



TAILS FROM THE CITY

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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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ADOPT A LITTLE OKIE



Sept. 26

Oct. 24

Nov. 14

FIX 5000 DO IT FOR LOVE...

Oklahoma Alliance for Animals announces FIX 5000, a campaign to increase the number of spays and neuters of pets in low-income homes in Eastern Oklahoma by 5000 during the coming year. Working closely with veterinarians, volunteer organizations and municipalities, FIX 5000 will reach homes that are not currently using any spay/ neuter services in order to decrease the number of homeless pets by preventing unwanted litters and educating the public about the need to have pets fixed before they have even one litter.

Ruth Steinberger, Oklahoma Alliance for Animals Director of Outreach said,

“the number of homeless animals must be reduced on the supply end in order to have a measureable impact

Surplus animals are often seen as disposable and become victims of cruelty and neglect.”

Currently, over 120,000 unwanted animals are killed in Oklahoma shelters each year. Yet, roughly 60% of Oklahomans have no access to an animal shelter or other place in which to release an unwanted animal, meaning that the number of unwanted animals is staggering; unfortunate kittens and puppies are abandoned and many starve. Historically, animals have been given away in Tulsa, contributing to Tulsa’s crisis. Steinberger said,

“There has to be a comprehensive plan to address homeless and suffering animals in our region. FIX 5000 is a flagship for preventing suffering.”

The phone number to Oklahoma Alliance for Animals Creek County partnership program is 918-367-2397

People needing to have a pet fixed should call that number and leave a message to schedule an appointment to get a dog or cat spayed or neutered.

The clinic is located in Bristow on Rt. 16. The message machine will be on as of August 10, 2009.

The program provides services to low-income residents of Creek, Payne, Okmulgee or Okfuskee counties or any towns inside those counties.

SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2010 DESK PLANNER

Oklahoma Alliance for Animals is proud to announce that we will be producing a new desk planner calendar for 2010! And if you think your pet is the cats meow or just want to help improve the lives of animals across Oklahoma become a sponsor! As a sponsor you will be able to submit your favorite picture of your pet and include a quote of up to 30 words which will be featured in the area you have selected to sponsor. Don't worry

if the cat has your tongue, we are happy to provide a quote for you.

For more information on the 2010 desk planner calendar contact Jenny McElyea, Program Director at 918 742 3700 or Jenny@animalallianceok.org

As always, we greatly appreciate your assistance in creating a pet friendly and safe community

Unable to be a calendar sponsor at this time? You can still send donations to:

Oklahoma Alliance for Animals 2642 East 21st Street, Suite 120 Tulsa, Ok 74114

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



OAA President,
Jamee Suarez-Howard

The last two months have included some major accomplishments on behalf of animals, yet many of our challenges also grew.

In April, through generous donations from the Tulsa area, Oklahoma Alliance for Animals purchased the Wheels of Hope, a 2009 Ford van to be used for transporting unwanted animals to destinations where pet overpopulation no longer renders countless pets as disposable. Although our region remains overwhelmed by staggering numbers of unwanted animals, in regions where spay/ neuter programs combine with well enforced local ordinances, cast offs from Oklahoma and elsewhere become valued pets.

As of August, 2009, the Wheels of Hope has transported 97 adult dogs and 27 puppies to other regions of the nation and we expect to open a spay/ neuter transport service soon.

Through research initiated by Oklahoma Alliance for Animals, it was revealed that the City of Tulsa Animal Welfare office's April 2008 decision to actively enforce the spay/ neuter ordinance had resulted in a 22% drop in the June-July 2008 intake spike from the previous year. That spike generally represents the relinquishment of unwanted litters. Yet, shortly after that success was revealed, Tulsa budget cuts threatened the enforcement effort. Citizens must remain vigilant as the animals depend on us

to be their voice; they may be overlooked in these difficult times. The success from just three months of active enforcement of the spay/ neuter ordinance means that an increase in the number of enforcement officers could mean savings for the city and a serious reduction in shelter intakes, animal cruelty and neglect in Tulsa.

Oklahoma Alliance for Animals has kicked off FIX 5000, a new campaign to increase the number of low-income spay/ neuters in our region by 5,000 per year. The campaign will help outlying areas develop partnership with veterinarians and others to provide ongoing, stable spay/ neuter programs for low-income homes that currently have no place to turn. Our first FIX 5000 surgeries will take place before September 1.

Despite the difficult economic times, wonderful and dedicated people of Oklahoma remain strong in their determination to improve the lives of at-risk animals. OAA is pleased to lead the efforts.

Sincerely,

Jamee Suarez-Howard, President
Oklahoma Alliance for Animals

LAW PROHIBITS MUNICIPAL RESPONSE TO HOMELESS ANIMALS

Under a little known law, Oklahoma cities and towns may operate animal shelters, yet counties with populations under 200,000 may not. This means that several towns within a given county may operate shelters on limited budgets, while the overall county has no access to the shelter. This leads to substandard sheltering across our state. Money is wasted as towns with limited resources duplicate services.

According to Oklahoma Alliance for Animals President, Jamee

Suarez, roughly 60% of Oklahoma has no access to any type of shelter, a problem which encourages animal abandonment, a crime in Oklahoma.

Suarez noted, "People need to be aware that this law keeps unwanted animals from having the most basic of care when they are at their most vulnerable point." Suarez encouraged Oklahomans to support changes in the law which would enable Oklahoma counties to take action for animals.



