



TAILS of the HUMANE SOCIETY OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Fall 2007

HSWC Launches New “Sleepover” Program

Do you like to jog or hike on the weekends? Want some company on your weekend walk in the park? We've got the perfect companion waiting for you at HSWC. Come check out our new Dog Retreat program. This new program allows approved volunteers to take a dog on a “sleepover” to give our longer term shelter residents a break from the shelter routine and give you some extra motivation to get moving on the weekend. Plus, with your new weekend walking buddy wearing his very cute “Adopt Me” vest, you're promoting dog adoptions in the community and increasing the likelihood of finding the perfect adopter for your buddy. It's a win-win for everyone! Check out our website for more information www.hswc.net.



Cato

Dear Friends and Caring Animal Lovers,

I am not sure I ever really knew the impact of the statement: “So, what's in a name?” until we recently transitioned to a no-kill shelter but retained our name that is similar to the new regional municipal animal shelter. We're the Humane Society of Williamson County (HSWC), and they're the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS). It's easy to see why the public might be confused—two animal shelters in the same county, sharing part of a moniker, but operating with very different focus. And although we may share one of the same goals of finding forever families for the thousands of homeless animals in our area, we're very different organizations—both providing needed roles in animal welfare for our community (*see inset—Defining Shelters—for more information on different roles*).

The municipal shelter (WCRAS) has encountered a myriad of problems and bad press since their doors opened in March of this year. With our names being so similar, we're bearing some of the burden that is attached to their growing pains. **We need your help in getting the word out that HSWC is a separate, independent, no-kill, non-profit animal shelter.**

We're hopeful that with the proper management, support and budget WCRAS will turn things around quickly. In fact, HSWC is leading a coalition called P.A.C.T., (Pet Alliance of Central Texas), of which WCRAS is also a member, in order to figure out the best all-around solutions for pet overpopulation in our community.

President's Letter, continued on p. 2...

Community Low-Cost Microchip Day

HSWC is teaming up with the Central Texas SPCA to host a Low-Cost Microchip and Responsible Pet Guardianship Education Day for the community.

The event will take place Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Williamson County Regional Park on County Road 175 in Cedar Park.

Microchips will be available for \$10 for both dogs and cats from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. City pet registration tags will also be available.

Microchips for your pet provide a safe and permanent identification safety net in case a pet gets lost without his/her collar with tags.



Lola

...*President's Letter, continued from cover.*

Our name confusion situation calls to mind that old 70's game show, (I've seen re-runs!), "*To Tell the Truth*", where three guests are tasked with trying to fool the three contestants into thinking they are the celebrity, until the host asks for the "real celebrity to please step forward". Well, we're stepping forward on this one to clarify our role and our focus in the community of animal welfare.

We're the animal shelter that.....

...pulls animals into our adoption program to alleviate overcrowding at our local municipal shelters.

...focuses on quality adoptions by having trained adoption counselors onsite and at our many offsite events.

...conducts low cost spay/neuter programs so we can work together to reduce pet overpopulation in this community.

...wants to work with you on pet behavioral programs so animals don't become repeat surrenders.

...offers low cost vaccinations and other services so that all citizens can provide basic care for their pets.

...is 300+ volunteers strong, including special corporate, scouting and church groups who tackle everything from walking and bathing dogs to maintaining our 22 acres.

...has a "hands-on" working Board of Directors of 11 (and growing!) dedicated, professionals who give of their time, talent and treasures.

...has an active foster care program to help kittens, cats, puppies and dogs that need a little TLC to get healthy and ready for adoption.

...uses our *Abby Angel Fund* to cover veterinarian costs for injured and sick animals that otherwise may not have a chance.

...is leading the effort to make Williamson County a community where every pet has a lifetime home.

...and we're the animal shelter that relies on your support for these programs to ensure each animal has a second chance.

So, *to tell the truth*, we're the animal shelter in Williamson County that you can not only be proud of, but also be proud to be a part of.

But to tell another truth, we're asking you to "step forward" with us, because we need your help in order to continue to operate as the largest no-kill shelter in Williamson County. We operate 100% on generous donations, fundraising and fees we receive from our clinic services and adoptions. Because we stand firm that every animal adopted from HSWC is spayed or neutered, is microchipped, has received all required vaccinations and is properly cared for during their stay with us, we spend over \$175 on each animal to prepare them for their new family. That means that your financial support is the key for us to continue our life saving work. The more animals we are able to pull from other shelters and match with a good home, the more we can reduce the senseless killing of perfectly adoptable animals in our community. Every little bit helps—every time.

