



# TAILS FROM THE CITY

Volume 2,  
Issue 1

1st Quarter  
2009

## Oklahoma Alliance For Animals

*Working toward the day when no healthy dog  
or cat of reasonable health is euthanized  
merely because he or she has no home.*

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Read *Tails from the City*  
online at:

[www.animalallianceok.org](http://www.animalallianceok.org)

### ADOPT A LITTLE OKIE



March 28

April 25

May 30

## WHEELS OF HOPE PROJECT TO HELP IN RESCUE/RELOCATION

We are almost at the half way point in our effort to raise the funds to purchase the *Wheels of Hope* cargo van that the OAA will use to save neglected, abused, and homeless animals.

The need for this van is critical. The almost daily calls from individuals, animal rescue groups, and law enforcement personnel pleading for assistance in rescuing animals seem to be increasing. It may be due to the faltering economy; the OAA Animal Abuse/Neglect Awareness Program among law enforcement; or the recent media attention to the plight of animals in puppy mills. Whatever the reason, the fact is the OAA and area animal rescue groups are increasingly in need of emergency animal transport capability. The *Wheels of Hope* van will literally be a life saver for the neglected, abused and

homeless animals in our community and beyond.

A special Thank You! to those who have contributed. For those still considering a contribution, please know your financial support is desperately needed. We simply cannot do this without you. No amount is too small (or too large!) and every penny contributed will go toward the purchase of this rescue vehicle. The OAA is a 501c(3) non-profit and is solely dependent on volunteers and contributions in our efforts to rescue animals. Please help us finish this critical project.

Thanks to Mike and Kathy Nobles for their hard work spearheading this important campaign. We are so very close. Please help now. So many animals will be saved because of your support.



Please send your *tax-deductible donation* today to:

Jamee Suarez-Howard  
Oklahoma Alliance for Animals  
Wheels of Hope Project  
2642 East 21st Street, Suite 120  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

918-742-3700

[www.animalallianceok.org](http://www.animalallianceok.org)

## IN THE CAPITOL ...

During the current legislative session, animals have experienced a new voice in the Oklahoma capitol. The Pet Quality Assurance Act, sometimes called the 'puppy mill bill' passed through the Oklahoma House and will now face the Senate. The bill provides minimum standards for facilities which sell or otherwise transfer over 35 dogs, cats, kittens or puppies in a year.

Another bill has been proposed that will remove the population restriction in a little known Oklahoma law that pre-

vents counties with populations under 200,000 from enacting animal cruelty codes or opening a public animal shelter. Some opposition to the bill has included fears about it restricting the use of hunting or farm dogs, activities which require dogs to be running at large, but this bill does not include any provisions for limiting dogs in these circumstances.

We encourage members to become aware of how these issues affect animals in our state, and to contact your legislators.



Cage.. after cage...after cage..  
after cage ...after.....



# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



OAA President Jamee Suarez-Howard and Rufus.

As we move into our sixth year, it's exciting to see how our programs grow every year to include more animals and more partnership organizations as well.

Each February the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals celebrates *It's Hip to Snip*, a month-long spay/neuter event aimed at maximizing the time-frame before the first litters of spring are born. This year our total was 1,135. If only half of those dogs and cats had 'just one litter', thousands of unwanted animals were prevented.

The spirit of teamwork that grows every year is one of the most exciting parts of this season. This year we were honored to be the target organization of Paw Law, a student animal welfare organization from the University of Tulsa School of Law. Paw Law raised spay/neuter funds for *It's Hip to Snip*. The group attended court hearings during cruelty cases, and much more.

The Dog Dish, a beautiful Tulsa Dog Boutique, sold over one thousand paper paw prints designed by Paw Law, for \$1 each to add to our spay/neuter efforts.

The staff of SpayOK, the north Tulsa low-income spay/neuter clinic, worked overtime during February to provide sterilization services to nearly 750 dogs and cats.

Tulsa Animal Welfare and the City of Tulsa included *It's Hip to Snip* spay/neuter information in water bills for the third year, reminding Tulsans about the city-wide spay/neuter law on pets. The law reduces shelter intake and euthanasia's in Tulsa.

