



# Paw Prints



produced by and for OHS volunteers, donors and supporters

winter 2010

Animal Welfare Links  
 oconeehumane.org  
 oconeepests.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  
 www.scsos.com

## Oconee Humane Society Launches New Web Site February 15

The Oconee Humane Society (OHS) has partnered with Mediasation Web Development in Greenville to build a new and easily maintained OHS website. The new site features a content management system that allows the newly created OHS Website Committee to rapidly and easily update the site, so site information should never get out of date.

The site is easily navigated by clicking on the headings listed on the top of the page:

\* The "Donate" page provides for an easy way for visitors to simply and securely donate to OHS via credit card. Other ways folks can help are also listed on the page.

\* The "Volunteer" page provides comprehensive information on all of the ways OHS can use volunteer help, as well as a information that allows future volunteers to easily make contact with the volunteer coordinator.

\* The "News" page will be regularly updated with informative articles and will also provide a repository for past issues of this newsletter.

If you have ideas, time, or expertise that would help us improve the site, the OHS Website Committee would welcome your help. Contact Website Committee chair Dan Schmiedt at [willys@clermson.edu](mailto:willys@clermson.edu).

### Coming Events

- \* Strut Your Mutt  
Sat. April 17  
Clemson Y Beach
- \* Fly-In (spring)
- \* Low Country  
Boil (fall)

For up to date times and other events, please check [www.oconeehumane.org](http://www.oconeehumane.org)

\* Front-and-center is the "Adopt" page, which gives site visitors instant, real-time access to the adoptable animals currently at the shelter. Clicking on each picture allows the visitor to get more details and pictures of the animal in which they are interested.

\* The Spay-Neuter page offers information on OHS's Spay Neuter Program and allows anyone to request information on a spay-neuter certificate.

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# MEMORIALS

## June 3 - December 12, 2009



Marcia Collins, in memory of  
Mary Dean Long.

Marcia Collins, in memory of "Callie",  
beloved pet of Sara Moore.

Janice & Rick Bond, in memory of "Taz",  
beloved pet of Karen & Pete Mattern.

Janice & Rick Bond, in memory of  
"Panda", their beloved pet.

Carter Harbin, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Margaret Powell, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Dianne Neville, in memory of "Oliver",  
beloved pet of Stacy Neville.

Frances Childs, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Dennis Woods, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Luzanne Griffith, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Mr. & Mrs Gary Hammond,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Deborah Thrift, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Mr. & Mrs. John Montgomery,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smith,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Oconee County Farm Bureau,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Oconee County Humane Society,  
in memory of Chuck Bateman.

Bill & Anne Coscioni,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Pat & Gil Huggins,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Mack & Betty McFadden,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Terry & Cindy Pardew,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Walhalla Elementary School,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Columbia Farms of Georgia,  
in memory of Melissa Ables.

Thomas Dellinger, in memory of  
Melissa Ables.

Mrs. Bruce Elmore,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Judy Powell, in memory of  
Jack Whitener.

Jack Hartley, Jr., in memory of  
Jack Whitener.

Mrs & Mr. C.S. David, Jr.,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Tinsley,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Williams, Benator & Libby,LLP,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Mr. & Mrs. Carey Horne,  
in memory of Mrs. Derrill Ables.

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Smalley,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Stan & Cindy Story,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Janie Whitener, in memory of  
Jack Whitener.

Mr. & Mrs. William Kuhns,  
in memory of Jack Whitener.

Oconee Humane Society,  
in memory of Charles Weber.

Jean Stappler, in memory of "Moe &  
Gretchen" beloved pets of the Sconces.

Jay Kennedy, in memory of "Moe &  
Gretchen" beloved pets of the Sconces.

Chuck & Karen Sconce, in memory of  
"Moe & Gretchen" their beloved pets.

Jeanie Hess,  
in memory of Scott Hess.

Steven Sconce, in memory of "Moe &  
Gretchen" beloved pets of the Sconces.

Chelsey Kennedy, in memory of "Moe &  
Gretchen" beloved pets of the Sconces.

Padgett Business Services,  
in memory of Andrew Fitzsimons.

Linda Redmann, in memory of "Smidge"  
beloved pet of Mr. & Mrs. Terry Keane.

Linda Redmann, in memory of "Sam" be-  
loved pet of Mr. & Mrs. John Passafiune.

### Tributes

Marcia Collins, in honor of  
Barbara & Larry Johns.

Harriet Salley, in honor of  
Janice Bond.

Linda Redmann, in honor of  
Peter Hens.

## Volunteering at the Humane Society

I want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers who help us out at the Humane Society. We sure could not do it all without you! Since I have taken over the scheduling and training of the volunteers it has been so refreshing to meet such wonderfully dedicated folks. Sure there have been challenges, but the best part is knowing how much all these folks not only love animals, but put in a great deal of time to help them find their forever homes and help us tell folks the importance of spaying and neutering their pets.

