Feline	8	6	9	0	35								58
% of total	33%	27%	26%	0%	60%								34% cats
Average monthly intake as of May 31, 2014:											Total	2014	169

Volunteer Program Application

Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc.

a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

2075 Madison 6555

P.O. Box 364

Huntsville AR 72740

Please contact Mariette Spidel, volunteer coordinator, 480-707-3627, mcpsfriends@gmail.com

Applicant information:

Name: _____ Email: _____
(Most communication will be through email, so please print very clearly. Thank you!)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s)
Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Are you at least 18 years old? Yes _____ No _____

If NO, what is your date of birth? _____ Who will be your primary chaperone? _____

Please check things you'd like to do. Some tasks are at the shelter, some are at the thrift store, and some are at other locations. **We want you to help where you feel most comfortable:**

_____ office-computer (could be from home) _____ dog walker _____ cat cuddler
_____ kennel assistant _____ handyman or general labor _____ animal transporting
_____ provide foster home* _____ help at fundraising events _____ pick up store donations
_____ work in thrift store _____ take items from thrift store to recycling center

_____ other interests (describe) _____

*If you are interested in providing a foster home, please complete the **Foster Home Application** form. Thank you!

Do you have any restrictions that we should be aware of? (allergies, medical conditions, etc.)

By signing this application, I acknowledge that my volunteerism is to be for the benefit of the Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc. (MCPS). I will hold the MCPS, its board of directors, and its employees blameless of any liability in the event of injury or other mishap involving me or my personal property during the discharge of my volunteer service for the MCPS.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Thank you for helping to keep abandoned pets safe!

Foster Program Application

Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc.

a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

2075 Madison 6555

P.O. Box 364

Huntsville AR 72740

Please contact Anne Greene, foster coordinator, 479-738-2234, mcpsfriends@gmail.com

Foster home applicant information:

Name: _____ Email: _____
(Most communication will be through email, so please print very clearly. Thank you!)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s)
Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Are you at least 18 years old? Yes _____ No _____

I am interested in fostering Cats _____ Kittens _____ Dogs _____ Puppies _____

I have a fenced-in yard Yes _____ No _____

I own my home Yes _____ No _____
(If NO, do you have your landlord's permission to have animals in the residence? Yes _____ No _____)

I have other pets Yes _____ No _____

If YES, please give details: _____

If YES, what veterinarian do you use for your pets? _____

I am interested in: _____ fostering animals awaiting transport to an animal rescue (rarely more than 2 wks.)
_____ fostering animals who are recovering from a medical procedure
_____ fostering nursing mothers and their babies
_____ fostering when the shelter becomes over-crowded

Additional information or comments:

Signature: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Thank you for helping to keep abandoned pets safe!