For the third year, our spay/neuter efforts reached remote areas of the state providing programs in southeast Oklahoma and other rural areas in conjunction with Homeward Bound Humane Society.

As President of the OAA, I look forward to seeing our team grow even more in the year ahead as we reach out to help more animals than ever before.

Sincerely,

Jamee Suarez-Howard, President  
Oklahoma Alliance for Animals

## YEARLY EVENT BREAKS A RECORD!

The Oklahoma Alliance for Animals fifth annual *It's Hip to Snip* program provided 1,135 spay/neuter services for animals living in low-income households in Oklahoma. Seven hundred twenty-eight sterilizations were provided in the greater Tulsa area, and 407 rural homes had pets spayed or neutered through the assistance of the OAA.

This program is aimed at promoting spay/neuter efforts, awareness of the tragedy of overpopulation, and the need to help reduce the numbers of unwanted animals entering the city shelter each year.

OAA State Outreach Coordinator Ruth Steinberger said, "By getting pets spayed or neutered before the first litters of spring are born, the tragic cycles that start each May are halted before they start. Sterilizing pets before spring is like



The phone never stopped ringing during *It's Hip to Snip*. Deb Stellas, SpayOK.

getting 6 surgeries for the price of one!" Of course, efficiency is not the only reason to celebrate *It's Hip to Snip* each February. Untold animal suffering is prevented with each "first litter" that is prevented through these efforts.

OAA extends a warm thank you to our partners which include SpayOK, Paw



The waiting room at SpayOK was packed!

Law of TU Law School, The Dog Dish, Homeward Bound Humane Society of Durant, the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association, Tulsa Animal Welfare, and the many others who helped.

## UPDATE

**Sapulpa Oklahoma: Cody Wayne Hahn is accused of three counts of animal cruelty. He is accused of the heinous act of intentionally dragging a small dog behind his SUV at a high rate of speed causing horrible, excruciating and life-threatening injuries. According to an eye witness, Hahn was assisted by a white female who called the dog to her allegedly to commit the crime.**

**Oklahoma Alliance for Animals has posted a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identification of this woman. If you have information on this case, call Deputy Rick Ishmael at 918-851-4440.**

## ONE LITTLE ANGEL'S MESSAGE

By Maggie Weber

"Angel Eyes". She's an unexpected angel who reminds me every day why I'm dedicated to doing as much as I can to make this planet a better place for our beloved animals.

Last summer when I lost my best friend and companion, I felt I would never be interested in any other pet. And, working with rescues, shelters, veterinarians and lots of animals, it never occurred to me that even I didn't know the harsh and cruel reality of puppy mills....but I found out how wrong I was on both counts.

A few weeks back the OAA was called to pick up 20 Chihuahuas from a puppy mill not far from here. It wasn't the first time we had been called to help in this kind of situation. The breeder was forced to forfeit his animals due to lack of sales. This was *not* the worst puppy mill we had ever seen. In this case the dogs were at least well fed.

I was asked and agreed to take a particular little puppy mill mama that appeared to be blind, at least 12-15 years old, and would be hard to place in a forever home. I took one look at her and that's all it took!

As I bathed her the first night, I noticed lots of small scabs all over her body. I also noticed her tongue hung out a little crooked. I took a look in her mouth and was horrified at what I saw. This little girl had very few teeth left, and almost all of those left were completely black and infected. She must have been in horrible pain while she was shuffled around.

All but 4 of her little teeth were decayed and abscessed. Because of her extreme pain, the vet stayed late and pulled them out leaving four good teeth in front.



And, her teeth and eyes weren't damaged from age. Angel Eyes is only 6 according to the vet, not 12 to 15 as she appears to be. The big white patches blocking her vision aren't cataracts ... ***They are urine scald from the cages above hers!*** Stacking wire-bottomed cages is common with less than reputable breeders and all the urine and feces from the dogs above go down through the cages onto the dogs below. My heart broke as I imagined what she had been through.

At that moment I knew that I have to do everything I can to fight for humane animal laws in Oklahoma! If we don't each stand up to protect these suffering and helpless animals, who will?

