

VOLUNTEER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

City of Plano Animal Services In Shelter, Foster, and Event Volunteers



The Whole ~~Nine~~ (Seven) Yards

Exercise and Visit Yards

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

I am so thrilled to announce that our newly designed yards are completed! Now, instead of three yards with one entrance, there are seven yards with six independent entrances.

This wonderful new design means there will be no more maneuvering animal/people and no more waiting. The new yards can accommodate all the activities at the same time.

Dog walkers, photographers, and dog play groups can all use a yard without interrupting any animal visits. And on a busy weekend multiple visits can take place with nobody having to wait for the yard to open.



Taking animals in and out will be breeze (well, a little easier) with the separate entrances.

The yards are of varying shapes and sizes. Some are long and narrow, perfect for leash training or sprints with the dogs. Others are shorter and wider, perfect for running and chasing toys. Some are smaller and more intimate yards are great for photographers.

The yards with the original fencing are best for adoption visits because they are closest to the door and they have the privacy fence. Some dogs ignore the people if other dogs are around so using that yard will cut down on distractions.



Yards with the privacy fences should be reserved for visitors wanting to interact with the dogs.



VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations!

David Reed 1 Yr In Shelter

Diana Stuart 3 Yr In Shelter

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Jessica Cabrera Cat Room Attendant

Pamela Hamel Dog Walker

Murad Kirdar Kennel Attendant

Yareny Loredo Front Lobby Assistant

Jordan Miller Kennel Attendant

Ashanti Williams Dog Walker

Construction is Done....Now What?

The Expansion Story

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

On September 7th the new building will be open for business and that means we will all need to be a little flexible as we get use to the new process.



The goal is to have that section of the Animal Services building used for the intake of animals. It will house the strays and surgery animals. The existing section will continue to house the adoptable animals.

Although there will be a way to enter the new section from within the old, the plan is to direct people looking for lost pets and those who have found animals to use the new entrance.

On Tuesday and Thursdays when people come to pick up their animals after surgery they will also use the other entrance.

The new section has 2 separate “reception” areas so will be adding a second Lobby Assistance position in the near future. Once we get settled into the new routine and find a process that works for all I will send out information about that new position.

In the mean time remember that all stray sections are restricted areas and off limits to volunteers. Be prepared, there may be some confusion and the way things are done may be changed frequently in the next few weeks so your patience will be appreciated.



 The shelter is the first existing City of Plano building to be awarded LEED-EB® Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is the 1st animal shelter in Texas, and the 2nd in the nation to achieve this certification. LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

 The art work piece in the front is called “Companions” . It was the winning entry in the Public Art Contest held by the city.

 The staff of the shelter voted on the names. The cat is called Kannon ,which means mercy and the dog is named Akiva which means protector or shelter. So our new friends represent what we strive to provide, mercy and shelter.

YOLUNTEER VOICES

New Volunteer Brandon Newsom shared his thoughts on his volunteer experience so far. “So far the experience is was what I expected and thoroughly enjoyed taking care of the wonderful cats. The one thing I noticed being on the inside is just how great some of the cats are. While playing with each cat I uncovered which ones would be great pets..”

Volunteer Judy Staser wanted to share this message:

To a great staff,

Thank you to all the Staff at the Plano Animal Shelter. You are such a joy to work with. You all (well, most of you!) seem happy with what you are doing, you put up with errors from the volunteers, you tolerate our constant interruptions, you answer our many question and you just make volunteering at the Shelter a great way to spend a few hours each week. Obviously, the uncomplaining animals help, too, but the human contact is equally important. Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement.

And a whooping big thank you to Kathi for making it all happen. Six years ago we were a mighty small group of unorganized volunteers and look at us now. Over 100 of Plano’s finest. We salute you, Kathi, along with the wonderful staff at PAS. Here’s to many more years of working together.

Foster Tails

My Silent Partner

By Amy Dawkins

In Shelter Volunteer

I am a very lucky person. While I have been fostering for the shelter I have had an amazing helper, my dog. She is a 13 year old Norwegian elkhound named Abby. She has proven too been invaluable asset to me as a foster mom. I think she is enjoying it as much as I do. Whether it is getting up early to feed or staying up late with a sick baby, she is constantly at my side.



The amazing foster team of Amy and Abby.

My current litter of bottle babies has a small black female that I named Catalina. The two girls have grown attached to each other. Catty loves to curl up in Abby's warm fur and play with her fluffy tail. Abby loves to clean Catalina's face after she eats. They make an odd pair but incredibly entertaining to watch.



