



Paw Print

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2011

How Country Dogs Started Coming to Town

by Kelly Bond, CCHS Advisory Board Mentor

Inside this issue:

How I Found CCHS	2
Tammy's Training Tips	2
I Wish There Was Something I Could Do	3
2011 Gala Details	3
The No-Kill Debate	4
Update on Rosie	5
Happy Tails	7-8

Collin County Humane Society reaches out to assist many shelters in rural outlying areas. These shelters get very limited rescue help and their adoption rate is even lower. Needless to say they are very happy to have forged a relationship with CCHS. Here's the story of how country dogs started coming to town.

There once was a lady named Nancy who lived on an island at Possum Kingdom Lake near Graham Texas. (I hope you didn't think I was going to say "in a shoe.") Nancy is the epitome of planes, boats, and

automobiles. She takes a boat across the lake to get to her car then she drives several hours to get on an airplane to do her job as a flight attendant. Nancy forgot to bid for a schedule in February 2009... I bet by now you are wondering WHY I am telling you this.



Former country dog Chance (middle) with his great new family, the Cohorns

Well Nancy believes it was fate that in 30 years of flying she forgot to bid and ended up flying with me. My name is Kelly and I am an Advisory Board Member and Foster for CCHS.

We hit it off immediately because we discovered we had a huge common interest. Our love of our animals came up in conversation within 30 seconds and we have been friends ever since. We also learned that we both spend a lot of time volunteering to help animals. Nancy is a volunteer at the Humane Society of

(Continued on page 10)

Save the Date!

*2011 Gala
October 21*



Foster dog Bonnie taking a little nap during an adoption event. These events really are exhausting!

Fostering. Easy Breezy?

by Tressa Broadhead, CCHS Vice President

As I sat in one of the local shelters one afternoon waiting on the shelter attendant to walk me through the shelter to view the dogs, a short, elderly woman standing in the lobby heard me tell the staff that I was with CCHS, and I was here to check out the dogs for a potential rescue. She stared at me for a minute

(a long, uncomfortable minute) and when I finally darted my eyes over at her, she said to me, "I wish I could do what you do. I can't even walk in the back. It makes me too sad". My first thought was "then what are you doing here?", but instead I defaulted to my standard answer for the dozens of people who have

(Continued on page 12)



Hannah Pickering with foster puppies Lulu, Davy and Murphy. Their mom Marley was rescued from a shelter and started giving birth on the way to her foster home!

How I found CCHS: "I'm Pretty Good With Money..."

by Lisa Weinstein, CCHS Treasurer



Lisa Weinstein and Molly Peterson

My journey to becoming treasurer of this wonderful organization was sort of a crap shoot. At the time, Molly Peterson and I had been friends for over 5 years. Molly was involved with a couple other dog rescue organizations. Every group had their own way of doing things and she thought it would be great if they would all take

on the ideas that worked for the other groups. I encouraged her to just start her own group. I told her that I am pretty good with money and I volunteered my type A tendencies to take on the role of Treasurer. The wheels were in motion with our board in the works and a plan in line. It seemed like the very next day Molly sent me details about the first official meeting of what has become known as CCHS!

I knew that being treasurer would be a good fit for me because I wasn't ready to foster dogs. I currently live in Denton and have a long commute to work in Dallas. I didn't have the proper time to spend with them at home.

That changed real quick when I saw a

posting of the Denton Shelter notification that showed this poor little Yorkie mix that had about 2 hours until it was going to get euthanized. I immediately called my husband who had the day off work and told him he had to get to the shelter immediately to pull this dog. He asked me, "Are you sure"? We have a two month old at the house and we are just now getting sleep. I said I was positive. He then reminded me about the last dog rescue event that I worked and came home with an adorable dog named Bella. He told me if he pulled the dog from the shelter we were only allowed to foster. I told him that wouldn't be a problem because I had my hands full with a new baby anyways.

(Continued on page 6)

Tammy's Training Tips—Raising a Happy Well-Behaved Puppy

by Tammy Mills, Certified Dog Trainer, CPDT-KA, ABCDT



www.allabout-dogs.com

It's that time of year again when many people have brought new puppies into their lives. Sometimes we forget just how much work and effort goes into raising a new puppy. Below are a few tips to help make puppy-raising a bit less challenging.

