

FOREVER FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008



MARION COUNTY DOG SHELTER, 3550 AUMSVILLE HWY SE, SALEM, OR 97317

SHELTER MANAGER'S UPDATE by ALLISON BARROWS

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Allison Barrows, Manager at the Marion County Dog Shelter. I'm excited to announce our first newsletter, and we hope to continue this on a quarterly basis.

The Shelter opened its doors in late October, 2006. I started working at the Shelter in March, 2007. In the 15 months I've been here, there have been numerous changes and improvements. Most of these are behind the scenes, but have had a big impact on the operations of our shelter.

Last summer, we determined that our small washer and dryer could not handle the large amounts of laundry we were doing every day. With some ingenuity we converted our food room into a large laundry room, moved the food room, and traded the small washer and dryer for an industrial set. This change has cut down on our laundry time, giving staff more time to dedicate to the dogs.

We are now contracting with Dr. Brooks from Homestead Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Brooks has gone above and beyond for the dogs at the shelter. The medical "rescue" surgeries she has done for some of our dogs have been the difference between their finding a forever home and not. Dr. Brooks visits the shelter twice per week to perform exams on our dogs that are going up for adoption. Having a contracted veterinarian gives us a medical base for the dogs, and great information for new adopters. This addition to the shelter has proven to be a great success and an important part of the adoption process.

We recently added on to our fencing, creating three large outdoor exercise areas for the dogs to play off leash. Once the grass is planted the area will be ready for use. The dogs are going to love it!

I would also like to thank our volunteers for all they have done to help keep the shelter moving forward and growing. They have attended many outreach events around the community, promoting the shelter and our adoptable dogs. They walk, play, and visit with the dogs as well as help organize new events. We could not have gotten this far without our volunteers.

It has been a pleasure to work with the dedicated and caring staff at the shelter. As a team we will strive to provide the best possible care for all the strays that come through our doors, while searching for that "forever" family for each of our adoptable dogs.

Thank you for your support and dedication to our shelter.

Allison Barrows, Operations Manager



Koa, Allison, and Wes

VET'S CLINIC by DR. BROOKS

Cinnamon must have been an adorable puppy – fat, fuzzy, black and tan. At six months, showing her Lab-Rott heritage, she was feminine and sweet. Who wouldn't keep her "forever" or look for her if she was lost? After six short months of life, she was a "stray" at Marion County Dog Control – "lost" or "abandoned" – and no one came to find her.

Her temperament was great for future adoption but something was wrong with her eyes. At exam, she was diagnosed with lower lid entropion, a condition where excessive skin causes the eyelid to roll inward against the eye. The eye is always irritated, causing lots of tears and discharge. The cornea can be scarred and it "hurts". She probably has "hurt" most of her life.

Usually a physical problem or injury cancels the adoptability at an animal shelter – most adopters do not want the responsibility or cost of a medical or surgical rescue adoption. However, Cinnamon was a good girl, her problem was surgically correctable and since 2007 Marion County Dog Control has had access to low-cost veterinary rescue care. Cinnamon was a perfect 20th candidate.

On April 29, 2008, Cinnamon had her entropion surgery, a bilateral canthoplasty to realign the outer corners of her eyes and at the same time had a spay surgery. She was a model patient. She doesn't "hurt" anymore. Now all she needed was a "Last Chance" – a new home "forever". Cinnamon did find her "forever" home and is doing well.

Call Marion County Dog Control for more info on medical/surgical rescue cases. There's always a need for adopters, foster caregivers and donations to give a dog a "Last Chance".



Dr. A. H. Brooks, DVM



Cinnamon, before (l.) & after surgery

ADOPTION "HAPPY-EVER-AFTERS"

Hi! My name is Cindy, and I'm some kind of Shih Tzu mix. I always sit up when I want something, so there could be a little prairie dog in me. I was adopted by my new mom (who thinks I'm adorable) in October of 2007, after she saw me sitting up on my hind legs in my shelter kennel and looking my very cutest. I live with my doggie sister, Millie, who is a 12 year old Cairn Terrier. Millie was kind of jealous of me at first, but now we're best pals.

Everyone thinks I'm just a little "foo-foo" dog, but my favorite activity is to dig in my back yard until I'm totally covered with dirt. I especially like to dig up freshly planted petunias. My mom spends a lot of time cleaning me up, and then I can hardly wait to go outside and do it all over again. Luckily, because I'm so cute, I get away with a lot more than I should. Then, at night, I get to cuddle between my mom and dad on their comfy bed. Thanks to the wonderful staff at the Marion County Dog Shelter for taking such good care of me and for helping me find my forever home.



Cindy assumes her begging position

Please email your Adoption "Happy-Ever-Afters" & pictures to roslynworcester@hotmail.com

DOG CONTROL OFFICERS' BEAT

Dog Bites Increase with Summer Heat – Summer safety tips from Dog Control Officer Julie Haskett.

Dog Control sees an increase in dog bites during the summer months, mostly because kids are out of school and are often playing unsupervised at friends' homes with dogs. Dogs, like people, can become more stressed and irritable with increased temperatures, which can cause them to react and bite faster. Dogs can also suffer more flea and allergy skin conditions in the summer months, which can also make them more apt to snap and bite.

