



A Successful Day of Celebration and Education

Building Dedication and Pet Palooza

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Bobbing bouquets of balloons and strains of animal themed music greeted city official, citizens and honored guests as they arrived for the building expansion and public arts dedication on November 13th.

An outdoor stage hosted the speakers and guests as they officially celebrated the opening of the expansion building and the dedication of the amazing public art piece “Companions”.



Shelter Manager Jamey Cantrell speaking at the dedication.

After the short dedication ceremony visitors were invited to tour the new building and enjoy Pet Palooza a pet education and health fair. Door prizes and raffles were offered throughout the day and special gifts donated to everyone who adopted a pet.

The front lawn was temporary home to vendors providing giveaways and information about their services. Volunteers also walked the area with shelter dogs to give visitors up close and personal introductions. Other volunteers worked the information booth answering questions and greeting guests.

Our new surgical area was dedicated to providing low cost vaccinations for cats and dogs. The conference room was transformed into the North Poles as Santa came to pose for pictures with pets of all kinds!

The main backyard was turned into an agility field, with demonstrations and the opportunity for guest dogs to give it a try. Volunteers took some shelter dogs through the course with differing levels of ability (Pepper the Pomeranian seemed born to it while Gaga aka Gabby, created her own navigation of the course) but all had a great time and a nice work out.

Staff and volunteers worked hard all week and in the chilly early morning hours before the event to get everything ready with amazing results. Visitors and guests enjoyed the facility and the warm welcome they received.

For those of you who were unable to attend you can check out some of the sights in the pictorial section below. You can even experience some of the sounds by watching the November 26th edition of Plano Wire that covered the dedication. Click [here](#) to watch a shortened version of the ceremony.

VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS!

Jennifer Meers 1 Yr In Shelter

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Tracy Cullens | Adoption Counselor |
| Beverlea Gilbert | Laundry Attendant |
| Laura Hernandez | Adoption Counselor |
| Laura Piepenbrok | Cat Room Attendant |
| Tony Sexton | Front Office Assistant |
| Shelley Wilmot | Photographer |

What's New

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

New Volunteer Area

It is finally here! An official area for volunteers to store supplies as well as their personal belongings. We are still moving in so more detailed information will be provided soon.

Change in Rabies Licensing

The shelter has partnered with PetData, the nation's only full-service animal registration provider, to make it easier than ever for residents to register their dog, cat, or ferret. Residents now have three different options: online, by mail, or in person. This means changes for our Front Office Assistant position so stay tuned for more information.

Feedback Request

Your ideas needed! During December we will be looking at the volunteer jobs to see what improvements can be made. Since you are on the front line your ideas and suggestions would be extremely helpful. If you have any new job duty ideas or ways to improve the existing process please send an [email](#).



The shelter offers gift certificates . If someone would like to get a loved one a pet for the holidays recommend a gift certificate. That way the recipient can select the pet that best suits them. The gift certificate can be wrapped with the dog or cat supplies they may need such as collars, bowls, food, etc.



The shelter will be closed December 24, 25 and January 1



The shelter will close for a staff meeting December 17 from 11 to 1.

Special Acknowledgement

Thank you for making Pet Palooza such a success!

Juan Carlos Alarcon

Sheila Alberico

Alex Aronoff

Rita Barshop

Nancy Cate

Ziva Eliezer

Pamela Hamel

Ramona Johnson

Jennifer Malinak

Jennifer Meers

Nicky Pilkington

Renate Raff

Alysia Rudis

Christina Savage

Judy Staser

Karen Suiter

Debbie Tafelski

Denise Thurner

Pilar Trujillo

Lauren Young

Julia Woods

Mike Woods

Tis the Season for Offsite Events

Offsite Events in November

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

Offsite events are incredible opportunities to promote the shelter, educate citizens, partner with area businesses and get dogs adopted.

This past month we had three offsite events made possible by the staff members and volunteers who agreed to help. Braving the chilly winds they worked as amazing ambassadors for the shelter.

Regardless of the number of adoptions done at these events the good will and community outreach are very important to the success of the adoption program at the shelter.

Two of those events were hosted by area business and one was part of an animal event. All allowed us the opportunity to promote the shelter, the volunteer program and the animals available for adoption.



 Any time shelter staff or volunteers work at a location other than the shelter it is called an "Offsite".

 Offsites can be a part of a bigger event or be it's own event in partnership with an area business.

 The shelter has an Event Only volunteer position for those who do not have the time to commit to In shelter work but still want to help.

 Offsite events are open to In Shelter and Event Only volunteers but occasionally are available to Foster Only volunteers too.

 Jennifer Meers holds the unofficial record for offsite assistance. In November she worked every one of the offsite events and worked Pet Palooza too!



Volunteer Nicky Pilkington at the Texas Pet Expo.



