



VOLUNTEER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2010

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



Surgeries Started in New Space

Now More Than Just Reclaim

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Most of the stray animals are safe and snug in the new reclaim kennels and now the first surgeries have been performed in the new expansion building.

The new design has created a space for each activity and has provided more room for the people to work and the animals to recover.

There are two recovery areas: one for dogs and one for cats. The separate and enclosed rooms allow for a more peaceful place for the animals to wake up. It also allows staff to monitor them more easily as they come around.

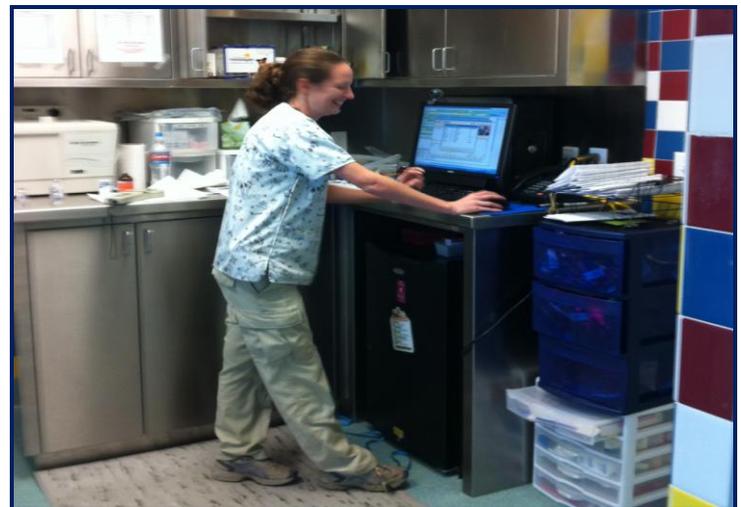


Officer Therese H. and Dr. Means on surgery day



Dogs in their new recovery room.

There is also a designated area to update the animal's file in the computer. Any medical procedure, including vaccinations and micro chipping, are recorded for shelter records and for the eventual adopter.



Officer Amber W. at work in the new station.

VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS!

Alex Baptista 1 Yr Foster Only

Karen Suiter 1 Yr In Shelter

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Suzanne Anderson | Adoption Counselor |
| Ziva Eliezer | Front Lobby Assistant |
| Tsung-Ling 'Sylvia' Good | Kennel Attendant |
| Zoe Lin | Dog Walker |
| Pilar Tujillo | Kennel Attendant |
| Lorrie Green | Foster |

The new building is a wonderful improvement and worth the inconvenience of construction! Thank for your patience and understanding during the construction and move.

What's New

Change In Restricted Areas & Visitor Flow

By **Kathi Cavanagh**

Volunteer Coordinator

Now that the new building is open and fully functional the old cat and dog stray areas have become home to adoptable animals.

Dog and cat volunteers are now allowed to enter those areas to perform their duties. However, cat volunteers need to be vigilant because there are still some stray cats housed there.

Due to the large number of cats we received from the hoarding case the actual stray area is full. We needed to keep some stray cats where they were. Please be sure to double and triple check before handling a cat and especially before allowing one to visit with anyone.

Another change is all animals coming in to the shelter need to use the appropriate entrance. All volunteers, particularly the lobby assistants, need to be able to direct people to the right area.

Any animal found in Plano or being surrendered to the shelter should use the Lost and Found entrance in the new building.

Due to health and safety reasons they should use the outside path instead of walking inside the building. This will limit any spread of disease the animal may have and will be safer to all animals in the shelter. Just have them follow the sidewalk to the first entrance (it is actually quicker too!).

In case of rain, they may enter the building to walk the animal to the other side. However, all dogs should be leashed and controlled and all cats should be in carriers.

If a visitor wants to report a lost animal they can use the outside or inside way to the Lost and Found area.

NOTE: For now since we have stray cats in the original stray area those looking for a cat should check Crystal Circle and if they do not see their cat proceed to the other side to fill out the lost report.

There are directional signs to assist visitors but for those with animals who miss the signs please be sure to direct them to the other entrance via the outside walk (weather permitting).



 All the kennels are named after one time residents of the shelter .

 The newest kennels have upheld the naming tradition along with aliteration (the repetition of the first letter of each word)

 The Adoptable cat kennel is Crystal Circle. (CC)

 The Adoptable dog kennels are Bucky Blvd (BB), Lucy Lane (LL), and Rosie Rd (RR).

 The Reclaim/Stray cat kennel is Scarlet Street (SS).

 Reclaim/Stray dog is Gertie's Gardens (GG).

YOUNG VOICES

IN HONOR OF THANKSGIVING - A GRATITUDE EDITION

In Shelter Volunteer Jennifer Meers: I am thankful to Officer Leticia for giving me a bag of chew toys so my foster animals and my dogs would stop eating my couch!