Can we count on your financial support and your volunteer time? We're counting on you and more importantly, the homeless animals in our community are counting on you!

So what's really in a name? As we've found out, sometimes a lot of confusion. Help us eliminate the confusion by getting the word out that **HSWC is a separate, independent, no-kill, non-profit animal shelter** leading the effort to make Williamson County a community where every pet has a lifetime home.

Sincerely,

Janet Ott, Board of Directors, President



Honey Girl

Defining Shelters

We recognize that the roles of different animal welfare organizations in a community can be confusing. The confusion is not helped by the fact that no official terminology defines shelters. From “shelter” to “pound”, names are interchangeably used. All shelters are independent organizations and no national umbrella organization gives funding or offers oversight.

Types of animal welfare organizations in a community

Municipal (city or county): Animal care and control is part of a public health and safety governmental service. Many municipalities run their own animal control and sheltering, but some contract all or part of the function to a non-profit shelter. *The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS) is a municipal shelter.*

Independent non-profit: Non-profit animal welfare agencies vary greatly. They may or may not have a physical shelter, may be open door or limited admission and may or may not provide contract services for a local municipality. *The Humane Society of Williamson County is an independent non-profit.*

Focus of animal welfare agencies

Intervention Focus: These organizations focus their programs on meeting the current needs created by pet overpopulation such as sheltering strays, reuniting lost animals with owners, adoption into new homes and rabies control. *The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS) is intervention focused.*

Prevention Focus: These organizations focus their programs on getting at the root cause of pet overpopulation by providing services that prevent animals from ending up in shelters such as affordable spaying and neutering, affordable animal wellness care, microchipping, animal re-homing assistance and behavior training. Many prevention focus organizations also put a lot of effort into adoption efforts because until they can stop the flow of homeless animals to shelters, adoption efforts are needed. *The Humane Society of Williamson County is prevention focused.*

Philosophy choices for animal welfare organizations

Open Door: Accepts all animals. When the shelter’s cages are full and after exhausting other options, animals are euthanized to make room for the new animals. For public health and safety reasons, every community must have an open door shelter to accept stray animals. *The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS) is an open door shelter.*

Limited Admission: Accepts new animals if space is available. They typically take in healthy, behaviorally-sound animals that can be adopted into new homes. Many have resources to also take in a limited number of treatable animals with illness, injury or behavior issues that can be resolved with a proper care. They perform limited euthanasia for illness or severe behavior problems. *The Humane Society of Williamson County is a limited admission, no-kill shelter.*

Find Your Cause - Volunteer!

Volunteers are our backBONE; they are a vital part of HSWC and make our mission possible. Join our team!

Volunteers take on a wide variety of responsibilities at HSWC: animal socializer, foster parent, customer service, photographer for Petfinder, offsite adoption day team, administrative support, gleam team, help with fundraising events and committee work.

We ask volunteers to commit 4 hours a month for at least 6 months. Volunteers must be 10 years old and certain restrictions apply for children ages 10-15.

In May, our new Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, Memi Cardenas, was brought on board. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or you would like to host a creative fundraising or volunteer activity, please contact Memi at mcardenas@hswc.net or by phone at (512) 260-3602 x 106.

HSWC Joins *Cash for Critters* Recycle Program

Wondering what to do with your used ink jet and laser jet cartridges or your old cell phone? Well you can now help the environment and the animals in our care by recycling these items with HSWC. Through the *Cash for Critters* program, HSWC earns cash for every printer cartridge and cell phone recycled. So next time you stop by HSWC, drop your used printer cartridges and cell phones in the recycle box in our main office.

HSWC receives grant to provide over 400 free spay and neuter surgeries

The Texas Animal Friendly License Plate Program has awarded funding to HSWC to provide over 400 free spay and neuter surgeries for low-income Williamson County residents. Check out our website www.hswc.net or call (512) 260-3602 for more information on qualification and available appointments.



HSWC Wins \$2,000 Prize in Poetry Competition

When local software company, Community TechKnowledge Inc., (CTK), announced a contest for area non-profits to capture the heart of their mission in a poem, we were up for the challenge. HSWC along with almost 200 other central Texas non-profits competed for four cash grants in the second annual 5-7-5 Haiku contest.

