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Dogwood Animal Shelter

WINTER



Spay Day USA

Pictured on the front cover is Kelly with her eight pups. She was pregnant and abandoned several months ago. Fortunately, there was room for her at Dogwood. Her sweet, gentle disposition—and the way she looks softly into your eyes—made her an instant favorite! She gave birth a few weeks after coming to the shelter, so she was spared the dangers of protecting and nourishing her pups on her own. Most are not that fortunate.

The family pictured below, now healthy and well socialized, was a pitiful sight when they came to us. Surviving without human help in the heat of the summer with no ready access to water or food, Mama Olivia managed to provide just enough milk for her pups to keep them alive. Judging by the looks of her, this was not her first litter. She could have been spared much misery if she had just been spayed.

These are only two examples of the many abandoned moms that come to us. “In fact, about a third of Dogwood’s intakes last year were puppies and kittens, along with their stray mothers who were brought to us pregnant or still nursing.” Most of the babies are adopted easily, while the moms and other adult dogs are likely to wait months or even years for a home. Most, but not all. Statistically, twenty percent of those babies will grow up and grow old in the shelter.

Every year in the United States, an estimated six to eight million dogs and cats are brought to animal shelters. Fewer than half of them ever get back out. The vast majority of these animals are healthy and friendly. The simple fact is that they can reproduce many times faster than humans, so they far outnumber the available homes. Admittedly, some homeless pets are the result of their families’ economic difficulties. Some simply become lost from their owners and end up in shelters. (One in every five companion pets becomes lost at some point in their lives, and only about 16% of them are recovered—a compelling reason to microchip your pet!)

The biggest cause of the overpopulation is the result of reckless or accidental breeding. Too many pet owners simply fail to get their pets spayed or neutered, then try to give away or even dump their accidental litters. Compounding the problem, commercial breeders deliberately bring millions of animals into an already overpopulated world to sell them for profit. Each sold pet means one less adoption of a shelter pet. Surprisingly, many of these purchased pets end up in shelters after the newness wears off and their guardians no longer want them. In fact, roughly one quarter of the dogs in shelters are purebreds who were originally purchased, then abandoned.

The reasons for homelessness are many, but the result is the same; a dangerous, lonely and frightening existence for the homeless animals. The fact that this problem can be so easily remedied makes it all the more difficult to tolerate. An important part of Dogwood Animal Shelter’s mission is to provide spay and neuter surgeries at as low a cost as possible to our community’s pets. In 2011, over 1250 dogs and cats were “fixed” through this program. This prevented the births of an estimated 9600 unwanted puppies and kittens.

Dogwood joins HSUS’s SPAY DAY USA campaign again this year. On Saturday, Jan. 28th, our clinic will be prepared to accommodate 50 stray or feral cats for spay or neuter. The cost will be \$25 per cat. We hope this effort will help our community by preventing hundreds of unwanted litters from being born in the coming months, not to mention fewer pregnant cats being dumped on others or left to fend for themselves and their offspring. Please call Dogwood at 573-348-4411 to make an appointment, to reserve a live trap, or to get more information about our program.

To help fund this very effective program, Lil’ Rizzo’s in Osage Beach hosted a SPAY-ghetti Dinner on Jan.13th. Thanks to them, Dogwood is able to offer some financial assistance for the surgeries to those who qualify.

Dogwood’s low cost spay and neuter clinic is located in the shelter and is open at least 2 days each week all year round.



Left: Olivia and her pups gratefully devouring the food they were offered upon their arrival at Dogwood! Right: The pups, unfamiliar with humans, were very scared at first. They quickly learned to trust and enjoy people!

WHY NOT SPAY EARLY?
Springtime always brings more pregnant cats than Dogwood can possibly accommodate. In fact, all the area shelters fill to capacity and are forced to turn away these needy animals.



Dogwood extends a heartfelt *THANK YOU* to our community!

Because of your support in 2011, we were able to take in over **500** strays and turn their lives around. Our low-cost spay and neuter clinic "fixed" an additional **1250** cats and dogs, resulting in roughly **9600** fewer unwanted pets born in our community in 2011. We know how difficult the economy has been for many people recently, yet you've continued to provide the support we need to alleviate the suffering of many dogs and cats. Without your generous donations and volunteerism, our work would not be possible. We join our 4-legged friends in thanking you!

Memorials

In memory of Larry Anderson by Robert Heidbreder

In memory of Stan Brown by Pat Brown

In memory of Grace Cole by Harold Needham

In memory of Bob Diebold by Doris Johnston

In memory of Ella Jones by James Gerlach, Robert Mason, Jerry Frank, Faye Newman, J. Michael Newman, and Lake Hills Veterinary Clinic

In memory of Victor Koeberl by John & Judy Reinhold

In memory of Elizabeth Larson by Sharon Ebers

In memory of James Owens by Curran & Sickal

In memory of Lloyd Peterson by Dwanda Key, Kimberly Dunbar, and Paul Cope

In memory of Dale Thomure by Amy Hadfield

In memory of Jeff "J.F." Fillman by Curran & Sickal, Darrell Weatherman, Susan O'Fallon,

Central Bank, Nixon Lindstrom, Merlyn Vanderwort, Phillips McElyea Carpenter & Welch, Schowalter & Jabouri,

August Busch, Nickie Foster, Rebecca Martin, Earl Fippett, Tamara Owen, Alice Koviak, Charles Myers, David Baker,

Joann Fillman, John Schell, Kristin Riley, Mary Hicks, Rita Anderson, Killian Construction, Ron Adair, Ronald McLean, and Christine Gendry

In memory of "Bear" by Donna Morris

In memory of "Dakota" by Karen Harper

In memory of "Heidi" Gardetta by John & Judy Reinhold

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(SEE BELOW)

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPLETE & MAIL THIS PAGE ALONG WITH YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHECK TO
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Dogwood Animal Shelter rescues puppies like Axel every day.
When you're looking for a new family member, adopt from a humane shelter—not from a pet shop that supports puppy mills.
Support Kindness, Not Cruelty.

Oldies But Goodies!
The "Oldies But Goodies" antique sale is back this year! Come by the Thrift Shop this March (**date TBA**) to browse through gorgeous vintage quilts, furniture, clothing, and more!