In Shelter Volunteer Nancy Cate: I am thankful to be living the life I am living, I have a wonderful family and friends and a terrific work situation. I have many blessings around me every day!

In Shelter Volunteer Melissa Sherman: I am thankful for my cats that purr when they lay besides me while I do my work.

In Shelter Volunteer Brandon Newsom: I am thankful for my family and for my health. I am thankful for all the wonderful people who support and take care of all the creatures and for our troops on active duty and here at home.

Volunteer Coordinator Kathi Cavanagh: I am thankful for all the amazing people who decide to make time in their busy lives to volunteer at the shelter, who open their hearts and in some cases their homes to help animals in need.

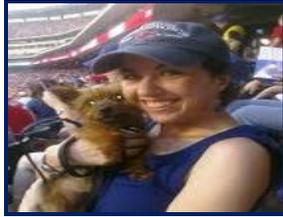
I am also very grateful for all the great staff members who work so hard and show such compassion and affection for the animals in their care. Who are funny, crazy, and just nice to be around!

Foster Tails

Finding Nemo

By Christina Savage

In Shelter Volunteer



This Thanksgiving, I have a whole new outlook on life thanks to a special little kitten named Nemo.

I don't take in fosters very often (it's so hard for me to let them go!), but with a schedule that has kept me from helping out at the shelter lately, I decided to take in Nemo for a few weeks to recover from having his front left leg amputated.

I brought him home the afternoon after his surgery – he was very groggy and didn't have much of an appetite, but he showed a remarkable amount of energy for having just gone through major surgery. I don't know if his leg was injured or if it was a birth defect, but the entire leg had to be removed, not even a stump remained for balance. But I tell you, within a matter of hours, Nemo was walking around, climbing into his litter box (not to mention doing a fine job of burying what he left, better than my own cats that have all four of their legs!). By the next day, he could scamper around easily and even leap from furniture!

Amputation Facts

 Limb amputation is performed to remove a diseased or severely injured limb.

 Generally, the entire limb is removed due to disease or to avoid injury to a remaining stump.

 In the case of many shelter animals, the injury is old and the animal has already adjusted to using three limbs by the time they have surgery. However, out shelter gotten a few with new injuries that required amputation.

 Part of the reason amputees have great recoveries is due to volunteers fostering them through their recovery!



Handsome Nemo!

When I told my parents about Nemo over the phone, they fell in love with him and his story sight unseen. During my foster time with Nemo, they got to meet him. With each passing day as he grew stronger and more confident, they decided he would be an excellent addition to their family. We went to the shelter so he could officially be adopted.

He continues to thrive as a feisty but affectionate little kitten. Nemo is truly an inspiration, never once feeling depressed or held back from his handicap the way a human being might tend to respond. He just learned to adapt and make the most of the situation dealt to him. Stories like Nemo's remind me of why I have such love and appreciation for our animal friends.



Nemo finds the couch is an excellent place to stretch!

What You Should Know

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Another holiday is upon us and another opportunity to talk to new adopters about pet safety.

As usual we will have handouts available to give out to visitors but here are some basics for your own use and to share with shelter visitors.

Large quantities of food and rich fatty foods may be harmful to your pets so consider changing their normal feeding schedule to allow them to enjoy a meal as the humans are sitting down to eat. This will also help cut down on begging and stealing.



Princess Kitty in her harvest motif!

If your pet is stubborn about their routine you can still feed at your normal time just split the amount of food they normally have so you can add another meal timed with the carving of the turkey.

Guests, especially children, find it hard to resist treating a pet. To avoid sneaking from the table put out approved treats for your guests give out. It is important to inform your guests of your house rule concerning table scraps; they may unknowingly feed your animal something unhealthy or toxic.

Note: If you have a pet(s) with food aggression issues giving out treats is not an acceptable solution. The animal should be secured away when any food is out and accessible.

Keep your animals out of the kitchen while preparing and serving food. This will cut down on temptation and also help you avoid tripping over those furry little friends who always manage to be under foot.



Princess Kitty, soon to be available for adoption.

Keep the trash secured. Tempting garbage such as baking strings, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and wax paper can cause intestinal obstructions and trouble if ingested by your pet.

To insure that your pets have a great time too, consider giving them their own space away from people and loud noises. This is especially important if they are newly adopted and not quite bonded and comfortable yet.

With dogs it is always best to take them for a long walk before guests arrive to help spend their energy and get them calm.

It takes just a little planning to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving for all.



Make Your Pet a Star



So you do not grow tired of seeing my dogs and foster animals issue, after issue, after issue...

I am looking for your holiday pictures for the December issue. Please email me your Christmas and Hanukkah themed photos (your own pet(s) or foster animals) and they just may get published!

