



Friends' Connection

Paws and Claws Pet Shelter, Huntsville AR

October 2015 through January 2016

We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

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 have built a pet shelter that is a true shelter for Madison County's homeless dogs and cats, a stopping place between being homeless and being cared for in a loving family. Hundreds of healthy dogs and cats, each with his or her own personality, have been saved from neglect or worse because you have been there for them.

You've helped us improve our fencing and increase our feeding and cleaning from once to twice each day. Your support has allowed us to do renovations that improved efficiency. Many of you have been invaluable by providing foster homes. You were great supporters of our Fun Run this spring.

We, in turn, have helped the community by offering reduced-cost adoptions whenever possible. A generous grant from the Humane Society of the Ozarks allowed us to bring the Rover mobile spay/ neuter van to Huntsville, and 80 pets were sterilized in one day. Most were also microchipped and vaccinated. That translates into hundreds fewer unwanted puppies and kittens in the coming year.



And we still need you.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach—the season of giving—please don't forget Paws and Claws Pet Shelter. **We're going through a rough patch and have reduced our hours and vet costs**, but we believe that with your help, we can thrive and continue to provide Madison County with the best little pet shelter in the state. The dogs and cats don't feel entitled to your support, but they deserve it.

Friends' Connection is published each February, June, and October.

Contact us at **479-738-1505** OR at www.thepetshelter.org,

OR Anne Greene, editor, at mcpsfriends@gmail.com

OR at Friends of the Shelter, Paws and Claws Pet Shelter, 2075 Madison 6555, PO Box 364, Huntsville 72740

Hope keeps us going



An old, sick, tired golden retriever came to our shelter through the kindness of those who found her. Our shelter staff called her Hope, a deeply appropriate name, because it captures our philosophy.

Hope was never viewed as hopeless. She was given another chance at life and responded in full measure. She's in her forever home now, safe and content. Her adopter said this recently:

Hope is very sweet, but it goes beyond that. She's just so loving. I don't know what she has been through (she flinches easily, and is afraid of brooms, leashes, gunshots) but she's such a big bundle of love. Over and over, I've seen her choose affection over food and treats, turning away from her bowl or a biscuit on the ground in order to be petted. All of my other dogs seem to love her (one sleeps near her, another grooms her face when he can reach it).

If your old dog were lost and somehow came to us, she, too, would be treated with kindness and hope.

Keep Spreading the Word



Please keep spreading the word about our region's wonderful low-cost spay and neuter clinic, Spay Arkansas, 1909 Huntsville Ave. in Springdale.

These are Spay Arkansas's normal costs (add \$5 if your pet does not have proof of a rabies shot):

Cats	\$30
Dogs under 50 lbs.	\$50
Dogs over 50 lbs.	\$1 per lb.

Most, but not all, services are income-sensitive. To learn if you qualify or to learn of special programs, go to spayarkansas.org and click on Clinic or call 479-756-1100. Income limits start at \$33,350 for a household of one person.

Count on cats

In seven houses there are seven cats. Each cat catches seven mice. If each mouse were to eat seven ears of corn and each ear of corn, if sown, were to produce seven gallons of grain, how many things are mentioned in total?¹

Didn't we all love word problems in school? As it turns out, we've been devising word-problems for a long time. This one dates from around 1550 BC. It describes a scenario in which the value of cats is apparent, and it is one of 84 different word problems on the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus that helped the bean counters of ancient Egypt figure out how much of this or that was needed for the winter, or whether stores would last until harvest.

I've just started reading this book and can't wait to see how other cats or dogs have figured into the workings of everyday life in cultures all over the world throughout the history of the world. AG

¹A *History of the World in 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor of the British Museum

Wish List

Donations to Paws and Claws through Amazon's Wish List Registry are always welcome. Visit:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist>

In the *Find a Wish List or Registry* box, type either Shonna Harvey or mcpshelter1@gmail.com and ship to the shelter at 2075 Madison 6555, Huntsville AR 72740.

Also, we can always use these things at the shelter:

Bleach
Paper towels
Kitty litter
Leashes
Dog collars
Towels
Blankets
Sheets

30- and 13-gallon garbage bags
Sandwich and gallon sized Ziploc bags
High-efficiency laundry detergent
Dryer sheets

Some Dogs are Transported to Far-away Homes

by Abby Burnett



The drivers turning in at Walgreens at 4:30 a.m. have the parking lot to themselves. Car doors open and people emerge to start walking dogs and puppies, getting them comfortable for the long trip ahead.

