



the Scoop

produced by and for OHS volunteers, donors and supporters

winter 2008

Animal Welfare Web Links

(<http://www.>)

oconeehumane.org
 americanhumane.org
 hsus.org and aspca.org
 petfinder.com
 greenvillehumane.org
 oconeepests.com (County site)
 guidestar.org

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OHS is a 501(C)(3) charity organized in the State of South Carolina.

Coming Events

Air Show
 Oconee Airport
 May 10, 2008

Fashion Show
 September 2008

Low Country Boil
 October 4, 2008

Mutt Strut
 South Cove Park
 November 1, 2008

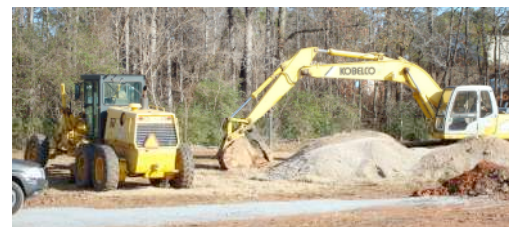
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Shelter Progress

Seneca, SC, February 2008 - Have you been by the new shelter site at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard yet? The old "Pledge Drive" sign is gone and a new one erected in its place. The Oconee County Roads and Bridges Department's earth moving equipment has moved onto the site. Dirt is excavated, partially undercut in places and graded in preparation for the building pad and parking lot layouts. Next is pouring the foundation before erecting the shelter frame and finishing the facility, 6 to 9 months. Then the fun begins: moving from the Camp Road facility.

In an attempt to stay within the construction budget, the Oconee Humane Society (OHS) has agreed to incorporate their space within the confines of the animal shelter, at least for now. OHS will have an office, retail sales space and a conference room in the new shelter. Given inevitable population growth and program expansion, OHS may opt to build a separate building on the site in the future. But that could be years down the road.



Lots of construction activity at 1925 Sandifer Boulevard in Seneca. Clearing and grading activities at the new Oconee County animal shelter site continue in preparation for pouring the building slab.

In the meanwhile, OHS will facilitate expanded training, education, spay and neuter and adoption programs. The conference room in the shelter will be used for employee and volunteer training, public education and outreach efforts.

OHS has also come to an agreement with Oconee Animal Control to start managing adoptions at the new shelter. Although the exact framework is yet to be developed, the idea is to have OHS assume responsibility for moving animals from the facility as soon as they become available for adoption. Because of this, we will be looking for volunteers to staff the shelter six days a week. If you would have some time on your hands come this fall and beyond, please let us know.

This project stands as a good example of public and private interests working together toward a common goal: the welfare of stray and abandoned animals in Oconee County. As partners in this goal, OHS donated the use of their land and the County of Oconee is funding the construction of this long overdue animal shelter. We are delighted.

Equine Stress in Oconee County - by Jeff Marcengill

Walhalla, SC - Starting in the fall of 2007 until the present time we have seen an increase in starved or neglected horses in Oconee County. The purpose of this article is to explain why we are seeing this increase and explore some of the natural and market conditions that negatively affect horse ownership. While the problems outlined below are not an excuse for poor ownership practices. Cumulative drought conditions since 2002 were felt in 2007 with the absence of fodder in pastures

and poor hay cuttings. Fescue, considered a cool season grass, is very common in Oconee County and does poorly in hot and dry climates. Bermuda grass, considered a warm season grass, thrives in hot climates with adequate moisture but dies off in cooler weather. In the winter of 2007, a late frost killed the early growth of Bermuda; then drought conditions severely affected normal growth rates of both Bermuda and fescue grasses. As supply for hay decreased, demand increased and prices (over)



MEMORIALS

July 2007 — January 2008



Karen & Chuck Sconce, in memory of Phil Pierce.

Marie Pickens, in memory of Ruth Sheriff.

Kathy Smith, in memory of Francis & Katherine King.