HSWC won the top prize in the animal welfare and environmental concerns category with the following 5-7-5 Haiku:



raining cats and dogs
our umbrella breaks their fall
shelter from the storm

HSWC wishes to thank CTK and all the judges of the Haiku contest for this special award. The \$2,000 prize will be used towards preparing animals for our adoption program. All animals in our adoption program receive a health exam, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery and microchip prior to adoption.

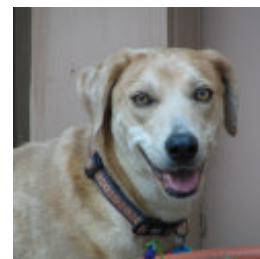
Facilities Team Makes “Cool Cats”

It has been a very busy time for the Facilities Committee at HSWC. Our facilities chair Kim Lutz and a group of volunteers recently redesigned the Cattery area. Many thanks to those who helped with this project: John Allgood, Eloy Espinosa, Tracy Herring, Kim Shepherd and Julia Whitley. Volunteer Garry Sjolander also donated and installed a new air conditioner to complete the room. Now, our cats are living in a more home-like environment making them happy and cool.

We have completed a variety of other exciting projects during the last several months as well. We could not have completed all of these projects without our volunteers and donors (see full list on page 7). We can always use help with the many projects at HSWC. If you are interested in volunteering for a facility project, please contact Kim Lutz at klutz@hswc.net. No skill required!

Abby Angel Fund Continues to Save Lives

Last year, HSWC established the Abby Angel Fund in memory of our beloved resident shelter dog, Abby. This fund is reserved for animals arriving at the shelter in need of veterinary attention, for which no budgeted funds are available. Check out some of our amazing beneficiaries on the back page of this newsletter.



Abby

If you'd like to contribute specifically to the Abby Angel Fund, check the box on the envelope included with your newsletter and send your donation today!



Left: Board Member, Susan Landgraf, cuddles with one of our adoptees.



Above: Girl Scouts from Troop 1609 spent a day working at the HSWC to earn their Bronze Awards



Above: Volunteers installed six new communal living areas in the Cattery. These group homes result in happier and healthier cats.

HSWC Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

HSWC celebrated its transition to a no-kill shelter with a grand re-opening party during the weekend of August 10-12. On Friday evening the HSWC board of directors hosted a dinner at the shelter. The Round Rock Chamber of Commerce was there to help us conduct the official ribbon cutting ceremony. During Saturday and Sunday HSWC welcomed hundreds of visitors who shared in the fun. The best part of the weekend was that dozens of HSWC dogs and cats went home with new forever families!



HSWC Board President Janet Ott cuts the ribbon for the grand re-opening of the shelter.

The Humane Society of Williamson County (HSWC) is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization founded in 1979. HSWC is 100% funded by donations, grants and fees for services. We receive no government funding. HSWC's mission is to provide innovative programs and services to eliminate pet overpopulation and to improve the lives of pets and people in Williamson County.

As an independent, donor-supported animal welfare organization dedicated to the protection and care of domestic animals, our programs depend on your support. All contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to: 10930 E. Crystal Falls Parkway, Leander, TX 78641 .

Tails is a publication of the Humane Society of Williamson County which retains all rights and republication.

Circulation: 5,000. www.hswc.net

Looking for the Perfect Holiday Gift for the Pet Lover in Your Family?

Look no further! HSWC will be offering two holiday gift programs this winter:

Adopt a pet... HSWC will be offering gift certificates to adopt a pet this holiday. You can purchase a gift certificate today and then bring the lucky gift recipient to the shelter at a later date so that they can help choose the new addition to the family.



Sponsor a pet... This holiday season you can choose to give the gift of life by sponsoring an HSWC dog or cat. Or you can give the gift of sponsorship to someone else! We will give the gift recipient a picture of the pet they are sponsoring, information about the pet, and how their donation has helped their pet have a second chance.

Please call our office at 260-3602 x101 for more information.

From the Treasurer...

When HSWC became no-kill in March 2007, we returned to the basic principles upon which this organization was formed 28 years ago. Our vision is to create an environment in Williamson County where no companion animal will be euthanized merely because a home cannot be found for that animal. Unfortunately, the financial cost of saving more lives are straining HSWC resources. The reality is that it costs us \$175 to prepare each animal for adoption. That money goes towards vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchipping and ongoing care until that animal is adopted. This means that if we want to adopt out 2,500 animals each year we must spend almost \$440,000 directly on animal care. There is a direct correlation between our budget and the number of animals whose lives we can change!