Nutrition – believe it or not, what your dog eats can affect his behavior. Many foods on the market are not top quality foods and contain so many "fillers" that it's like us eating ice cream every day. We get fat but are not getting the nutrients that we need. Do some research on the top dog foods, check out the ingredients

and become more knowledgeable about doggie nutrition. I think you will be surprised at what you may learn.

Handling – as you are interacting with your puppy, do a lot of touching, rubbing etc. Your veterinarian and groomer will thank you for this one. Plus the fact that if a child runs up and pulls your dog's ears or tail, the dog is already desensitized to this and is less likely to bite. I recommend rubbing the ears, (ear cleaning is also important especially in certain breeds), rubbing the gums and teeth (tooth brushing is also recommended),

mashing lightly on the paws, rubbing and slightly pulling on the tail (not enough to hurt of course), and just slight massaging and rubbing over the entire body. Also, although most dogs don't particularly like it, people tend to pet them on the top of the head instead of under the chin so make sure your dog is accustomed to this.

(Continued on page 9)



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How sad, I wish there was something I could do...

By Molly Peterson, CCHS President

Chances are if you are reading this newsletter that at some point in your life you wanted to help an animal in need. Some of you have taken that leap and have not stopped since. Others have helped here and there and some have not taken that step to help at all. Or maybe you would like to get more involved but just don't know how. Well, today is your lucky day! I have created this easy to follow list of options to help those of you who want to get involved in a cause but don't know how. Find your mantra below, cut out that section, tape it to your bathroom mirror (you can also put it on your fridge if you like) and get to work!

All donations to CCHS are tax deductible!

"I have the money to give, but I just don't have the time!"

Sponsor a portion of the CCHS Adoption Facility. Prices range from \$75 and up. You can put your name on a paver/brick, sponsor a cat cage, sponsor a dog run... the sky is the limit! Visit www.collincountyhumaneociety.org/shelter_sponsor1.htm for details!



Purchase items to fill the facility. We have this awesome place, now we need to furnish it! We have grouped the items needed for the facility into nice little price packages ranging from a few dollars to hundreds! It's like we have registered for a house warming party and all you need to do is pick your items and let the us do the rest. Visit www.collincountyhumaneociety.org/revival_animal.htm for details!

Sponsor a dog. Some doggies have special needs while another dog's only need is finding a forever home. No matter the cost to CCHS, they all can benefit from the help of a sponsor (can't we all)! You can help donate a portion of the doggies adoption fee or medical bills. Visit www.cchsappplications.org/donation_form.htm for details!

Donate in the name of a dog or person. What do you get for the person that has everything? A donation in their name to help aid a dog in need! Rather it's to commemorate a lost loved one, to celebrate a birthday, or just because you're in the mood to give, what a better way to show you

care than to give to a cause that is near and dear to you. Visit www.cchsappplications.org/donation_form.htm and a donation card/receipt will be sent out accordingly.

Become a Member. Memberships start as low as \$10 a month! If you would like to become a member, visit www.cchsappplications.org/membership.htm for details.

"I have stuff to give, but I don't know who will take it!"

Donate land to for the Adoption Facility. CCHS is working on raising money to build an adoption facility! The first HUGE solid leap in breaking ground is obtaining land for the facility. If you or someone you know would like to donate land to CCHS, contact Molly Peterson for more information: pres@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org. The land must be in Collin County.

Donate furniture or appliances. CCHS will need furniture for the lobby of our adoption facility and in our conference room. We will also need a washing machine, dryer, two refrigerators and two dishwashers. If you have new or gently used items that can help furnish our facility, contact Molly at pres@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org

Have a Garage Sale to benefit CCHS. Putting on a garage sale as a fundraiser for CCHS is a great way to turn your unwanted items into cash for critters. You can also, sign up with the Salvation Army to stop by the Monday follow-

(Continued on page 6)

CCHS 2011 Gala

Our ultimate goal is to build a no-kill adoption facility and the Gala is our primary fundraiser to help us reach this goal.

GALA 2011

When: Friday, Oct 21, 2011

Where: Cityplace

Time: 7:00pm

DONATIONS NEEDED:

Gift Cards, Sponsors, weekend getaways.....

If you are interested in donating please contact Lisa (Cornish) Weinstein. Alisacornish@gmail.com

The No-Kill Debate *by Fred Sanderson*

The debate between “kill” vs. “no kill” has been around for a few decades and is capable of evoking the most passionate of responses on either side of the issue. What I have discovered over the past 20 plus years of working at a municipal shelter is that the common goal in the majority of organizations is placing adoptable animals in loving homes. All organizations are going to utilize whatever resources and tools available to them to accomplish this. These resources can consist of foster programs, transferring to other adoption partners, or having a great adoption program within your organization. However, it must be noted that resources mentioned previously are greatly influenced by the level of commitment of the community or communities that you work in.

