



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

October 2013 through January 2014

Editors: Judy Goodwin and Anne Greene

### **We invite you to join Friends of the Shelter**

#### **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.

If you have received one of these newsletters, then you have had some connection with the Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc. in the past few years. We on the shelter's board have been talking for several months about launching a Friend of the Shelter group as a way to keep people apprised about our work and successes. Your financial support is important, too, of course, but just as important is your potential influence as vocal constituents, as volunteers, or even as future board members.

We see the Friends of the Shelter as a group of people who share our respect for companion animals and who understand that the way our community treats animals is a valuable gauge of the quality of our community.

We will ask you for a \$12 annual membership fee, and we will give you three newsletters annually in which we will tell you how the shelter is faring and offer, we hope, useful and interesting articles and tidbits. Yes, a quarterly newsletter is more conventional, but we're all volunteers and decided not to over-commit and under-deliver! Next newsletter: February 2014.

### **Who are we, anyway?**

The Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc. began in the late 1980s as a group of concerned citizens who raised money through bake sales with the goal in mind of building a shelter for abandoned cats and dogs in this county. In 1997, the group registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. In 1998, the county gave the MCPS permission to build a shelter on county-owned land south of the Recycling Center. The current shelter was built because so many in this county gave of their time, talent, and resources. Skilled craftsmen worked at cost or for free, many people donated money and materials, many more put in hours of sweat. Thank you, Madison County!

The current board of directors includes Judy Malisch, president; Jim MacLean, treasurer; Judy Goodwin, secretary; Polly Potter, Bonnie Rodgers, Carol Horton, and Anne Greene, members. The part-time shelter manager is Caren Sharp. Jeannie Hart and Brittany Daugherty are also part-time employees. Our shelter is built for a capacity of 30. As you will see in our animal population numbers elsewhere in this newsletter, we house many more.



**MC Pet Shelter 2075 Madison 6555**

**Contact us at MCPS Friends, POB 364, Huntsville 72740 OR  
mcpsfriends@gmail.com**

### Pets in Prose and Poems

I thought this might be a nice feature. Here's the first offering:

**From *Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat* by Bee Wilson**

Wilson wrote about the roasting of whole deer or cows during the middle ages in England. For centuries, the carcasses were secured on a spit that was kept in motion by a person called a turnspit, often a young boy. Boys were replaced by dogs as the engine for the spits eventually.

"Over the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Britain, [the boys'] work had largely been taken over by animals. In a 1576 book on English dogs, a 'turnspit' was defined as 'a certain dog in kitchen service.' The dogs were bred specially to have short legs and long bodies. Stuck in a wheel around 2.5 feet in diameter, suspended high up against a wall near the fireplace, they were forced to trundle around and around. The treadmill was connected to the spit via a pulley.

"... There were signs that dogs were too intelligent for the job. Thomas Somerville... recalled that the dogs 'used to hide themselves or run away when they observed indications that there was to be a roast for dinner.'"

Smart dogs! I welcome your submissions and suggestions. Send bits from books that give space to our companion animals. I'd love to hear from you.

AG

### Clothes 'n stuff for Critters



**Paws and Claws Thrift Cottage**

opened in July

2012 thanks to the generosity and hard work of MCPS board members Polly Potter and Carol Horton. The store, **located on Main Street just west of Polk Square in Huntsville**, offers used but good-quality women's clothing, along with dishes, pictures, this, that, and the other thing. And sometimes some fairly eccentric things. It is an interesting place.

The thrift cottage has become the shelter's main fundraiser. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come on by, check it out. The store is operated 100 percent by volunteers. All proceeds go to the pet shelter.

### Spay Arkansas has the right spirit. Tell others about it.



During 2013, the Madison County Pet Shelter established a good relationship with the folks at Spay Arkansas, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Springdale. This non-profit incorporated in 2007 with the goal of working toward proactive solutions to pet over-population. In 2011, the group opened their clinic at 1909 West Huntsville Ave. in Springdale and has performed more than 10,000 sterilization surgeries for lower-income pet owners in this region. In practice, that translates into thousands of kittens and puppies that will not come to this area's local shelters. Yay, Spay Arkansas!