Next, volunteer driver Ann O'Malley arrives, her small van fitted with cages, blankets and supplies, ready to transport these shelter dogs to rescues many states away.

Two of these dogs are from Madison County's Paws & Claws Pet Shelter, ones that have been at the shelter for months without anyone expressing an interest in adopting them.

"My goal is to increase adoptions locally, and to use transporting as a last resort," says shelter manager Shonna Harvey. Still, "It is very much a life-saver," and has been ever since the shelter became a no-kill facility in August 2014. It can take weeks to find a rescue willing to take a dog, then get the paperwork completed in time for the dog to leave on the next transport.

The practice is not cheap. All dogs must be spayed or neutered, up to date on shots (including rabies), heartworm tested, and given a clean bill of health by a vet before they can go on a transport. Add their living expenses during the months they were housed at the shelter, and the total amount the shelter has spent is well over \$150 per dog, none of which is recoverable. The receiving rescue finds the dogs homes, and keeps all adoption fees, while the transport drivers are volunteers who use their own vehicles and ask only for a small donation to cover gas expenses.

According to a story that aired on National Public Radio last January, some shelters are in need of adoptable animals. "With the growth of pet rescue groups, the demand for dogs now outstrips the supply of those available for adoption in many states." The report cited a New England shelter that increased adoptions from 300 animals per year to 4,400 in 2013, three-quarters of these coming from out of state, including



Puerto Rico, Nebraska and Georgia. The exact number of dogs being transported from state to state is unknown.

Despite other states' stricter spay and neutering laws, Harvey says this hasn't resulted in a scarcity of dogs. "It's just that they don't have certain breeds that we have here," she says, citing Colorado's over-abundance of pit bulls and refusal to take in



more. Its Rocky Mountain Lab Rescue, however, takes Labradors and Lab-crosses and has a waiting list for chocolate Labs. "While not purebreds, appearance is important. For example," says Harvey, "the ears have to be Lab ears – that's the main criteria."

The law of supply and demand means that only dogs are transported out of state. "I'm not aware of a cat rescue that takes them," Harvey says. "I don't think anyone has a shortage of cats."

Donate your old vehicle to Paws & Claws Pet Shelter



Our partner, the Center for Car Donations, will pick up your vehicle, sell it, send the shelter a check, and send you an IRS 1098 or acknowledgement. Your vehicle doesn't even have to be running, though you must be the legal title holder.

Give them a call at 877-411-3662 or visit www.centerfordonations.com/paws-claws-pet-shelter.htm

Have a hunter in your life? Take a chance on our fall rifle raffle



Ruger M77, 7mm-08, with a 3x9x40 Leupold VX2 scope and case. The total value is \$1,376

**Tickets are \$20 each
Selling only 300 tickets**

The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, Oct. 31, plenty of time before the Nov. 14 opening of modern-gun deer season in Madison County.

Tickets available at the shelter, Paws & Claws Thrift Cottage, Huntsville Vet Clinic, and St. Paul Library

The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of our Pet Costume Contest Saturday afternoon on the square in Huntsville. You do not have to be present to win.

Join us Oct. 31 at our Pet Costume Contest / and Rifle Raffle Drawing

Come on down to Polk Square in Huntsville 1 PM to 2 PM Saturday, October 31, for a fun costume contest highlighting your dressed-up furry friends.

**Entrance fee \$10
High-quality photos
Great prizes**



Prizes include gift basket with two Yeti mugs (and other goodies) for top dog (or cat). A large rain gauge and a really neat LED flashlight courtesy of Madison County Hardware, plus other great prizes.

Support the shelter through PCPS Friends of the Shelter ...

Supporters receive this newsletter each June, October, and February. Your yearly donation helps us care for and find homes for homeless Madison County dogs and cats.

Yes, please count this person or household as a Friend of the Shelter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email address? _____

(Send newsletter via email? Y___ N___)

Paws and Claws Pet Shelter

We find homes for homeless pets.

We ask that you send at least \$12 a year. Your ongoing support touches not only the dogs and cats we care for, but many families.

\$12 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Please make checks payable to PCPS Friends of the Shelter and mail to POB 364 Huntsville 72740

Please encourage all pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. Thank you for your support!

See us on Facebook – Visit our webpage: www.thepetshelter.org