

the Scoop

produced by and for OHS volunteers, donors and supporters

summer 2009

Animal Welfare Links

oconeehumane.org
 oconeePets.com (County)
 americanhumane.org
 hsus.org and aspca.org
 petfinder.com
 guideStar.org
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The Oconee County Humane Society is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization registered in the State of South Carolina
 See (www.scsos.com)

Coming Events

Pickin' for Pets
 High Falls Park
 September, 2009

Fashion Show
 Keowee Key Clubhouse, Salem
 October 10, 2009

Low Country Boil
 VFW Post on Rt 123
 Fall, 2009

For up to date times and other events, please check our website www.oconeehumane.org

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Up and running

Getting the Oconee County Animal Shelter specified, built, and finally operating, has been a long and arduous process. It consumed years of work by a coalition of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, hard working County employees and politicians. Now that the shelter is finished and operating, the real work begins: turning the operation into an effective animal welfare center. The Oconee County Sheriff Department's Animal Control unit and the Oconee Humane Society have formed a partnership that addresses animal control, as well as animal adoption and public education. Last year, in the old shelter, Animal Control handled all functions, this year, at the new shelter, the Humane Society is in the process of taking over adoptions and public education functions. As you can imagine, the newly founded cooperative relationship is a learning process for both Animal Control and the Humane Society. And, as in any newly forged relationship, has had its challenges and rewards.

"Periodically, when conflict arises, we have to remind ourselves that we are all here to serve the welfare of the animals, that they depend on us", said Jerry Zimmerman, Shelter Supervisor. With a staff of six and an intake 4,000 to 5,000 animals per year, the Animal Control section of the shelter is very busy. Three animal control officers are included in the staff and they are on the road most of the time investigating complaints, settling disputes, and collecting animals. Two vet techs take care of the "inside business" of the shelter looking after the residents. Some days they take in as many as forty stray, abandoned, injured, or nuisance animals.

The Humane Society and Animal Control share the same building at 1925 Sandifer



Boulevard and currently work together in the adoption and public education functions. The Humane Society mans the reception area with two volunteers at a time from 10 am until 5 pm on Mondays through Fridays; Saturdays the shelter is open for adoptions only from 11 am until 3 pm.

According to Jerry Zimmerman, the new "sponsoring" program instituted at the shelter a few months ago "works well". "Instead of having to wait 3-5 days before an adopted pet is available to go to its new home, a sponsored pet is immediately available", said Jerry. Several people have donated the adoption, spay/neuter, and inoculation fees for a specific animal. Once the donation is made, the animal is then processed and returned to the holding area as a "sponsored" pet. When the sponsored pet is adopted out, the owners

(continued on page 2 - Up and running)



MEMORIALS

January 1 - June 2, 2009



Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Cary, in memory of their son, Dewey

Rachel Palmer, in memory of Elizabeth Odom

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Grant, in memory of Monique

Mr. & Mrs. Davis Roeske, in memory of "Cocoa, beloved pet of Bill & Sandy Nelson

Chuck & Karen Sconce, in memory of Christine Johannes

Lt. Col. & Mrs. Roger Dilling, in memory of Andy Hartman

3rd Wed. Newcomers Bridge Club, in memory of Andy Hartman

Mr. & Mrs. Drake Hawkins, in memory of Andy Hartman

Linda Perry, in memory of Andy Hartman

Dorothy Wertheimer, in memory of Andy Hartman

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Wesely, in memory of Andy Hartman

Mrs. Becky Heatherington, in memory of Andy Hartman

Donnie Dean, in memory of "Maggie" beloved pet of Huh & Peggy Wells

Jerilyn Schaller, in memory of Andy Hartman

Dorothy Wertheimer, in memory of Dewitt C. Miles

Ms. Diane Pesch-Savatteri, in memory of Carol Reed

Vickie Skierozinski, in memory of Carol Land

Tributes

June & Dave Huff, in honor of Dr. & Mrs. John Hunter

Patricia Whitten, in honor of Gayle Griffin

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Purcell, in honor of Mary Ashley and Carolyn Purcell

(Up and running, from Page 1)

pay the adoption fee for their pet and that money is then "rolled over" onto another prospective sponsored pet. "We can always use more sponsors, as being able to immediately take a pet home is a real plus", added Jerry.