Best buds Abby and Catalina "Catty"

Catalina is quickly growing up. She has recently learned to groom herself, run and to eat solid food. It will be hard to see all the kittens go, but I am happy that they have a chance at a wonderful life. I have to credit Abby with how well the kittens are adjusting and growing.

I am thankful that I have Abby and I look forward to fostering many more cats with her.

Share your past or current foster experience



Yard Usage

-  Please remember to check the weather, the yards may not be used in the rain or if it is too muddy after a rain.
-  If you do get into unexpected mud clean up immediately. Dogs should be towed off so they are not covered in mud, and floors and kennel cages should be mud free as well. (if you need help cleaning the floors ask an officer). Aprons should be put in the wash, do not hang up dirty aprons.

Extreme Mutt Makeover

Plano Participants

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

The Humane Society of North Texas sponsored the Extreme Mutt Makeover program in which area shelters entered dogs that could use a bit of help with their manners and social skills.

Volunteer dog trainers (amateur & professional) were randomly issued a participating shelter dog. Each trainer took their assigned dog home for 2 months. During which time they worked on basic obedience, housetraining, walking on leash, socialization with other dogs and people, and stunt tricks like walking through legs and rolling over.

Plano Animal Services entered 2 dogs, [Checkers](#) and [Patti Cakes](#). They each had a Face Book page and their trainers provided updates and pictures. (some of you may recall our request to friend them on Face Book to encourage their training)

On August 13th and 14th the dogs and their trainers, representatives from the shelters and the public all got together at Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Fort Worth to witness the makeovers.



Photo by Michelle Stockton – Officer Jennifer Petrucelli holds Patti Cake during the Makeover event.

Both Checkers and Patti Cakes won the ultimate prize of finding a new home! Both were adopted on the final day of the event and went home with their new families.

However, Patti Cakes went above and beyond. She performed great in the preliminary and final stage of the competition ultimately taking 1st place!

Her trainer, Michelle Stockton won a belt buckle and \$1000.00 for her work with our wonderful dog. Read more about the program in the [Plano Star Courier](#).

Save the Date!

On Saturday November 13th the city will have a Grand Opening and Statue Dedication. We will need volunteers to help out so please keep that in mind when making your schedule in November.

We will need volunteers to fill the normal duties as well as some additional ones for the event. All volunteers, Event, Foster, and In Shelter are invited to help and join in the celebration.



Ringworm in Shelters

What You Should Know

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Ringworm is a skin infection caused by fungus. It most commonly occurs in hot, humid climates, among small children, athletes, and animals.

Day care centers, locker rooms, and animal shelters are the most likely locations to find ringworm.

Knowledge and acting on that knowledge can help decrease your risk.

Factors that increase risk of ringworm in animals.

- **Age:** babies and elderly animals.
- **Species and breed:** Cats (**long hair in particular**) are at greater risk than dogs. Persian cats and Yorkshire Terriers are generally higher risk than other breeds.
- **Immune status:** Weakened or newly developing immune systems put the animal at a higher risk. .

So be extra vigilant in washing up after handling a high risk animal (or wear the rubber gloves provided) and follow the shelter policy about mixing adults with babies.

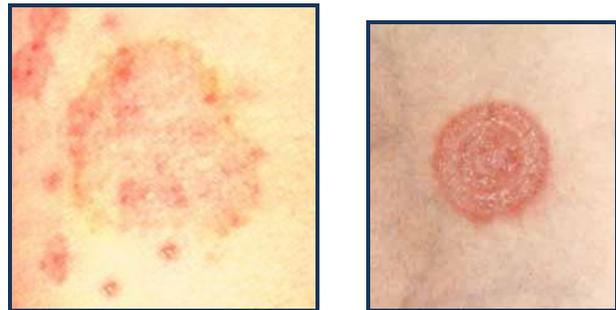
Types of Ringworm.

- **Tinea barbae:** related to the “beard “ area of the face and neck. The symptoms include swellings, itching, and redness in hair fociles.
- **Tinea capitis:** related to the scalp and commonly affects children.
- **Tinea corporis:** affects the skin of the body and it produces the round spots of classic ringworm.
- **Tinea faciei:** related to the face except in the area of the “beard” area. On the face, ringworm is rarely found as ring-shaped..
- **Tinea manus:** related to the hands and particularly to the palms and the spaces between the fingers. It typically causes thickening of these areas, often on only one hand.
- **Tinea unguium:** related to fingernails and toenails yellow, thick, and crumbly. They are called fungal nails.

