

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE NEEDED

BY DARLENE SIMMONS

The Good Shepherd Humane Society always seems to have struggled; it has had its share of black eyes and scandals, of ugly unfounded rumors, and of thefts and in-house drama. And not too many months ago, there was growing concern that the Good Shepherd might not be able to keep its doors (and cages) open much longer. Things looked dismal for this organization, which receives no funding from the city, county, or the ASPCA. The Good Shepherd relies solely on donations, fundraising, and thrift store sales to bring in enough money to provide care for the county's unwanted dogs and cats. Donations are down, and hopes for improvement took a dive as well.

Yet, once again, the Good Shepherd has risen from the ashes like a phoenix...oops, wrong metaphor...the Good Shepherd has landed on its feet like a cat....it has not used up all its nine lives...the dog days of summer have come to an end...well, you get the idea. What sort of change has occurred? All sorts of change, and change the organization is hoping YOU, generous reader, will want to be a part of!

First of all, the Berryville Thrift Store has moved to a larger and brighter building, in a better location. The new address is 111 Carl Ave. Come in and see the new facility, or better yet, call Tracellen Kelly (479-981-2886) to volunteer at either the Berryville or Eureka Springs store. Then, out in the community, the Good Shepherd was asked to participate in Eureka Springs Art Adventures with a "Pets 'n Art" day in Basin Spring Park. This community awareness day brought in much needed donations, resulted in the adoption of four animals, as well as four new volunteers. Another art-related fundraiser will be held in the Artifacts Gallery in September. Volunteers are always needed to participate in these types of events.

The out-of-state adoption program has resulted in the adoption of more than 100 dogs. Since the Good Shepherd does not euthanize animals just because space is needed for others, as many shelters do, the ability to adopt out animals in other areas is essential in order to care for the numbers of dogs brought in to the shelter....and those ugly rumors circulating that imply that these animals are sold to laboratories is ridiculous and offensive, as well as being absolutely and completely untrue!

Out at the shelter, new manager Marcie Sutterfield has taken over the helm. An experienced veterinary technician, Marcie has the skills and maturity needed to make the shelter a good temporary living area for animals until they are adopted. Under Marcie's leadership, the

shelter is clean and infections are on the decline. Plans are being developed to build a “Kitten House”, where kittens can have access to sunlight and fresh air, as well as the protection of an indoor environment. This house is possible because of the most generous donation of one individual.

Janet Corley is the new volunteer coordinator for the shelter. She will be organizing the present volunteers, and training new volunteers as well. If you are interested in dog walking, cat cuddling, building maintenance, gardening, or cleaning, please contact Janet at 479-361-1061 or at maejon83@yahoo.com.

Yes, the Good Shepherd staff, volunteers, and board members have much to be proud of, but these good changes impact just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more to do if this organization is to remain viable. YOUR HELP IS SORELY NEEDED!!! If you can, adopt a dog, cat, kitten or puppy today! There are waiting lists for animals to come in, and they can't come in unless animals are adopted out.

Janet and Tracellen need volunteers; call them to offer your services. The shelter is desperately in need of ten kiddies' pools (3 ft. in diameter) for the puppies, pet carriers, cleaning supplies, Miracle-Gro sprayers, and old towels. Bring any or all of these items to the shelter. Donations to, and purchases from, the two thrift stores have decreased with the opening of the new non-profit thrift store in town. Donations of any and all items would be greatly appreciated.

Most of all, the Good Shepherd needs MONETARY DONATIONS! If each dog or cat lover in the county would give even a small amount, the organization could improve and expand the care given to the dogs and cats brought in from Busch to Alpena. PLEASE GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND MONEY NOW! Donating is so easy. Just go to the website--www.goodshepherd-hs.org--and click on donations....or send donations to: Good Shepherd Humane Society, P.O. Box 285, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. All donations are tax deductible.