We have recently started a volunteer orientation and will begin specific "job" training this year. We do seem a bit short staffed at times, but those who are here with us truly go the extra mile. We have some new challenges ahead of us and some new committees forming and are in need of some more volunteers.

We have many ways in which we need assistance. If you can dedicate anywhere from a few hours a day to even an hour or two per week, we can place you in the spot that is just right for you! Listed below are a few areas you can choose from:

**Front Desk:** Assist with sale of spay/neuter certificates, assist public with choosing an animal for adoption, and process donations. Shifts are Monday-Friday 10am-1pm or 1pm-5pm or Saturday 11am-3pm.



Chris Delmonico

**Socialization:** Assist by helping to walk and socialize dogs, or play with and socialize cats. Choose a front desk shift above, or choose specific days/times.

**Grooming:** Bathe, brush and clip nails for dogs and cats, help them to look their best! Choose a front desk shift above, or choose specific days/times.

**Fundraising/Special Events:** There are many opportunities to be part of fundraising! You can sell tickets to events, interact with the public on behalf of the Humane Society, or greeting visitors; there are many functions to helping with events. The days and times for these events vary.

**Humane Education Program:** Deliver presentations to local schools, youth groups and community organizations, or act as a guide for groups touring our facility. The days/times for these vary.

**Special Focused Committees:** Assistance is needed for things like our newsletter, website and other specialized areas. Some of these can be done from your home, and some require meeting at the shelter. Days/times vary.

For more information or to obtain a volunteer application and orientation schedule, contact Chris Delmonico at 864-647-7244 or 864-888-7650.

## Stopping Pet Overpopulation Starts With You!

Spaying or neutering your pet is an important decision for pet owners. As animal lovers who value our pets, it is important we understand the impact of this decision.

### It happens everywhere.

In every community, in every state, there are homeless animals. In the U.S. as a whole, there are an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year. Half of these animals are adopted and, tragically, the other half are euthanized. These are healthy, sweet pets that would have made great companions.



The number of homeless animals varies by state—in some states there are as many as 300,000 homeless animals euthanized in animal shelters every year. These are not the offspring of homeless "street" animals—among them are the puppies and kittens of cherished family pets and even purebreds.

**Your pet's offspring could become shelter animals.** Many people believe that their pet's puppies or kittens would never become homeless shelter animals. But the reality is that every time a dog finds his way under the  
(continued on Page 5, STOPPING)



### BEING LOST -- FROM A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE

The gate was left open, one bright sunny day  
So I thought I would go, explore, run, and play.  
Seeing new things, this is such fun!  
But where do I go, now that I'm done?

Was it back this way, or maybe that  
Where is my home? I want to go back.  
I have on my collar, it's red, white and blue  
But, I don't have my tags to give someone a clue.

A man comes and gets me, puts me in his truck  
He's taking me home, Oh, what luck!  
Wait a minute, this isn't my home  
I'm stuck in a cage, scared and alone.

People come see me, so I wag my tail  
I love the attention I get in this jail.  
The food is okay, and the bed is too  
But I really miss home, yet what can I do?

I miss my yard, my bed, and my ball  
But, I miss my master the most of all.  
Where is my master? It must have been weeks  
I know he will come. He really loves me.

Then someone takes me, down a long hall  
I'm confused and uncertain, I stare at the wall.  
I feel a prick, things start to go dark.  
I think of my master and me in the park.

I'm going to sleep now with him on my mind  
Little do I know, my fate has been signed.  
I pray when I wake, he will be there  
Holding me close, stroking my hair.

I'm sorry I strayed, who knew the cost?  
But it doesn't have to happen when dogs get lost.

Lisa Williams

Dedicated to the "stray" animals that do not get reclaimed.

### Jean's Story - by Lindsey Addis

On December 8, 2009, the Oconee Humane Society regretfully accepted Jean Stappler's resignation as President and Board member. Jean Stappler set the standard for those of us who worked with her for 15+ years as officers, board members and volunteers. Not one of us as individuals will be able to fill her shoes. We can only hope that maybe twelve of us can come close.

Jean came to the Humane Society in the early 90's and began fundraising efforts for our Spay Neuter Assistance Program and the old animal shelter. With a group of about 20, Jean formed the Oconee Humane Society Auxiliary. This dynamic group planned and ran all fund-raisers and events. From there Jean moved on to Board Member and President for many years.

Jean's ability to corral large groups of volunteers and organize them on short notice was never more visible when we found ourselves in charge of 150+ cats and 10 or so dogs confiscated in a cruelty case in 1997. She found a barn, got fencing, cages, carriers and volunteers to daily care and feed for all of these animals for weeks. Once the case was resolved, she found rescues, arranged transportation and found homes for all the remaining animals.