The officers also see a definite correlation between camping and picnics with dogs and kids and increased dog bites, since dogs compete with people (esp. kids) for food. Therefore, Julie suggests the following safeguards for a bite-free summer: 1) Never leave dogs and kids unsupervised; 2) Contain dogs during meal times; 3) Avoid rough-housing around dogs, since dogs can be very protective of their own family members; 4) Stay away from moms and their puppies, since moms are very protective of their litters; 5) Don't make sudden, jerky movements, such as running, jumping, or waving arms, which can scare a dog or trigger a "chase response;" 6) Never stare into the eyes of a dog, since this is how dogs challenge each other to fight and it can stimulate an attack ; 7) Don't try and handle dogs who are in pain or injured; and finally, 8) Never corner a dog or approach a tied-up dog, since you'll be invading their safety zone.

Since the dog can't get away, they may feel there's no option but to attack. Remember, always assume that a dog may see you as an intruder or a threat, and be careful. If you do receive a serious dog bite (i.e. broken skin), Julie says to see a doctor, who will also report the bite to the County Health Dept. They in turn will contact Dog Control to follow up. Dogs that have bitten and broken the victim's skin must be quarantined for 10 days at home or at the County Dog Shelter.

Julie has been a Dog Control Officer with Marion County for the past 18 years, and she previously worked with the Willamette Humane Society. Julie is owned by two dogs and a cat that she's rescued. In addition to her enforcement duties, Julie emphasizes the importance of teaching the public about dog behavior and how to handle them safely and responsibly. She's available to make educational presentations to schools and other interested groups.



DC Officer J. Haskett

★ Saturday, September 20th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Dog Fest '08

Dogs enter for \$3

and receive a bandana entitling them to participate in activities and contests.

Humans get in FREE!

The Annual Marion County Dog Fest will be a day of fun, games, prizes, demonstrations and treats.



For everyone's fun and safety, your dog must be:

- On leash
- Current on all vaccinations
- Sociable with other dogs and children
- Comfortable in a loud and festive environment
- At least 4 months old (puppies have weak or no immune systems)

And your dog must not be overly aggressive about food, toys or owner. Avoid bringing elderly, obese, or oxygen-challenged dogs (pug-nosed breeds) if the temperatures are in the 90s.

Dog Fest '08 will be held at Chemeketa Community College. Take the Cooley Drive exit and park in the main parking lot on the southwest side of the campus.

For more information, contact Marion County Dog Shelter at 503-566-6966.

Marion County Dog Control
3550 Aumsville Hwy. SE
Salem OR 97317

Phone: 503-566-6966
Fax: 503-566-6914
E-mail: dog@co.marion.or.us
Website: www.mcdogs.net



SHELTER STAFF UPDATE

It's a pleasure to welcome the newest member of our Shelter staff, Roxann O'Bryant. Roxann accepted the position of Veterinary Technician in May. She brings us extensive experience working in animal clinics (Roxann's main job is to work with Dr. Brooks, our Shelter Veterinarian, in examining dogs, diagnosing and treating injuries and disease during their time with us). She also plays a key role in making sure our disease-prevention protocols are state of the art.

In her spare time, Roxann has put her fantastic organizing skills to work on our inventories of drugs and other supplies, and has been a tremendous help in bringing order to our busy environment. She's also instituted a discharge procedure for completing adoptions and releasing dogs to their new homes. She makes an appointment with adopting 'parents' to pick up each dog, taking time to give them detailed information on their dog's medical records and instructions on follow-up care after spay/neuter surgery. Roxann is a great addition to our shelter staff, and we're glad she adopted us.



Roxann O'Bryant

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



Volunteer coordinator Debbie West (with Shelter alum. Buddy) has been involved in dog and cat rescue since 2000. She and her husband, Dan, have 3 rescued dogs and 8 rescued cats.

The volunteer program at MCDS continues to grow. Each month we have new volunteers joining the volunteer team. Our volunteers are a hardworking, dedicated group that generously donate their time to help the homeless stray dogs of Marion County. Our volunteer dog walkers walk the dogs, rain or shine. They spend valuable time with each dog that is so vital to the dog's well being. The newest addition to the MCDS dog walking program is the beautiful dog yard area. The dog walkers are patiently waiting for the grass to grow in these yards so that may be used.

Our biggest area of growth in the volunteer program are the shelter outreaches. Starting in August, the shelter will have a monthly outreach at PetSense in Woodburn, the Salem Saturday Market, PetsMart and PetCo. These outreaches are an excellent opportunity to promote the shelter and the wonderful dogs available for adoption. The outreaches also provide important information to the community on the role of Marion County Dog Control.

Our next volunteer orientation is July 26th. For information on the orientation, please contact Debbie West (dewdropw@aol.com or (503)391-5362 or (503)409-2543). Thank you MCDS volunteers for ALL you do to help the stray dogs of Marion County!

Volunteer spotlight



Lynnette Graves

Meet MCDS volunteer Lynnette Graves...Lynnette is the MCDS Volunteer Liaison who keeps the volunteers up to date each week on shelter and volunteer news. Lynnette has been a MCDS volunteer since May 2007 and her volunteer duties continue to grow at the shelter. Her time, commitment and dedication to MCDS is truly appreciated by staff and fellow volunteers. In addition to helping organize and volunteer at shelter outreaches, Lynnette is now helping conduct the volunteer orientations and assisting the shelter administration staff with office duties. Lynnette is also on the Dog Fest committee and Holiday Market committee. At last year's Holiday Market, Lynnette's handmade dog bandanas helped MCDS raise \$500.00. In April, Marion County awarded Lynnette their Youth Volunteer Award for 2007. This award was given to Lynnette to honor and recognize the time and effort she contributed to improving her community through her service to the Marion County Dog Shelter.

Shelter phone 503-566-6966 www.mcdogs.net Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8:30-5:30

Please email FOREVER FRIENDS articles & ideas to roslynworchester@hotmail.com