Please help support HSWC by making a financial contribution. If you would rather support HSWC through an in-kind donation, we have a handy wish list on our website!

If you have any questions regarding monetary or property donations to HSWC, please feel free to contact our Treasurer, HR Strickland at 255-1114.

Help us build a community where every pet has a lifetime home!



Krypto



Dog Leg Classic Update

The 2007 Dog Leg Classic II golf tournament was a huge success! The weather was perfect, Cimmaron Hills golf course was beautiful and the golfers had a great time! Now it's time to start thinking about the Third Annual Dog Leg Classic tournament in Spring 2008! Start practicing your golf swing; it will be here before you know it. Check our website soon for more information!

“Sheltered” Video Series a Huge Hit at OnNetworks.com

Several months ago producer Luis Caffesse approached HSWC with an idea to produce a video series about pets in local animal shelters for a new internet short-form online video site. We jumped at the opportunity to showcase some of our adoptable dogs and cats. Little did we know that the “**Sheltered**” video series would be one of the top viewed episodes at OnNetworks.com. The series recently passed its one millionth episode viewed! As a bonus, reading the heartwarming comments from viewers has been a big morale booster for our staff. Visit OnNetworks.com to see former HSWC residents Velvet, Sweetie, Holiday and Frodo star in this video series. Notice, we say former residents as each one of them is now settled in with a new loving forever family!



Left: **Velvet** an HSWC resident featured in one of the top “Sheltered” episodes at OnNetworks.com

Right: **Sweetie** an HSWC resident featured on a “Sheltered” episode at OnNetworks.com



Pet Alliance of Central Texas (PACT) launched as Williamson County’s First Animal Coalition Effort

HSWC has taken the lead in forming Williamson County’s first animal coalition. The Pet Alliance of Central Texas (PACT) is a coalition of local animal groups working together to make Williamson County a safe place for all pets. Our primary goal is to eliminate euthanasia of healthy or treatable companion animal in Williamson County. By working together and combining our resources we can make Williamson County a safe place for all pets.

Participating PACT members include: Humane Society of Williamson County, Central Texas SPCA, Georgetown Animal Outreach, City of Georgetown Animal Shelter and Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter.



PACT hosted Super Adoption Day on October 20, 2007 at the Show Barn in San Gabriel Park. Each PACT member along with several other local rescue groups had a variety of dogs and cats available for adoption and 20 animals found loving homes at the event.



HSWC joins MySpace

HSWC has a new MySpace page - come check us out and add us to your list of friends!

Our page is:

<http://www.myspace.com/dogscatsandrabbits>

The following donations were received in memoriam of friends and loved ones:

In memory of Floyd C. Stephens, Jr.:

Don and Darlene Unger
Violet O'Brocketa
Judy and Ralph McGrady
Gertrude Hvizda
John and Darlene Hvizda
The Stephens Family

In memory of Dr. Katherine Paterson:

Katherine P. Luedtke
James W. Rich
Chris Paterson

Shirley C. Bennion in memory of Suzy Strickland

Richard and Diane Lowensohn in memory of Ilene Cliffer

Blanche Bader in memory of Betty A. Karr

Anita and Tom Moore in memory of Janet Leach

Anita and Tom Moore in memory of Tula Knolle

Mrs. Carolyn J. Houghtby in memory of Teresa Turey

Terrie Lambert in memory of Pat Taylor

John Sullivan in memory of Dorothy Laviolette

Sean McClurkan in memory of Edwina McClurkan

Dorothy Indiano in memory of Justin Di Genni

Anita & Tom Moore in memory of Zapat

Brooke Scowder in memory of Rocky Yu

Sandra Wattles in memory of Dady

HR Strickland in memory of "Dakota" Burgess

Yolanda Sanchez in memory of "Dakota"

Clarice Krauss in memory of "Roxie" Radman

Stephen McAndrew and Jack & Jackie Shaw in memory of "Brandi" Shaw

Paula J. Soddors in memory of "Mordecai"

J & M Light Crafts in memory of Backyard Cat "Maureen"