One of the many animals that are abandoned each year across Oklahoma



LOW COST PET ASSISTANCE PLANS COMPLETE!

Oklahoma Alliance for Animals is pleased to announce the completion of a set of architectural drawings of the Pet Assistance Center, a basic shelter plan which is intended to help communities provide an acceptable level of housing to homeless animals.

Currently at least 142 cities and towns operate public shelters, yet Oklahoma has no facilities standards or training standards in place. Many shelters are built without any basic plans to ensure that animals can remain safe and comfortable.

Ruth Steinberger, OAA Director of Outreach said, "This came to our attention when a private shelter was found to be operating in a building in which the electricity had been disconnected. It was cold and the roof had been leaking badly; a live dog was literally frozen to the floor in a puddle." The dog was rescued, but it was apparent that simply having proper slope in the floor could have prevented that one tragedy. OAA moved to develop a set of plans that include relatively low

and maintenance costs, yet which prevent many of the problems seen in rural shelters. The plans provide safety and comfort through passive lighting and ventilation and more.

Tulsa architect Steve Olsen completed the drawings for OAA. Olsen said he was not aware of the problems facing sheltered animals in our state, noting, "I was shocked to realize the horrible problems that exist and which are actually relatively easy to prevent. I hope these plans change the circumstances for unwanted dogs and cats across our state."

KEEP THE WHEELS ROLLING...



Mike Nobles, Transport Coordinator with the Wheels of Hope Van

The OAA Wheels of Hope rescue/transport van made possible by friends of animals such as you has already made a difference in the lives of 97 adult dogs and 27 puppies. That is the total that has been transported from shelters and breeders to adoption facilities where they have an excellent chance of finding their forever homes. Needless to say the alternative is unacceptable.

For the first time we will be taking 2 vans, one provided through the generosity of Kyla Holderness. Also, we just brought three labs from a breeder in Missouri to Lab Rescue in Tulsa. In addition we have 2 trips scheduled in August from the Tulsa shelter. Indeed, we are scheduled through December with

transport trips to Denver. We have 17 confirmed volunteer drivers from Tulsa, Oklahoma City, McAlester, Watts, Ft. Gibson, and point's in-between that are giving of their time (2 days for Denver trip) to this effort. We call them our "A" team and they are absolutely wonderful. We are meeting soon with possibly 8 from the Eufaula area that has expressed an interest in being volunteer drivers.

How can you help? Needless to say these trips are not cheap. It costs an average of \$500.00 each trip to Denver which includes gas, motel, food, turnpike tolls, etc. So, we desperately need contributions to help keep the Wheels of Hope rolling. Please don't think that perhaps a small contribution will not be of much help. Literally every penny counts. All of your contributions will go toward the Wheels of Hope rescue/transport. No amount is too small (or too large!) and you will know you made a difference in an animal's life...literally.

All of your contributions will go toward the Wheels of Hope rescue/transport effort. Not one penny goes for administrative expenses. If we are to continue this life saving program we need your help. Please do it

Please send checks to:
OAA Wheels of Hope
2642 East 21st Street
Suite 120
Tulsa, OK 74114

Thanks for all you do for the animals.

UPCOMING OAA EVENTS!!!

Woofstock
Aug. 29

Brush Creek Bazaar
Oct. 2-4

Fur Ball
Nov. 7

For more info on any of these events please e-mail info@animalallianceok.org or call 918 742 3700

ANIMAL CRUELTY, WHAT CAN I DO ?

People often wonder what to do if they see an animal being abused or neglected; often it takes a quagmire of phone calls to get to the right place. According to experts, it is important that animal cruelty be reported like any other crime in order for law enforcement to address the problem.

So, what can you do? First, be able to provide as much accurate information as possible including the location, a description of the victim(s) and the perpetrators, and a timeline if one exists. The first myth of animal cruelty is that it should be reported to a humane society. Animal cruelty is a crime; ultimately a search warrant or seizure

order must be handled by the police or sheriff's office and that is where a complaint needs to go. If you are afraid of the perpetrator, several organizations can help the complaint get to the right place. When you call the law enforcement agency, speak with an officer, a deputy or an undersheriff. Avoid leaving the information with a dispatcher; instead wait to speak with one of the officers even though you will most likely have to wait for a return call. In Oklahoma, animal cruelty and neglect include a failure to provide food, water, shelter or veterinary care to prevent suffering and also includes any deliberate act intended to maim,

mutilate or torture an animal; cruelty is a felony.

Animal abandonment includes abandoning any domestic animal on a public or private roadway or place. Although abandonment is a misdemeanor, it deprives the animal of basic necessities and other charges may also apply. During the recent economic crisis, people who have moved and left pets behind have committed a crime. By being aware of the protections that animals have under our state laws, we can become better advocates for them.

BAR MITZVAH PROJECT BENEFITS OAA

On June 20th, 2009, Blake Bovasso celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, a time of life in which a young Jewish man celebrates becoming a young adult. Young people often choose a service project to celebrate along with this occasion. Blake decided for his "mitzvah project," which means, good deed to donate a portion of the money or gifts that he received to OAA

Blake raised over four thousand dollars to help homeless and at-risk animals in the Tulsa area. Blake has also volunteered at the "Rock and Rescue," adoption event. Blake is going into the 7th grade at Holland Hall School and he is the grandson of OAA Board Member Brenda Magoon.

Blake Bovasso and his dogs.



*Our sponsors ROCK!
Thanks for making Rock & Rescue a
HUGE success*



OKLAHOMA ALLIANCE FOR ANIMALS

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