Once the Board decided to purchase the land the shelter is now on, Jean worked non-stop for years to raise the money to pay for the land and hopefully build our own shelter. She was instrumental in working out the final agreement to lease the land to the County and to set up our agreement to work in the new shelter. So, our community would not be in the fortunate position of having a new shelter, a cooperative arrangement to find the most homes possible for our shelter pets and a long time spay neuter program were it not for the efforts of Jean Stappler.

Jean continues to advocate for animals with Partners for Animal Shelter Adoptions. As the Oconee County Humane Society, we look forward to her success and wish for her all the best in the future.



Jean Stappler

## Low Country Boil Fundraiser

Saturday, October 3rd was a beautiful fall afternoon for the Humane Society to sponsor the Low Country Boil fundraiser. It was held at the Funny Duck Farm in Seneca and the location is a fun filled area, especially for children. Aside from the 11 ducks residing



*Fiona Swarr & friend*

there, one will find 9 dogs of assorted breeds and personalities, 3 horses, 1 donkey, affectionately answering to Darla. Sharing the pond with mallard, moscovy and pintail ducks, you will discover a number of beavers, geese, and the blue heron living there.

This is the perfect location for our fund raiser. You just park your car and you are chauffeured by golf cart to the area where the excitement begins. Guests are served appetizers and spirits of choice. A delicious Low Country Boil is served and the meal is rounded out by home-made desserts.

The fun continues with the much anticipated winners of the silent auction donations and \$1.00 raffle prizes. The drawing was held for the 50/50 raffle and the lucky \$1100.00 winner was Stephanie Lee of Seneca. It was a great time for the \$20.00 donation for

the dinner and it was once again a sell out. Many thanks to all of those who attended our event.

Many thanks go to the following local merchants who graciously donated our silent auction gifts: Heartwarmers, Thraves Jewelers, Porta Portese, The Arts Company, The Purple Sunflower, The Red Door, Simplicity Hair, Sweetreats, Perry Ellis International, Chickasaw

Point, Oconee Country Club and Falcon's Lair. Also thanks for donations from private



*The gathering crowd*

donors. And a BIG thank

you to Palmetto Spirits for the donation of wine, Wilson Processing Company for discounting food and Global Graphics for donation of the 50/50 raffle tickets. Due to the generosity of these fine people, we are able to raise more money for our mission. We look forward to planning the 2010 Low Country Boil and are hoping for a bigger success each year.

*By Diane Kelley*

*(STOPPING, continued from Page 3)*

fence to visit the neighbor's female dog, or the indoor/outdoor cat comes back home pregnant again, the result is a litter of dogs or cats. Even if they are placed into homes, it is still possible for them to end up in shelters once they become "hard to handle," or for them to reproduce further and for the next generation of puppies or kittens to wind up homeless.

Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide more than 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100-percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

### Not just for dogs and cats

When being conscientious about the pet overpopulation, don't forget to spay or neuter your pet rabbit.

Rabbits reproduce faster than dogs or cats and often end up in shelters where they must be euthanized. Spaying or neutering rabbits can reduce hormone-driven behavior such as lunging, mounting, spraying and boxing. Spaying females can prevent ovarian, mammary and uterine cancers, which can be prevalent in mature females.

Millions of pet deaths each year are a needless tragedy. By spaying and neutering your pet, you can be an important part of the solution. Contact your veterinarian today and be sure to let your family and friends know that they should do the same.

*(Adapted from "Why You Should Spay or Neuter Your Pet", the Humane Society of the United States, October 13, 2009)*

## Dog Aggression

A dog's bark may be worse than his bite, but most of us would rather not find out one way or the other. Growling, baring teeth, snarling, snapping, and biting are all aggressive behaviors. Although these messages are among the handful of communication tools available to dogs, they're generally unacceptable to humans.

Because aggression is so complex, and because the potential consequences are so serious, we recommend that you get professional in-home help from an animal behavior specialist if your dog is displaying aggressive behavior.

**Dominance aggression** is motivated by a challenge to a dog's social status or to his control of a social interaction. Dogs are social animals and view their human families as their social group or "pack." Based on the outcomes of social challenges among group members, a dominance hierarchy or "pecking order" is established.

If your dog perceives his own ranking in the hierarchy to be higher than yours, he'll probably challenge you in certain situations. Because people don't always understand canine communication, you may inadvertently challenge your dog's social position. A dominantly aggressive dog may growl if he is disturbed when resting or sleeping or if he is asked to give up a favorite spot, such as the couch or the bed.

Physical restraint, even when done in a friendly manner (like hugging), may also cause your dog to respond aggressively. Reaching for your dog's collar, or reaching over his head to pet him, could also be interpreted as a challenge for dominance. Dominantly aggressive dogs are often described as "Jekyll and Hydes" because they can be very friendly when not challenged. Dominance aggression may be directed at people or at other animals. The most common reason for fights among dogs in the same family is instability in the dominance hierarchy.