David Medford, in memory of Irwin Freeman.

Bill & Carolyn Barnette, in memory of Irwin Freeman.

Jean Stappler, in memory of "Oliver", beloved pet of Carl & Faith Schrader.

Mr. & Mrs. George Robinson, in memory of "Ivory"

Elizabeth & Franklin Clary, in memory of their son Dewey Clary.

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Cochran, in memory of Wanda Norris.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cochran, in memory of Wanda Norris.

Mary Cochran, in memory of Wanda Norris.

Casey Cochran, in memory of Wanda Norris.

Kathy & Ronald Smith, in memory of Ruth King Vickery.

James R. Harris, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Martha L. Derrick, in memory of Gene Schacht.

David R. Stone, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Golden Corner Bridge Club, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Marx, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Betty P. Gibson, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Peterson, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Lindsey Butler, in memory of Gene Schacht.

Chuck & Heidi Skarritt, in memory of "all our pets".

Mrs. Walter Grant, in memory of "Monique".

Kathy & Peter Hens, in memory of "Willie".

Tributes

Elaine Ward, in honor of Susie Marcengill.

Dave & June Huff, in honor of Peg & Chet Mahan.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Cochran, in honor of Mickey, Yvette Norris.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cochran, in honor of Mickey, Yvette Norris.

Mary Cochran, in honor of Mickey & Yvette Norris.

Patricia Whitten, in honor of Gayle Griffin & Snickers and Lulu.

Robin Young, in honor of Ann Miller.

Mr. Pat Sterling, in honor of KKPOA.

Mr. Pat Sterling, in honor of his yoga students at the KK Fitness Center.

(Equine, from page 1)

soared. Currently hay is being imported from states as far away as Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee. Because of demand and the more expensive transport costs, the price of hay has doubled and more between 2006 and 2007.

A quality round bale of coastal hay sold for an average of \$30 in 2006, in 2007 it sold for \$80. Along with hay cost increasing, feed prices also continue to soar. Consider that, depending on other grain supplements and grasses available, a horse requires up to 15 lbs. of hay per day just to maintain body weight and you can see the financial dilemma some horse owners find themselves in.

With the high cost of feed and hay, one may say to oneself, "Why not cull down and sell off surplus animals?" Well, first and foremost, how many of us would sell off our dogs when times get tough? Horse owners are like other pet owners – their horses are their family. So emotionally it is difficult to let go. Secondly, there is no market for horses. Broke, socialized horses that sold for over \$1,000 in 2006 sold for \$35 in December 2007. Part of the problem is the overabundance of horses. A major contributing factor in the declining market is the equine killer plants that have been shut down. We, as humane people, say "Hooray" for that.



But closing of the plants means there is no demand for available horses. In 2006, 104,899 horses were slaughtered and in 2007 the count was 29,055. I am not a fan of the slaughterhouses; however, some type of balance must be restored and I would prefer that slaughterhouses are better monitored for humane processing methods. It is a tragedy that any of these beautiful creatures need to be slaughtered. These conditions have caused hardship for many of our local horse owners. With gas, utility and food prices rising and minimal wage increases, people are struggling.

And finally, we tend to find that people who allow their livestock to be affected often do not "see" that the animal is being neglected. Whether this phenomenon is due to guilt or helplessness, I am not sure.

Unfortunately, depending on the arrival of spring and amount of rainfall in the Upstate, we may just be seeing the beginning of neglect in the county. The cumulative effect will not end if we experience drought conditions in 2008 and hay and feed prices will not recede. If the slaughterhouses remain closed and no market is available to sell surplus and/or family "pets", we may well see more neglected and starved horses in early 2008 than in all of the fall/winter of 2007.

