



VOLUNTEER NEWS

August 2011

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



A NEW TOOL IN ANIMAL FOSTERING

By Kathi Cavanagh
Volunteer Coordinator

With every foster situation the shelter staff does their best to provide all the supplies and tools volunteers need to help take care of their animals they are housing on a temporary basis.

Now, we can add metal crates to that list. In the past we had to save a certain number for emergency situations but now we have enough that volunteer may use them in foster situations.

The crates need to be returned with the animals so they can be cleaned and disinfected. If you take in multiple fosters one right after the other you may keep the crate but be sure to clean in between uses. A mixture of bleach and water will work in most cases but if you had a foster with a communicable disease please get with shelter staff for the best course of action.

There are all different sizes and can be used for nearly every foster situation. However, we really want to encourage the use for kittens that are in foster homes.

The crate is a valuable tool in kitten fostering for many reasons and the first is a safe confined space for them to be kept in when

they are not being supervised. It is also easier on the kittens. They get used to being in the crate so when they are returned to the shelter they are not freaked out by the kennel they have to stay in until they are adopted.



An at home metal crate set up for foster kittens.

CONGRATULATIONS! VOLUNTEERS ANNIVERSARIES

Murad Kirdar	1 yr	In Shelter
Nicky Pilkington	1 yr	In Shelter

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Jeannie Dickerson	Shelter Customer Greeter
Brooke Ezell	Dog Exerciser
Darlylin Glanders	Dog Adoption Counselor
Susan Helt	Shelter Customer Greeter
Sandra Oliveros	Kennel Attendant
Citlally Ramirez	Dog Exerciser
Nikhil Sundaragopal	Pups in the Park & Photographer
Preethi Varambally	Foster
Kathie Westerman	Dog Exerciser
Benjamin Zavala	Dog Exerciser

Crates also work great for shy or hissy kittens, if you have the crate out in a public area they can observe and get used to an environment while still feeling safe and protected in the kennel.

Of course they will need exercise and play time outside of the kennel crate when you are home and can keep track of them. Play time is more enjoyable when you have the time to spend supervising.

Taking them in and out also works great when they get back to the shelter. They associate people at their kennel door as playmates are more likely to come running and appear very friendly to potential adopters.

Another great reason to use the metal crates is if you have dogs at home. Fostering kittens is easier when the litter box is out of the way of the dogs and the kittens have a place to get away from the dogs if they want. Ask for a crate the next time you take home some kittens!

What's New

A Better Walk Way

Thanks to our amazing volunteer Tracy Cullens this month we got an improvement to our main exercise and visit yard.

To combat the muddy path to and from the gate Tracy had a landscaper come out and put in a pebble and stone walkway!



We had the first test of our amazing new feature on the 13th of this month when we had the very welcome rain. It worked perfectly. Tracy, the dogs thank you, the staff thanks you, the visitor's thank you and your fellow volunteers thank you too! It was an amazing gift that makes a big difference, and we are all very grateful that in addition to your time and effort you made this contribution as well.

Special Adoption Rate

As those of you go in to the shelter volunteer may have noticed we are almost done with the renovation of the dog kennels. The last one, Bucky, is nearly completed which means next up is the cat area.

Space is always an issue in any shelter and more so when work needs to be done the animal holding areas. So a new pricing plan is in place to help find homes for as many of our cats as we can before the work begins.

Currently you can adopt a cat for only \$1.00 a pound

for every cat that is 10 pounds or more. For example a cat that weighs 15 pounds has an adoption fee of \$15.00.

The adoption fee still includes the spay/nueter surgery, the multi purpose vaccination, the one year rabies vaccination, and a microchip.



That is a great deal even for the big cats we seem to get in because the normal fee is \$80.00. So spread the word to family, friends, and co-workers. Now is the time to adopt a cat (or even two!).

Things to Remember

 Recycling is required! All volunteers should be following the proper recycling procedures when cleaning any areas. Empty food cans should be rinsed before being thrown out. If you are unsure of which bag to use when cleaning ask for assistance before tossing it away.