Volunteers Jen Meers and Pamela Hamel at Plano Subaru



Officer Amber at the Floor and Décor Outlets of America

Christmas and your Pets

What You Should Know

By Kathi Cavanagh

Volunteer Coordinator

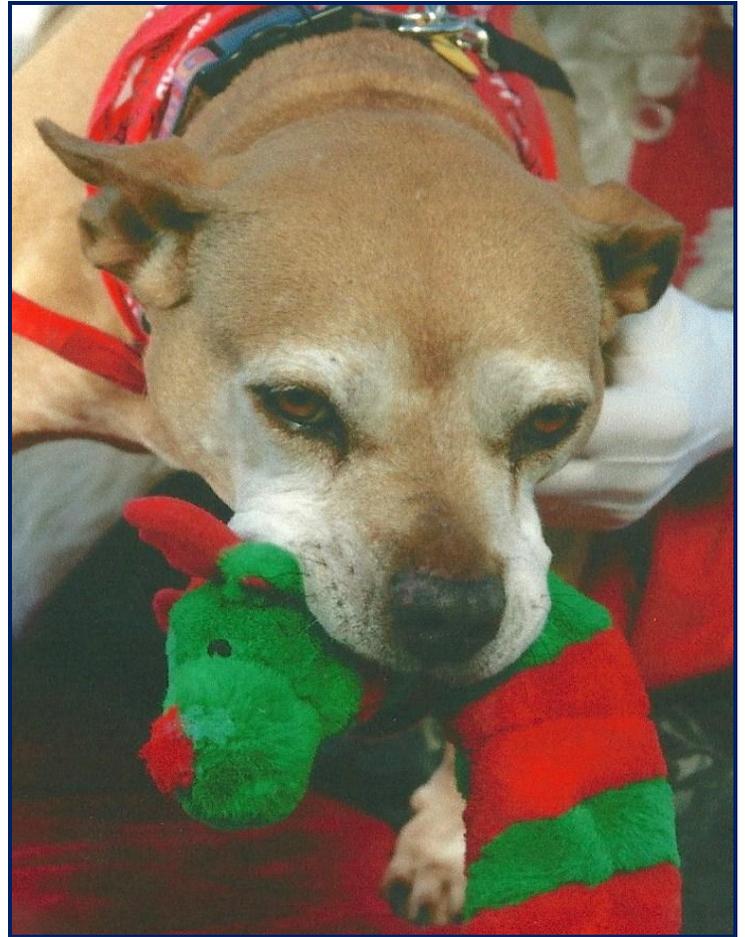
Another holiday is upon us and another opportunity to talk to new adopters about pet safety.



Scarlet, the diva, and Santa

Christmas Tree

- Keep breakable ornaments away from the bottom of the tree. It is much better to place them well out of reach, or not to use them at all.
- Secure your tree to a wall by using some high gauge fishing line and hooks or nails. This will prevent the tree from being tipped over by a dog desperate to get at that oh so shiny ornament, or a cat that can't resist climbing the limbs.
- If using a fresh tree change the water every 2 days. Pets have a tendency to try to drink the water which can make them ill if it has been standing for long period of time.



Gertie with her present from Santa

Hazards

- **Poinsettias, Amaryllis and Mistletoe** are toxic plants to dogs and cats. Ingestion of the plant can cause vomiting, diarrhea, or worse. Do not place these plants on the floor, or in spots your dog or cat can reach. A lit fireplace might look beautiful, but make sure that it is covered and that your curious pet can not get to it at all
- The same goes for candles. Candles can be easily tipped over by a dog or cat that jumps on furniture. If you must use candles use hurricane lanterns with a lid, and keep them completely out of reach.
- Window displays, toy train sets, or any of the other many moving holiday decor may stress an animal or they may think they are toys to be chased. Observe your pet's behavior around certain objects.
- Give your pets a place to retreat should all your company become overwhelming for them. Set-up a quiet room in your home and designate it a non-guest area.

'SPOT' LIGHT



Melissa Sherman

In Shelter Volunteer & Trainer

Melissa has been a volunteer since February 2009 but previously was an Animal Control Officer with the city of Plano.

She left animal control to continue her education and after settling into her classes and teaching assistant position she came back as a volunteer.

Melissa's experience and dedication to the shelter led her to become a volunteer trainer. That is in addition to all the other volunteer jobs she performs.

When working at the shelter Melissa's lends her language skills by translating for Spanish speaking visitors when needed.

Melissa shares her non-shelter time with her 4 rescue animals, 2 dogs and 2 cats. Great Dane mix Bear, Cattle dog Blue, domestic long hair Leroy, and her most recent addition Persian Drake formerly known and Smooshy.



Jenny Mellnick

Animal Control Officer

Jenny has been an officer with Plano Animal Services for three and half years and has experience as a veterinarian assistant.

She has a bachelor degree in social work with a minor in social studies from Texas Woman's University and is currently working on her masters degree in public administration at Kaplan. Jenny was a social worker for 3 years finding homes for persons with HIV/Aids.

Jenny's message to you: "To dedicate your free time to such an important cause shows the true magnitude of your compassion for animals. I find it very important that individuals and communities as a whole contribute to social change whatever it maybe. We are honored to have a group of volunteers that contribute to our mission and effort towards positive that social change. I appreciate everything you all do for the staff, the animals, and the residents of Plano"

DEDICATION AND PET PALOOZA PICTORIAL



A family takes their dog for an agility lesson.



Gertie enjoying the grass & dogs watch the agility



"Puppy brigade" Volunteers introduce puppies to visitors



"The Campanions" artist (in brown) chats with visitors.



Visitors fill up their goody bags at vendor tents.



Staff listens to the dedication speeches.