HR Strickland in memory of "Amber" Strickland

HSWC depends on the generous participation of area citizens and members of the business community:

Art Center of Williamson County: Donation of original art for future auction

Petra Shafer: Donation of original art for future auction

DR Services: Donation of air conditioning system and ongoing maintenance for the Cattery and office

Wayne's World of Cars: Ongoing maintenance and repairs of HSWC aging vehicles

Manuel Moctezuma Concours Lawn & Yard: Facility maintenance

Whiteside Mowing: Facility maintenance

H. Deck Construction: Facility maintenance

Junior League of Austin: New water well system and materials for outdoor dog runs

Linda Waggoner: Materials for outdoor dog runs

Texas Crushed Stone: Gravel for new pathways

Mike and Cathy Cantrell: Mowing and tractor work

Melanie Grover: Shelter office bathroom remodel

Volunteers from 3M: Office flooring removal and demolition work to turn the shelter kitchen into office space

HSWC gratefully accepts donations of all types of vehicles for HSWC use and/or to sell for funds to support the HSWC mission:

J.T. Automotive: Vehicle donation

Tina D. Lackey: Vehicle donation

Hector and Alice Martinez: Vehicle donation

Richard's Towing: Vehicle donation

If you have any questions regarding monetary or property donations to HSWC, please feel free to contact HR Strickland at 255-1114

Hawaiian Kona Isle Poynesian and Hawaiian classes for all ages.



Family entertainment also available.

(512) 258-8674

www.hawaiian-kona-isle.com

Couple's Donation Achieves HSWC Goal for In-Shelter Feeding Program

While we have been eternally grateful over the years for the thousands of pounds of donated dog and cat food that has sustained us, it has been a long term goal to implement a consistent diet for our shelter residents. Thanks to a generous pledge from local Georgetown couple to fund the cost of HSWC joining the Science Diet In-Shelter Feeding Program, our dream came true in September. This program provides all of our shelter feeding requirements—an estimated \$44,000 annual retail cost—for about \$4,000 per year in shipping costs. Many thanks to Hill's Science Diet for creating this wonderful in-shelter feeding program. Many, many thanks to Nancy Crouse and Craig McCurdy for their incredible generosity in funding this fantastic program for HSWC!



Come see us!

Xena

Xena is a gentle Australian Cattle Dog mix. She is approximately five-years-old and 35 pounds. Xena has been a resident at HSWC for approximately 6 months, patiently waiting for her new family to find her. This dog has all of the qualities that any animal lover could want; she's passive, loving, obedient and knows some basic commands like sit, stay and shake.



We love Xena and we think you will too!

Clover

Clover has been in and out of two homes in her short year of life. Now she needs a place to call her own! She is a gorgeous, longhaired calico who



is friendly and likes spending time with her friends in our new Cattery. We think Clover would do great in most settings. Please come visit Clover today before someone else finds her first!



We have many more dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens at the shelter. If you are looking for a pet, please visit the shelter to see all of our friends.

www.hswc.net
(512) 260-3602

Meet Two Abby Angel Fund Recipients

Meet Panda

When we think about resiliency, we think of Panda. Panda suffered one of the worst types of cruelty—abandonment by her family! Her family moved and left her and her brother in the backyard with no food, no water and no shelter from the Texas heat. She was the lucky one and was saved just days away from death. Her brother was not so lucky. He died from starvation and neglect, with only his loyal sister with him in the end. After months of veterinary care to bring Panda back up to a healthy weight and then treat her for heartworms, Panda was ready for a new home—the lucky winners of Panda's lifetime love and affection is the Robles Family!



Meet I-Lean

At eight weeks old, this sweet kitten was found in a box next to a dumpster in an apartment complex with a severely injured

Come on I-Lean!

leg. A caring woman brought her to the Humane Society of Williamson County for help. With our Abby Angel funds, we were able to get I-Lean the necessary medical treatment to save her life. Sadly, after assessment, her injured leg had to be removed. Post surgery I-Lean has recovered remarkably well. She's a frisky little kitten who thinks life is just fine with three legs!

Join our e-mail list

Would you like more frequent updates on the happenings at HSWC? Join our e-mail list. Go to www.hswc.net and click on the **join our e-mail** list icon. You'll receive regular updates on our programs, volunteer opportunities, animal stories and more.

Humane Society of Williamson County
10930 Crystal Falls Parkway
Leander, Texas 78641

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