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

Foster Tails

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

I have been fostering for Plano Animal Services several years now and I have many stories. Some sad, some funny, even miraculous, but one of my all time favorites is the tale of Sasha and Bailey. It starts with a little background about a friend of mine, Cynthia. Her wonderful cat Kirby passed away several years ago and she could not bring herself to “replace” him despite my many, many, many attempts! I knew she had to go at her own time so I stopped asking and time went by until it was a couple of years since I had last tried to tempt her with one of our amazing cats.

I had fostered countless of kittens in the mean time and than one weekend I came to help a little kitty who was a bit hissy after being stuck in a wall, and a little fur ball who was found all alone. Kittens have a better start in life if they can interact with siblings so I do my best create my “orphan litters”. I asked and received the permission to put these two together and brought them home to foster. They bonded immediately and both began to thrive and grow. As I spent time with the little fur ball Bailey, as he is now known, I just kept thinking of Cynthia. In fact I kept referring to him as Cynthia’s cat. It happened so often I decided to change my mind about waiting for Cynthia to come to me and to ask her again if she was ready for another cat.

As it so happened my timing was perfect, she was just starting to think it may be time to get a cat and she agreed to come over to meet him. I was so convinced this kitten belonged with Cynthia I was sure she would take him and began feeling bit torn about separating the two because there were so bonded. However, I knew that they would be fine without each other and was happy to find a home for at least one.

Cynthia arrived and found Bailey charming but was very drawn to Sasha, as she is now called, and I was just stunned. I was so certain Bailey was hers but I was not about to argue the point. However, I did suggest that she consider taking both. She was very hesitant because she had only ever had one cat at a time and was not quite sure about two. As she spent time with the kittens she could not help but noticed how much they loved each other. They not only played together but cuddled together a lot. She loved Sasha and thought Bailey was cute so she decided to take both.

Of course I was delighted and made the arrangements to get them ready and in a few days she went to the shelter to do the adoption. After a couple of days Cynthia kept me up to date on how they were doing and said the bond they had was stronger than ever. I heard more and more stories and I noticed she talked an awful lot about Bailey. It was pretty apparent that the one she just agreed to take, to keep the one she really wanted company, stole her heart in a big way. She dearly loves both of her cats and cannot imagine her life without either of them now, but Bailey did make a special place in her heart.

Cynthia recognized her bond with Sasha right away but turns out Bailey really is Cynthia’s cat.



Sasha (front) and Bailey as kittens settling in to their new home.



A year later still best buds and living happily ever after!

'SPOT' LIGHT



Jennifer Malinak

In Shelter Volunteer

Jennifer has been a volunteer with Plano Animal Services since 2009.

A Plano resident since she was 8 years old she always wanted to volunteer with animals and as soon as she was 18 that is exactly what she did.

Jennifer went to UTD for psychology and is currently studying occupational therapy and would like to work in animal assisted therapy.

Her favorite volunteer jobs are Pups in the Park and Dog Play Group because she enjoys interacting with other volunteers and learning about dog behavior.

She also has managed to convince several close family members and friends to adopt from the shelter and she is still working on the remaining ones.

Jennifer also enjoys spending time with her two dogs Sadie & Buster.



Daric Rogers

Senior Animal Control Officer

Daric has been with the city of Plano for over four years. He is a homebody by nature and loves to spend time with family. He married the love of his life, Andrea, for over nine years ago.

He has many wide ranging interests from wildlife biology to quantum mechanics and says "Basically, I am a world class nerd and my coworkers never let me forget it."

Daric's message to you: "It is impossible for me to overstate how incredibly amazing this crew of volunteers has become. Not only do you guys make our jobs easier by picking up the slack, but you increase the quality of life of the animals in such a way that could not be achieved without you. Your presence here is absolutely essential to our success and I think of you all as beloved members of this crazy family. Keep up the good work and thank you for the passion and dedication you guys display on a daily basis."