Take a look at their website (<http://spayarkansas.org/>) and recommend it to anyone you know who might benefit. Their phone number is 479-756-1100. Spay Arkansas is run by volunteers, so they might not be able to answer the phone. Leave a message. They *will* call you back.

### Though funding is cut, our mission remains the same...

The county's financial challenges led the Madison County Quorum Court to cut the shelter's funding in half during 2012. This September, they cut it to zero. The unwanted dogs and cats don't understand that. But we'll stay focused on them because quite often we make good matches between pet and person. Consider Ridgett, a beautiful well-mannered Rhodesian Ridgeback adopted out this summer as a service dog, living a useful life in a home where she is loved. And two other dogs adopted by special needs people whose lives are greatly enhanced by these "throw away" dogs. And the 106 other pets who found their human companions this year through the MCPS.

### ...and the need continues unabated

Ironically, a week after the county cut our funding to zero, Caren went to Marble at the request of the sheriff's office to pick up three emaciated dogs, one of which had eight pups. Two of these dogs rank 1 on the 1-to-9 Body Condition Scale; 1 means emaciated, 9 means obese. They are starved. By law in this circumstance, we must keep these three for 15 days and provide veterinary services to them. Caren will feed them small amounts 3 or 4 times a day until they can eat normally. These dogs include one male Boxer who weighs 37 pounds and should weigh from 80 to 125 pounds. The other two are female Pit Bulls. One, at 46 pounds, is at the low end of the normal weight range of from 45 to 80 pounds. The other poor thing, a skeleton, weighs 26 pounds.

People don't seem to understand that the word *domestic* in the term *domestic animal* means that these animals are not suited to living without humans. Dumping is a death sentence. You can be a big help in this community by encouraging responsible pet ownership.

### Madison County Pet Shelter's population\*:

2013	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Canine</b>	35	23	29	29	14	50	35	37	29			
% of total	90%	96%	76%	66%	41%	66%	64%	70%	67%			
<b>Feline</b>	4	1	9	15	20	26	20	16	14			
% of total	10%	4%	24%	34%	59%	34%	36%	30%	33%			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>			
Ave. monthly intake as of Sept. 30, 2013: 45										*optimum capacity: 30		

**Please consider joining Friends of the Shelter.** Your annual \$12 membership will help us tremendously. Whether you join us or not, please spread the word to all pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. Pet shelters are symptomatic relief for the underlying problem of pet overpopulation. Spread the word! Thanks.

Yes, please add me as a Friend:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Receive newsletter via email? ☐ Y ☐ N

Ladies and gentlemen, we have sent this mailing based on some fairly old lists. Please forgive us if we have made a clumsy mistake with either your name or address. And please straighten us out!

Also, if you are willing to receive future newsletters via email, please let us know at [mcpsfriends@gmail.com](mailto:mcpsfriends@gmail.com). We promise to guard your email; we will not sell it, give it away, or share it with anyone. (We dislike spam, too.)

Annual membership \$12. **Please make checks payable to MCPS Friends of the Shelter and mail to POB 364 Huntsville 72740**

Save the evening of Oct. 19 for a few hours of  
**music, food, fun, and fundraising** in support of  
the Madison County Pet Shelter, Inc.

Bring your family for a supper of  
Arvest's always-yummy  
**hotdogs and hamburgers,**  
with chips and drinks!

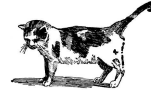
(We'll ask a \$4 donation.)

**October 19, 2013, 5PM**  
**Huntsville Square**



Two top-notch bluegrass bands  
have donated their time and  
talent to help us raise money for  
this county's abandoned pets.  
Come and give a listen  
to...

**Pick Six and Salty Dog**



Buy raffle tickets for a  
***very good chance***  
at winning great prizes!

Some of the prizes include a free  
spay or neuter for your pet, pet  
grooming, an Iris Tyler clutch  
purse, and lots of other great  
items donated by local  
businesses!

**October 19, 2013, 5PM,**  
**Polk Square, Huntsville**

bring  
chairs



Huntsville AR 72740  
PO Box 364  
2075 Madison 6555  
Friends of the Shelter

