

The Animals' Voice Fall 2017

(Humane Society of Morgan County)

Greetings Everyone!

It's that time of year when we say goodbye to hot, humid days of summer and welcome in those cool crisp days and nights of autumn. We put away the lawn mower and bring out the rakes. We replace our lighter clothing for warmer wear and ready ourselves for the cold winter months ahead. This beautiful season with its changing weather serves to remind me of the many cats and dogs that will need our help.

Here at the Humane Society of Morgan County we provide shelter, food, and medical care to unwanted dogs and cats, and work to find loving homes for each of them. We do this because we are committed not only to the animals we serve but to the residents of Morgan County as well. We work hard to accommodate, when possible, folks who can no longer keep their animals for whatever the reason.

For the last year and a half, thanks to a very generous donation from the estate of Debbie and Dan Zimmerman we were able to provide a free Trap Neuter and Release program aimed at decreasing our county's feral cat population. In addition, this donated money provided up to one-hundred dollars per animal to help residents spay or neuter their pets. Nearly a thousand Morgan County cats and dogs were spayed or neutered with these two programs.

Large donations, like this one, make it easy for us to provide a great animal related community program like the one just mentioned. But it is the monthly donations we depend on the most to help keep this shelter viable and able to serve the community. As mentioned in previous letters we are a 501c3 non-profit no-kill animal shelter and receive no funding from state or county. The ability to keep up with veterinary expenses, heat and electric, insurance, testing supplies, vaccinations and food for the animals is becoming more of a challenge.

While one-time donations are always appreciated, regular monthly donations arranged easily through your bank or Pay Pal, can provide us with the on-going day to day support. Your monthly gift should be what you can afford. We have no expectations, only gratitude and appreciation for any support you can give to us. As always, any donation is a tax deduction for you. We hope you will act on our plea so that we can continue serving the animals and residents of Morgan County. Thank you.

Pamela Farnham, President HSMC



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Humane Society of Morgan County

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P.O. Box 705 (mailing address)
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia
25411
(304) 258-5592
HSMC-WV@PeoplePC.Com

Face Book: HSMCWV

Our Seniors – Still So Much to Give

2

Sammy



There are a variety of reasons why someone surrenders their cat or dog. For most, it must be a heart wrenching decision to make, and an even harder one when the pet is a senior. Here at the shelter we have had the privilege to receive many nice senior cats and dogs. Their owners have entrusted us to care for and love their companions until a home can be found.

Sammy, was one such senior. At nine years old she was surrendered to us because her owner lost her home. She arrived with a skin issue which we found out was related to an untreated flea allergy. She spent many months with us enjoying her play time, walks, and beloved office time where she liked to nap. One day a woman came in, fell in love with her, and chose to adopt. Unfortunately, several months later Sammy was returned to us, as this owner too had lost her place to live.



Pinky

Sammy was with us only a few months the second time when a woman came in wanting to adopt. Not having had a dog for a very long time, she thought she knew what she wanted, which was a younger dog. However, we encouraged her look at Sammy. After all she was the real deal. She enjoyed good health, was full of love and affection towards everyone, and was just a great spirit. There was an instant connection for this woman and she asked if she could adopt. "The best decision I could have made" was her reply when we called to check on them days later.

We encourage everyone to consider the older cat or dog because they still have so much to give.

Raining Cats & Kittens

This title serves as a pretty accurate assessment of the current cat situation in our county. To say this has been a heavy kitten season would be an understatement. We receive calls from folks every day looking for help to rehome a stray cat that just wondered into their yard or a litter of orphaned kittens they found left to die. This is a chronic problem everywhere. Over all, people want to do the right thing. Many continue to care for and spay or neuter these kitties but unfortunately for many, that option is not realistic. The frustration builds, we realize, when we tell folks we are full. Cats have been coming into the shelter this season faster than they are going out. The money for the spay and neuter program we ran for the last year and a half has run out, and we are looking for grant money to restart a program once again. We ask for your patience but want to encourage everyone to do what they can to help in this difficult situation. Thank you.

Happy Endings

Over a year ago, the shelter took in a seven year- old boy named Dodger. His owner, who had been all he'd known for the seven years, was now moving and could no-longer keep him. On first impression, Dodger appeared un-easy but well- behaved standing with the woman. She admitted he had not been socialized well with people and we saw evidence of this once he was in his kennel. He looked afraid and his response was to jump up, bark and bear his teeth at anyone passing by. During his first few days with us, one of our staff members worked very hard to gain his trust. She was finally able to do her daily routine with him, along with walking him to the play yard where, in a larger space, he felt more at ease. For those of us that spent daily time with him, we began to see potential and gentleness in this older guy. Unfortunately, though, with every new person, whether it be a volunteer or a visitor, introductions had to be done slowly. If not, Dodger slipped back to unadoptable behaviors he felt kept him safe.

At various times we consulted with dog trainers Jill Freifeld, owner of Happy Hound Training and Pat Miller, Dog Trainer and Behavior Consultant of Peaceable Paws. The final thing offered to us was an invitation from Pat Miller for Dodger and a second dog named Brownie to attend her Behavior Modification Academy. The dogs remained at her farm for the week, each having a trainer assigned to them who in turn was working on obtaining a training certification for themselves. At the end of the week, Dodger's trainer Dylan reached out to the shelter asking if he could take Dodger back home with him to Albany, NY. He had grown very fond of the dog, understood his issues and felt he could make a difference in providing him with a better life. We saw this as a real opportunity for Dodger, and with bitter sweet emotion, we agreed to let him go. We stay in touch with Dylan and hear Dodger is so far adjusting nicely. Our sincere thanks to Pat Miller and Jill Freifeld. They have been and continue to be a great resource in helping us with our dogs. Many thanks for this happy ending.

"Hi.
I'm Dodger"



Other Ways to Donate

Looking to get rid of your old car, truck, or RV? Consider donating it. V-Dac is a free vehicle donation program for non-profits. It is a way for you to convert that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deduction donation benefiting the Humane Society of Morgan County. You can donate online at V-Dac.com or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

The Humane Society is also registered with AmazonSmile which is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charity of your choice. Please consider these three great ways to donate.

You can also donate your gently used household items and furniture to the RAG Shop in Berkeley Springs. When you bring items to the RAG Shop let "Trish" know that your items are to benefit the Humane Society. When your donated goods are sold, Trish Shunney (the owner) sends a portion of the proceeds to HSMC. A special thank you to Trish for setting up this generous program.

The Rag Shop
109 N. Washington Street
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
304-258-7742

Here is my 2017 Tax Deductible Donation to the Humane Society of Morgan County (HSMC).

\$ _____

Please make check out to: *HSMC*

Address:

The Humane Society of Morgan County

P.O. Box 705

Berkeley Springs, West Virginia 25411

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5366 Valley Road

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