**Fear-motivated aggression** is a defensive reaction and occurs when a dog believes he is in danger of being harmed. Remember that it's your dog's percep-



tion of the situation, not your actual intent, which determines your dog's response. For example, you may raise your arm to throw a ball, but your dog may bite you because he believes he's protecting himself from being hit. A dog may also be fearfully aggressive when approached by other dogs.

**Protective, territorial, and possessive aggression** are all very similar, and involve the defense of valuable resources. Territorial aggression is usually associated with defense of property, and that "territory" may extend well past the boundaries of your yard. For example, if you regularly walk your dog around the neighborhood and allow him to urine-mark, he may think his territory includes the entire block. Protective aggression usually refers to aggression directed toward people or animals whom a dog perceives as threats to his family, or pack.

Dogs become possessively aggressive when defending their food, toys, or other valued objects, including items as peculiar as tissues stolen from the trash.

**Redirected aggression** is a relatively common type of aggression but one that is often misunderstood by pet owners. If a dog is somehow provoked by a person or animal he is unable to attack, he may redirect this aggression onto someone else. For example, two family dogs may become excited, and bark and growl in response to another dog passing through the front yard; or two dogs confined behind a fence may turn and attack each other because they can't attack an intruder. Predation is usually considered to be a unique kind of aggressive behavior because it's motivated by the intent to obtain food, and not primarily by the intent to harm or intimidate.

### **Individual (aggressive behavior) variations.**

The likelihood of a dog to show aggressive behavior in any particular situation varies markedly from dog to dog. Some dogs tend to respond aggressively with very little stimulation. Others may be subjected to all kinds of threatening stimuli and events and yet never attempt to bite.

The threshold that prompts aggressive behavior is influenced by both environmental and genetic factors. If this threshold is low, a dog will be more likely to

bite. Raising the threshold makes a dog less likely to respond aggressively. This threshold can be raised using behavior modification techniques, but the potential for change is influenced by a dog's gender, age, breed, general temperament, and the way in which the behavior modification techniques are chosen and implemented.

Because working with aggressive dogs can be potentially dangerous, behavior modification techniques should only be attempted by, or under the guidance of, an experienced animal behavior professional who understands animal learning theory and behavior.

#### **What you can do.**

First, check with your veterinarian to rule out medical causes for the aggressive behavior. Seek professional advice. An aggression problem will not go away by itself. Working with aggression problems requires in-home help from an animal behavior specialist.

Take precautions. Your first priority is to keep people and other animals safe. Supervise, confine, and/or restrict your dog's activities until you can obtain professional guidance. You are liable for your dog's behavior. If you must take your dog out in public, consider a cage-type muzzle as a temporary precaution, and remember that some dogs are clever enough to get a muzzle off.

Avoid exposing your dog to situations where he is more likely to show aggression. You may need to keep him confined to a safe room and limit his contact with people.

If your dog is possessive of toys or treats, or territorial in certain locations, prevent access and you'll prevent the problem. In an emergency, bribe him with something better than what he has. For example, if he steals your shoe, trade him the shoe for a piece of chicken.

Spay or neuter your dog. Intact dogs are more likely to display dominance, territorial, and protective aggressive behavior.

#### **What not to do.**

Punishment won't help and, in fact, will often make the problem worse. If the aggression is motivated by fear, punishment will make your dog more fearful, and therefore more aggressive. Attempting to punish or dominate a dominantly aggressive dog may actually lead him to escalate his behavior to retain his dominant position. This is likely to result in a bite or a severe attack. Punishing territorial, possessive, or protective aggression is likely to elicit additional defensive aggression.

*Adapted from material originally developed by applied animal behaviorists at the Dumb Friends League, Denver, Colorado. All rights reserved.*

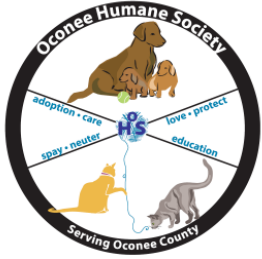
## **Did You Know?**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the nation's largest animal protection organization, backed by 11 million of us, or 1 of every 30 Americans. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty. Visit the HSUS on-line at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).

### **TeeHee**

- \*\* No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- \*\* I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger, then it hit me.





# Oconee Humane Society - 2010 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you give us your email address and you would like to help save future print and postage costs, receive your next Paw Prints by email and circle either YES or NO **Go Green!***

- Additional donation to:
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Spay/Neuter
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund

May we contact you regarding volunteer work? (circle) **YES** or **NO**  
Comments or suggestions:

Total amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

We now accept MasterCard and Visa. Please circle one: **M** **V**  
16 digit Number \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / **20** \_\_\_\_

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



Return Service Requested

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