(Jeff Marcengill owns The Feed Bucket in Walhalla)

Time to Lssk Ahead

Six years ago the Oconee Humane Society bought 4 acres along Route 123 and started to raise the funds to build a long overdue new animal shelter. Sam Thrift donated and erected a 5,000 square foot steel building shell for a start. Architectural plans were developed, permits were acquired and it seemed all was well. Until it became apparent that raising the funds would take years longer than anticipated. Rather than wait, the Humane Society Board decided to offer the use of its land to the County of Oconee with the condition they erect an animal shelter and Humane Society office and adoption center on the site. The County accepted our offer and that was then.

This is now. As of this writing, we are weeks away from the County issuing its purchase order for the building; that will signal the start of the contractor moving on site and begin a building process that is supposed to last between 6 and 9 months. As you saw on page 1, the Oconee County Roads and Bridges department has been grading the site in preparation.

However, just getting the animal shelter up and running is not the end. As part of an operating agreement with Oconee Animal Control, it is also the beginning of our animal adoption efforts. But before we can make that a reality, we need to equip our office, small retail store and conference / training room with office equipment and furniture of all sorts. We don't yet know exactly how much money is required, but do know that it will not be cheap.

How about digging into the old mattress and helping us out? On the last page of this newsletter, you will find a Membership Application that doubles as a donation notice. Please fill it out, cut or tear it from the newsletter and, with your check, mail it to the address indicated.

Of course, don't forget to ***renew your 2008 OHS membership*** while you're at it. Thanks very much for your generosity.



For the Sake of the Animals

"I hate going to animal shelters, no matter how organized, no matter how clean. So when a friend asked me to help look for her missing cat at the Greenville animal shelter, I went with a degree of hesitation and a boatload of bias. While waiting in line and in one haul, I watched 22 kittens and 5 still nursing adult cats pass through the lobby and into the receiving area. Then, for the next 30 minutes, I watched one unwanted animal after another as they were being dropped off. Finally I was allowed into the back room to search for the missing pet, only to find that, of the many faces staring back, none were the grey-and-tan one I was looking for. Like so many times before, I found myself enraged by the time I left." (*)

So who is to blame? When someone turned in those 5 still nursing mothers and 22 kittens, who should bear responsibility? Were they, in fact, "found on the property"? Did they even belong to the person who turned them in? Perhaps a Good Samaritan? Who is responsible for these 5 nursing mothers? We know one thing for certain: unchecked, dogs and cats will keep reproducing.

An October 2005 HSUS report issued on one of our upstate (SC) shelters recommended that "... the burden of responsibility



must be shared by all members of the community. It is important that the community understands the impact of spaying and neutering; that processing and euthanasia information regarding animals that are surrendered at the shelter is freely and openly shared". So here's a sobering fact for our Oconee County community: there is a significant chance that the animal(s) you surrender will be euthanized. Don't blame Oconee County or any other animal control; they perform their duties under the law and collect animals as fast as the community surrenders them.

But all is not bad news. We know that spaying, neutering and education work when it comes to controlling the millions of stray animals that litter our roads. Want to help do something about it? Spay or neuter your pet and / or get involved with the Humane Society or any charitable organization that promotes the health and welfare of our companion animals. Then you can look your pet straight in the eye and know you're helping. Woof, he says.

(*) *Jordana Magonigal, Greenville Magazine, July 2007*

Neologism (n.) - new words or new meanings for existing words...

Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Huddle or perish, life is tough down under.

The only animal to spend the entire winter on Antarctica's open ice does so with some finely tuned and clever survival strategies and adaptations. The emperor is the largest of 17 penguin species and – in March - after they spend a few weeks courting, the female lays an egg, helps roll it onto her mate's feet and takes off. And the male, egg on feet, is left standing in the middle of a colony of hundreds of similarly charged males, wondering if she'll remember his particular unique scent when she returns. That is the only way she'll recognize him. For the next 2 months, the male shuffles around, does not eat and lives through the worst part of the winter in a huddle with the rest of the colony.