So check these areas regularly and be sure to pay extra attention to them when washing up after handling any animal.

What ringworm looks like in humans.

Ringworm of the skin starts as a red, scaly patch or bump. Ringworm tends to be very itchy and uncomfortable. Over time, it may begin to look like a ring or a series of rings with raised, bumpy, scaly borders (the center is often clear). This ring pattern gave ringworm its name, but not every person who's infected develops the rings. Incubation for the body type is about 4 to 10 days from exposure.



What ringworm looks like in animals.

Depending on the pigment of the skin you may see a raised ring on the surface of the skin. The animal may experience hair loss or patches of crusty or rough skin, usually in the shape of a circle or half circle. The most common infected areas are head, eyes, ears, and tail. It can spread all over.



Animals may be carriers without showing any symptoms so it is best to practice regular hand washing especially during the spring and summer months in the shelter.

If you see an animal scratching a specific spot report it to an officer immediately. Read more about ringworm in the [Animal Sheltering](#) magazine.

'SPOT' LIGHT



Lori Baehler

Foster Volunteer

Lori started volunteering in 2008 and has fostered well over 20 animals, putting in hundreds of hours.

She has taken in many pregnant dogs and has handled some tricky births.

In the Baehler household fostering is a family affair. Lori's kids are actively involved with each animal she brings home.

They work together as a family to help timid and shy animals become more socialized. Together they have watched over several births as well as help raise the puppies. Lori and her crew have prepared many animals for their new homes.



Sherry Smith

Shelter Supervisor

Sherry (posing with her pet tarantula) has been working in Animal Control just over 10 years and caught some notoriously hard to catch animals.

She has gotten several alligators (yes, in Plano, in the creek!) Even though her supervisor duties keep her mainly in the building she will help out on calls. Recently she was able to catch not one but two momma bob cats and their litters.

Sherry's message to you: "I am very thankful for all the work that you do and the time you put in.. All of the volunteers are very important to the success of the shelter. We really could not run this place without each of you"

What's New

New Dog Play Group Class!

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Now that the yards are back in service we are going to be opening up the Dog Group Play job again. This is a very fun job available to anyone who has been trained in dog handling.

This is one of the 2 volunteer jobs that requires you to work with other volunteers at the same. You and other volunteers will take a group of dogs out into the yard for some fun playtime and exercise. Be on the look out for emails about this new class in the next week or so.

Things to Remember



The 2nd Wednesday of every month the shelter closes to the public and volunteers from about 11:30am to 1:00pm (day may vary on rare occasion).



Visitations and adoptions STOP 15 minutes prior to closing. Please keep on eye on the time and listen for the announcements. End visits on the final announcement and do not start new ones. No adoption decision should be made without enough time.

My Favorite Volunteer Job

By Christina Savage

In Shelter Volunteer



Hold that pose! Yeah, right, this is a cat I'm talking to! Photographing the cats of the Plano Animal Shelter has been a challenging but rewarding task for me. While each animal has a snapshot taken when they first come to the shelter, the staff is too busy getting the intake processed to be concerned about the "star quality" of the photos. Frequently, the cats are clinging to the sides of a pet taxi or are being held by the scruff, which is less than flattering. With the popularity of Petfinder.com and Petharbor.com as useful tools for people to search for a feline friend, it has been an important goal of mine to make sure each cat has an adorable picture posted that highlights what he or she has to offer. For kittens, I try to showcase their playfulness. For older lap cats, I like to bring out their "cuddleability." (And yes, it's very helpful for the dogs to get their pictures taken also, I just happen to specialize in cats!)

Each photo session differs from cat to cat. Many of the shelter cats are shy or scared and may not be too happy to leave their kennels, so I do what I can to make the kennel an attractive backdrop (you definitely don't want the litter box to be in the photo!). I prefer to bring each cat individually into the visitation room to let him or her explore and play, but some kitties really like to hide under the table or in the cubby holes, which makes taking a good picture very difficult! Some cats I can photograph in a matter of seconds, whereas I may have to spend 20 minutes with others. It all depends on their personality--and some would much rather snuggle up in your lap than be a supermodel!

It definitely takes a lot of patience (and a pretty good digital camera), but it has been a great way for me to draw the public's attention to our shelter cats, as well as give the cats an extra dose of attention and affection!

Some of Christine's favorite shots