Numerous other programs are in a state of development. One of those is microchipping. The microchip is slightly larger than a grain of rice and is usually implanted in the scruff of the animal's neck. The chip is encoded with owner and pet data that can be read by chip scanners in use by veterinarians, animal control officers and animal shel-

ters and rescues everywhere. So, if Fido gets lost or misplaced and eventually finds his way into one of these places, he could be reunited with his owner in short order.

The new shelter location has worked wonders on both organizations and their programs. Due to the fact that the shelter is now located near the demographic center of the County, with increased traffic and more public exposure, interest in animal welfare has grown steadily. And that benefits all components of what makes the shelter go. For example, euthanasia rates have steadily fallen and adoption rates are slowly creeping up. That's good for everyone. Right, Fido? "Woof", he says.

The first Saturday adoption!

May 16, 2009 – by *Elizabeth Anderson*

As you know, today was the first day the Oconee County Animal Shelter at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard in Seneca was open on Saturday. The first adoption on this first Saturday was Joey, a Corgi mix who was adopted by Emily and Olivia Brown and their family. In the attached photo, Emily is the blonde at top left and Olivia is the brunette with braces. Obviously Joey is the cute little guy looking straight at the camera!

(Ed: The shelter is now open from 11 am until 3 pm on Saturdays for adoptions only. No turn-ins or other animal control business)



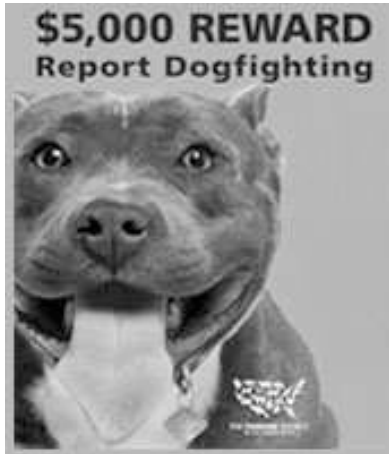
Tee Hee

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: "you stay here, I'll go on a head".

Even if it takes a village

We must do something about the blood sports of dog fighting and cock fighting. There is no reasonable explanation to justify this horribly cruel practice other than “tradition” and “we’ve always done it that way”. Hello people, we have evolved! Get on the band wagon. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) now offers a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in dog fighting or cock fighting. The reward posters are up at the Oconee Animal Shelter; check them out.

Don’t kid yourself about “that could not possibly happen in my backyard”; it is happening in your backyard in the Up-state of South Carolina. But the perpetrators are clever, devious, and go to great lengths to prevent you from ever finding out. However, here is a clarion call: if you have information about illegal animal fighting, you are eligible for the HSUS \$5,000 reward. And that would certainly put a crimp in their plans to continue this abhorrent practice.

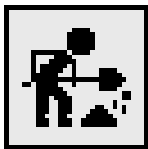


Interested in earning some serious cash and putting law-breakers behind bars? Follow these rules:

1. **Call your local police department or animal control agency.** Give them as many details as you can about the suspected animal fighting situation. You do not need to give your name to law enforcement to report illegal animal fighting. Tell the law enforcement agency about the HSUS's reward program.
2. **Get a letter from law enforcement.** If the suspected animal fighter is convicted, ask the law enforcement agency involved in the case to write a letter to The HSUS. The letter should state that your tip helped lead to the arrest and prosecution of the convicted animal fighter. The letter should be mailed or faxed to: Animal Fighting Reward Program c/o Ann Chynoweth; The Humane Society of the United States; 2100 L St. NW Washington, DC 20037; FAX: (301) 721 6414.
3. **Call the HSUS for more information.** If you have further questions about the Reward Program, call us at (202) 452 1100 or go to humanesociety.com. Spread the word!

Community Cooperation

Last year, when Duke Energy employees Jeff Hekking and Liz Glenn decided to combine their annual charity allowance, the Humane Society was the beneficiary of new landscaping for the animal shelter. Duke donated the major part of the material costs (Zone 7 donated the other part) and Jeff and Liz gathered up 8 of their colleagues for a workday at the shelter installing the plantings. Oconee County supplied the mulch and additional labor and J Davis Construction donated the use of their equipment.

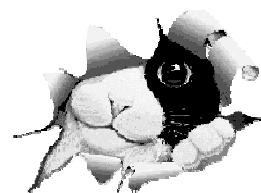


This year, they’re at it again with a new project: a dog walk and exercise area. Clemson University’s Department of Landscape Engineering is designing the layout, Oconee County is donating grading and mulch, and Jeff and Liz are gearing up for another project with their favorite charity. Plans should be finished in a few weeks and the project could start anytime after that. Another example of our community pulling together for the common good. Thanks Duke Energy.