We'll keep you up to date and show pictures as Angel heals and learns. She's already learning to smile.

## LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY

Calls regarding animal cruelty come to the OAA each week, and thanks to our donors and citizen support OAA is able to respond by providing medical care, food and more.

OAA also assists law enforcement by providing a certified continuing education class for police officers on halting animal cruelty, funds to assist prosecution or for reward money to help catch those who commit crimes against animals. Additionally our "Action for Compassion Award" is given to citizens who report

animal cruelty resulting in the prosecution of the perpetrator. We strive to help at every level from rescuing the animals to providing support for the prosecution of the perpetrators.

According to statistics originally generated by the FBI, animal cruelty is a predictor of dangerous behavior in adults.

We note the efforts to prosecute animal cruelty by the Creek and Kay County sheriff's offices and the courts, and the recent success of the Pittsburg County District Attorney, Jim B. Miller, whose prosecution resulted in one of the stiffest penalties ever handed out in our

## OAA'S DYNAMIC DUO

What do you get when you mix one great program with one great volunteer group? The new *OAA dynamic duo*.... *Adopt A Little Okie (AALO) and PAW LAW!*

Paw Law, that wonderful TU Law Student group of energetic, enthusiastic volunteers has taken on our monthly adoption program held at Tulsa Animal Welfare — AALO. One look at what they have accomplished so far tells us this partnership will mean lots of help showing shelter dogs, puppies, cats and kittens (not counting the opossum or sheep) to the growing number of families and individuals who come to the shelter.

More help means lots more animals have a chance on that special Saturday for someone to fall in love with them and take them to their forever homes. At our February 28th AALO, we had 13 volunteers. On that day over 200 guests visited the shelter and 14 dogs and two cats were adopted. These great volunteers pitch right in wherever needed. They can be spotted feeding, watering, putting out clean beds, exercising and socializing the animals.

Last year AALO assisted in the adoption of over 1,000 homeless pets in Tulsa. Just think what we can accomplish now!

Please come by the Tulsa Animal Welfare facility and visit us during AALO. The program is scheduled for the last Saturday of each month excluding those dates that fall in holiday periods. Call us for the full schedule ... and **come see us in action!**

### ANIMAL TRIVIA

Dogs' senses are much more acute than humans'. Dogs can detect even minute changes in the earth's magnetic field. That's how they find their way home even in an unfamiliar area miles from home.

OAA President Jamee Suarez said, "It is our mission to address animal suffering everywhere it is hiding. We focus on spay/neuter along with education and adoption, but we also know that the fundamental issue of stopping animal cruelty is vital to animals in Oklahoma.

### ROCK and RESCUE

Plans are underway for **Rock and Rescue 2009!** Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 23rd, at Riverwalk Crossing, Jenks.

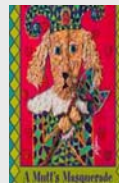
## *HELP US CONTINUE OUR MISSION .....*

### OAA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008

- \* 3206 spay/neuter surgeries
- \* 450 *FREE* Pet Id Tags
- \* 140 Pets received microchips at reduced costs
- \* Over 1,050 pets adopted through OAA adoption programs
- \* Provided 1st CLEET Certified Anti-Cruelty classes for Police Officers in Oklahoma
- \* Informational resource on animal friendly legislation—Animal Advocacy
- \* Coordinated rescue efforts for at-risk animals across the state
- \* OAA Traveled across Oklahoma to bring spay/neuter clinics to communities

...and more, thanks to your *tax-deductible* donations.

***PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE .... DONATE TODAY!***



2009

Mark your  
Calendars.....

- \* **April 4** — *Tag Day*
- \* **May 23** — *Rock and Rescue*
- \* **September 12** — *WOOFstock*
- \* **October**—*Brush Creek Adoptions*
- \* **November 7** — *Fur Ball*

***Tails From the City*** is a free quarterly publication of the Oklahoma Alliance for Animals. To receive a copy, contact us at 918-742-3700 or visit our website at [www.animalallianceok.org](http://www.animalallianceok.org)



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