'SPOT' LIGHT



Paula Delzell

In Shelter Volunteer

Paula has been a volunteer since September 2006. She loves tennis and at one time played every day!

When her mother, who was living with her and her husband, passed away she decided to scale back on the tennis and pursue another one of her loves-animals.

The shelter was a perfect match and over the years she has become a universal volunteer, which means she performs all duties in the shelter.

She recently adopted her third dog, a precious male Dachshund mix, which joined her other Dachshund and lab. They all get along great, and make a happy family.

Her other loves are her two sons, a daughter-in-law, and recently a beautiful new granddaughter!



Mark Casasola

Animal Control Officer

Mark has been an officer with Plano Animal Services for three and half years.

While living in California he managed a pet store for four years. The store specialized in birds and reptiles. Mark trained many of the birds.

In fact one of the military macaws he trained now lives in the Los Angeles Zoo and is a regular participant in their bird show.

Mark's message to you: "The shelter has under gone a number of changes since I started here in 2007. As we changed officers and expanded the building, the one thing that has not changed has been the warm smiles and love shown to the animals by our volunteers. Without the help given by our volunteers, our job would be a lot more stressful. I don't say this enough but, I would like to say thank you for your dedication and hard work!"

Building & Statue Dedication

And

Plano Pet Palooza

You, your family, friends, and co-workers are cordially invited to the Dedication and pet health fair at Plano Animal Services on Saturday Nov 13th, 2010 at 10a.m.

Immediately following the short ceremony there will be a fair on the grounds of the shelter until 3pm offering

- Low Cost Vaccinations (cash only)*
- Microchipping (cash only)*
- Agility demonstrations and exhibit*
- Pet Photos with Santa (cash only)*
- Pet Supplies/Services Vendors*
- Education presentations by experts*

(Want to help? Volunteer shifts available under My Activities)

Save the Date!

On Saturday Dec. 11th the shelter will have a float in the Christmas Parade.

We will need volunteers to decorate the float a few weeks prior. We will need volunteers to walk in the parade along side the float.

CONTINUEING EDUCATION SERIES

Know Your Ordinances

In the City of Plano

By Kathi Cavanagh
Volunteer Coordinator

All volunteers that own pets should be in compliance with all animal ordinances of the cities in which they reside.

The city of Plano [lists state and local ordinances](#) on their website but we will also be highlighting them here in future issues. Non-resident volunteers should refer to their city's website.

This month we will feature Article IV Sec 4-61 Impoundment which covers all the instances in which an officer can impound an animal. We will select reason #3, At Large which means an animal meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:

Any animal not confined to the premises of the owner by substantial physical means of restraint of sufficient height, strength, and/or manner of construction to preclude the animal

from leaving the premises of the owner or being able to come within six (6) feet of any public area. (In other words it must be in the house or in a secured fenced in yard, and not on the front porch or lawn. The animal can not have access to public areas such as sidewalks and streets.)

Any animal which is not physically and continually restrained by some person by means of a tether of proper strength and of a length of not more than six (6) feet. (In other words the animal is attached to a leash of 6ft or less and a person has control of the animal by means of that leash.)

This definition does not apply to an animal in any City-designated dog park so long as it is in compliance with all other requirements of this chapter. This definition does not apply to an indigenous wild or feral animal. (In other words dogs can be off leash in the designated dog park and wildlife can roam around without a leash!)



My Favorite Volunteer Job

By Denise Thurner
In Shelter Volunteer



One of my favorite volunteer jobs is Dog Group Play. After working as a Kennel Attendant and Adoption Counselor I signed up for a special dog handling class to become a monitor for group dog play. After putting in many hours of hands on training and coaching I advanced up to be a Group Play Lead. The role is extremely rewarding!

It is a great way to get the dogs out of the kennel for some fresh air and exercise time. The best part is visitors get to see the dogs interacting with other dogs. This really helps in situations where potential adopters want to know if a particular dog may get along with other dogs especially in cases where the potential adopter is looking for a companion for an existing pet.

When you perform this job you really get to know the volunteers and the dogs on a personal level in addition to having the opportunity to improve your animal handling skills. I find it a really fun and rewarding experience working so closely with the other volunteers. This job requires multiple monitors in each group so it is always a team effort.

Although the Dog Group Play sessions provide the opportunity for fun and socializing with fellow volunteers and dogs the need to be attentive is always there. You have to be alert and constantly watching body language and doggie attitudes to ensure all are enjoying the benefits group play has to offer. It is one of the fastest ways to expend all that pent up energy the dogs have and is also a great way to help shy dogs in need of socialization get use to being with other dogs.

I am very happy I chose to sign up and participate in this very rewarding program. I feel it is an important part of the dog's health and well being during their stay at the shelter until they are placed in that forever home.