Nature has provided the emperor with excellent insulation in the form of several layers of scale-like feathers and it takes very strong winds (over 60 knots) to even get them ruffled. They have a very small bill and flippers which conserve heat. Their nasal chambers also recover much of the heat that is normally lost during exhalation. Emperor penguins have large reserves of energy-giving body fat and a low level of activity during winter. They are also very social creatures, and one of their survival mechanisms is an urge to huddle together to keep warm. This huddling instinct means that they do not defend any territory. As a result, the emperor penguin is the only species of penguin that is not territorial.

Another special adaptation of the emperor penguin is the ability to "recycle" its own body heat. The emperor's arteries and veins lie close together so that blood is pre-cooled on the way to the bird's feet, wings and bill and warmed on the way back to the heart. Emperor's feet are adapted to the icy conditions, since they have strong claws for gripping the ice. On a social level, huddling behavior is an extraordinary act of co-operation in the face of a common hardship, and emperors take this act of group co-operation to its extreme, they take turns to occupy the warmest and coldest positions in the huddle. On windy days, those on the windward edge feel the cold more than those in the center and down-wind. One by one they peel off the mob and shuffle, egg on feet, down the flanks of the huddle to rejoin it on the lee. They

follow one another in a continuous procession, passing through the warm center of the huddle and eventually returning back to the windward edge. Because of this constant circulation the huddle gradually moves downwind. During a 48 hour blizzard, the huddle may shift as much as 600 feet.



An Emperor Penguin huddle in Antarctica

Two months after she left - about the time the chick is hatched – the female returns to her mate and delivers regurgitated fish and squid as food for the chick. Then the female assumes responsibility for the chick and the male takes off to the open sea to hunt for food. The chicks stay sheltered in their mother's brood pouch for two months. If the chick falls out of that warm spot, it can freeze to death in as little as two minutes. As the young penguins grow, adults leave them in groups while they shuttle between the colony and the open sea catching fish, returning to the colony and feeding their young. This incubating, hatching and fledging process takes around 8 months. At the end – by December – when the Antarctic weather has warmed somewhat, the ice the penguins occupy begins to break up, bringing open water closer to the emperor penguin rookery. The young penguins have reached the age of independence: old enough to take to the seas and catch for their own food. And, nature comes full circle.

(NGS; HSUS; Washington DC 2008)



Pet Mannequin Names

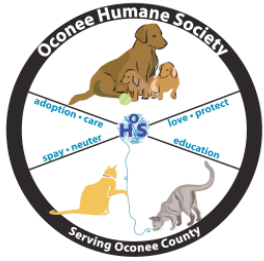
Realistic dog mannequins are designed for practicing rescue breathing, pulse check, chest compressions, choking rescue, drowning rescue, bandaging, splinting, back boarding and other first aid techniques.

The Oconee Humane Society has a new project in coordination with The Red Cross of Oconee County. The Red Cross is preparing to offer animal first aid classes and we have agreed to furnish them with two dog mannequins which are needed for CPR instruction. Many pet owners will want to take advantage of these classes



and we hope to make space available to teach them when the new Animal Shelter is completed. Meanwhile we'll let you know when and where the classes will be conducted.

We are also developing a contest for students in various local schools to name the mannequins. One is a boy and one is a girl. The deadline for entries to be submitted is March 6th. A prize will be given to one student in each category. Entries will be judged by the Oconee Humane Society's Board of Directors at their March 11th meeting. We hope students will help us have fun with this project and enter some clever names. – Betty Duffield



Oconee Humane Society - 2008 Membership Application

P.O. Box 966 - West Union, SC 29696 - Tel. 864 944 8155

Name: _____

Street Address / PO Box: _____

Membership Categories
(check any number)

- \$10 Youth
- \$25 Family
- \$50 Sustaining
- \$150 Benefactor

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

(optional)

(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.



www.oconeehumane.org



<p>Bulk Mailing Permit 3</p> <p>West Union, SC 29696</p>
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Oconee Humane Society
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