Doing something right

If you know where we started, you would be as proud as we are of the small but significant steps taken to improve the welfare of animals in Oconee County. Even though statistics can sometimes be misleading, at other times they provide a watermark for progress. We hit a milestone in April of this year when the euthanasia rate at the shelter dropped to 16% and the adoption rate hit 24%. Consider this: it was only one month, may not be repeated for a long time to come, and may have been a fluke. But also consider this: this would have been unheard of a few years ago and certainly proves we’re going in the right direction.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



Saluda River Pet Food Center

For your continuing support of our efforts with kindness, grace, and generosity. A true friend.

Your next best friend

Is available at the Oconee Animal Shelter and waiting to be discovered. There are dozens of healthy pets from which to choose.



Dog adoption fee: \$75. That fee includes inoculation against canine distemper, adenovirus type 2, coronavirus, parainfluenza, parvovirus vaccine MLV, parvovirus vaccine KV, kennel cough, as well as general worming, heartworm testing for dog over 6 months and spay or neuter surgery. In other words, as healthy a dog as you

could get.

Cat adoption fee: \$65. That fee includes inoculation against feline leukemia virus, feline leukemia testing for cats over 4 months old, as well as general worming and spay or neuter surgery. You can't get a healthier cat.



The shelter is on Route 123 in Seneca, across from "Square D", and open Monday through Friday 10 am until 5 pm; Saturdays for adoptions only 11 am until 3 pm. If you cannot get away and have access to the internet, you can do a "virtual tour" at oconeehumane.org or oconeepests.com.

(Ed: The pictured pets here are not available, but we have many others, just as good looking as these two.)

Miscellaneous...

Bi-Lo Bonus Cards are a big hit with the Humane Society, please renew yours next time your shop Bi-Lo. You will only have to mention that your charity is the Oconee County Humane Society and do this only once this year.

Last year, the Humane Society donated two dog mannequins named "Rainbow" and "Rescue" to the American Red Cross as teaching aids in their dog CPR classes. We are now close to scheduling the first CPR class at the shelter. Here Rainbow (on the left) and Rescue (on the right) are about to be saved by Peter and Betty under the watchful eye of Instructor Angela Clayton. Check the website for future dates and times or call the Humane Society at (864) 882 4719. Your dog would thank you, if he could.



The shelter needs help

VOLUNTEERS, to tend to the visiting public with animal adoptions, spay and neuter certificates, microchip processing, walking dogs, playing with the cats, and routine office work: lots to do. The shelter is open for adoptions Monday through Friday from 10 am until 5 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am until 3 pm. We need two (2) volunteers at a time at the front desk for those time periods. "You can work one or two whole or half days a week, two half days a month, every day, Saturdays only, every Tuesday; you name the combination, we'll work out whatever time frame is convenient for the volunteer", said Barbara Robinson. "I'll worry about the scheduling so you can focus on the animals", she added. If you are interested in helping us tend to our flock, please contact Barbara Robinson at (864) 638 8985 or on her cell at (864) 324 9011; no calls after 9 pm, please.

FOOD, is a popular item and can always be used in any quantity. The favorite dog food at the shelter is Retriever High Protein (Purina—available at TSS) and the favorite cat food at the shelter is anything Purina. But, hey, any other brand will do. We are hungry, not choosy.

CAT LITTER, is one of those critical items in maintaining our high hygienic standards. We go through buckets and bagfuls at a time. The shelter has no preference for brand and will take any type you can donate.

KURANDA DOG BEDS, keep animals off the concrete shelter floor. The few that are at the shelter now are much beloved, in high demand, and have proven to be nearly indestructible. After last issue's appeal, we still need another 20 medium and 30 large beds to accommodate all dogs. If you can help, please call Mike Hardin at 1 800 752 5308 or Carol Grandmougin at 1 800 494 7122 and tell them you want to donate a dog bed to the Oconee County Humane Society. "Woof", I mean, thanks!



Some Washington Post Style Invitational winners from years gone by. Alter any word by adding, subtracting or changing one letter and produce a new definition.

BOZONE (n): the substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

SARCHASM (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Animal Control officers earn national certification

Captain Michael Crenshaw of the Sheriff's Department reports that Animal Control Officers (l to r) Jaimee Paul and Kathy Carver have successfully completed the National Animal Control Association (NACA) 100 Training Academy course. Ms. Paul and Ms. Carver are the first certified officers in the County's history. Two more officers are scheduled to be certified later this year. According to Captain Crenshaw, "We are striving to provide expertly qualified personnel to care for and treat the animals in our County. This is a step in that direction as we continue to learn and provide animal control services to our citizens."

The certification process included 40 hours of classroom



work in Raleigh NC and Nashville TN and covered the following subjects: Animal Behavior, Rabies/Euthanasia, Animal Identification, Animal Diseases/Zoonosis, First Aid for Animals, Capture Techniques, Report Writing, Interview Techniques, Laws and Legal Proceedings, Evidence Collection, Courtroom Testimony, Crisis Intervention/Officer Safety, Constitutional Law/Civil Liability for the Animal Control Officer, Defensive Driving, Stress Management, Public Speaking, News Media Relations, Crime Scene Documentation, Self-Defense Against Humans, Investigative Resources, Bloodsports, Capture and Restraint of Large Animals and Class Presentations. This is a comprehensive curriculum that is sure to add to the professional development of Oconee Animal Control and a long way from the local dogcatcher concept. Please congratulate Jaimee and Kathy on their accomplishment next time you see them.

Thanks a BUNCH

Mr. & Mrs. John Lyons, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel F. Thrift, Mr. George D. Harper, Mr. Robert Kelley, Mr. Daniel R. Lione, Lowry Oil Co., Sunrise Farm B&B, Van Surdam Vintage Aircraft, Mouzon Family Dentistry, Just Aircraft LLC, Premier Auto Wash, Carolina Real Estate, Mr. William Austin, Pressley Auto Service, Clemson Auto Parts, Mr. Daniel M. Schmiedt, Mr. Dan Suddeth, First Citizens Bank, C. Brian Vaughn Enterprises, Mr. John P. Galbreath, Mr. Harrison Smith, Ms. Rachel Jones, Mountainworks Custom Home Design, Ms. Cecelia M. Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sconce, Zone 7 Nursery, Bountiland Properties, Grand Rental, Duke Energy, Lynn & Barbara Robinson for your hard work at the Fly-In, Rick Karawatka for the large adoption sign and Blue Ridge Bank for your continuing support, and Lee Doty of Net Doctors for your ongoing professional support.



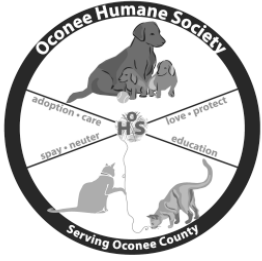
Happy tails...



From Erin of Stamford, CT: I adopted a three month old puppy named Liberty from the adoption event sponsored by the SPCA in Stamford CT in March of 2009. Without Petfinder.com I may never have heard of this event. It's been 3 months since Libby has come home and my friends and family stated they have never seen me happier! She is the cutest, funniest, most loving animal I have ever met. I grew up with a golden retriever who passed away 5 years ago and was nervous about getting a puppy of my own, however Libby put all my fears to rest! We hike, swim, and are always looking for new adventures. She is great with other animals and has lots of other puppy friends! Thank you Petfinder and SPCA of Connecticut for bringing this little angel into my life!

From Andrea of Cleveland, GA: We adopted two four-month old kittens, Dixie and Dottie, we found on Petfinder....they were my birthday present! Petfinder is a wonderful service for connecting pets and people. In addition, the animal shelter we adopted from was very thorough and professional throughout the adoption process. The kittens were well taken care of by the animal shelter and their foster mom. After the passing of our 17-year-old family cat, these two kittens have become the love of our lives. Thank you, Petfinder and Forsyth County Animal Shelter (Georgia), for your service to pet lovers.





Oconee Humane Society - Membership Application

P.O. Box 966 - West Union, SC 29696 - Tel. 864 882 4719

Name: _____

Street Address / PO Box: _____

Membership Categories
(check any number)

\$10 Youth

\$25 Family

\$50 Sustaining

\$150 Benefactor

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ (optional) Email: _____ (optional)

Additional donation to:

\$ _____ Spay/Neuter

\$ _____ Building Fund

\$ _____ General Fund

May we contact you regarding volunteer work? Yes ___ No ___

Comments or suggestions:

Total amount enclosed:

\$ _____

Please fill out this form, cut it on the line below, tear along the side and mail it with your check.



**Bulk Mailing Permit 3
West Union, SC 29696**

**Oconee Humane Society
P.O. Box 966
West Union, SC 29696**