“No kill” organizations that operate as an animal shelter or through a network of foster organizations are actually limited or selective intake facilities. This means they are able to choose what they will accept into their respective programs. The public readily contributes resources to a no kill organizations, and I understand this. I do not find fault with organizations that use “no kill” to raise revenues, that’s just a good business model. Very few, however, will admit publicly that they limit their intake. The challenges facing open admission shelters are in developing educational programs so that the public clearly

sees all sides of the issue.

Modern animal welfare agencies that operate animal shelters, whether non-profit or municipal government will often have a policy or contract that requires them to take in any animal brought to them. They have what is referred to as an Open Door Policy, which due to the number of animals they take in, often requires euthanasia for space. Open admission shelters receive not only companion animals, but can include: reptiles, birds, pocket pets, fowl, livestock and urban wildlife. Depending on the size of the community they are serving, the number of animals can be daunting. I have never been to a municipal or nonprofit animal shelter where staff wants to euthanize animals. There is a reason that no large municipal shelters or non-profit organizations operate the same. Each one is impacted by the size of the community they serve, demographics, budget, and how their community wants them to operate their programs.

Currently the Asilomar Accords have fallen out of favor in some circles as a means of calculating adoptable animals. Their guiding principles however have had a lasting impact on me, and how we should operate our animal welfare agencies. Some of my favorite principals state that we put our differences aside and instead save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals. It recommends

that we, the stakeholders, develop a mutual respect for one another. It is important to recognize that many organizations are at different levels of development. Some are multimillion dollar organizations while others operate out of their homes on a shoe string budget. These can be private or public shelters. I encourage all of you to use your professional influence to help animals in any capacity you can and not get caught up in minor differences or personal attacks on each other. I continue to learn from others around the nation. Some I thrive to emulate, others copy what we have accomplished, which in itself is a form flattery. The goal ultimately is to help the animals entrusted to our care. If you catch yourself in a debate over philosophical ideas between organizations, always remind yourself why you’re in the animal welfare field. It’s for the animals. If you forget that fundamental principal, companion animal’s lives will be at risk while you are debating. As an industry we’ve accomplished a lot this past decade and with everyone working together the future will only get better.

Fred Sanderson is Former President of the Texas Federation of Humane Societies, Current Vice President of the Texas Animal Control Association, Current Board Member of the Texas Animal Shelter Coalition and Current Animal Services Manager for the City of Irving



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Update on Rosie: The ~~Two~~ THREE Thousand Dollar Dog

By Gloria Meyer, CCHS Foster

Our last newsletter told you the story of Rosie and the battle she has been fighting to overcome the considerable health problems brought on by her life as a stray. We are happy to say that Rosie is doing much better now but her success has not been achieved without significant effort and cost.

As her intestines slowly healed Rosie was able to feel better and gain some of her badly needed weight. However, about six weeks ago it seemed that she had hit an impasse; while she consumed huge amounts of food it seemed little of it stayed with her and she was not gaining any more weight. In addition to this, the almost daily vomiting, which had subsided somewhat, returned. A little nagging voice in my head kept saying something serious is wrong with Rosie and we need to do something more to find out what it is. Rosie's veterinarian at Parker Animal and Bird Clinic agreed and CCHS said "Hey, we've already spent a lot of money on Rosie, she definitely is worth the effort, so what's a little more money?"

So Rosie underwent a test for Pancreatitis and when that came back negative (a good thing), a test for Addison's Disease which was also negative. That left no other option than to do exploratory surgery on her stomach

and intestines. Rosie underwent that surgery in mid-February and when the doctor opened up her stomach his comment was "I have never seen anything like this!!!"

Lodged in Rosie's stomach were 12 pieces of a black hard plastic trash can ranging up to 3 inches long and more than an inch wide. Apparently in her effort to find food she had consumed something in the garbage, receptacle and all. The pieces were situated so that some food could pass through and that is why she had gained weight. However, as one can well imagine, her stomach was swollen and very irritated.

Trash can removed and her 7 inch incision stapled closed Rosie returned to my care. Her recovery was almost instantaneous; the vomiting is almost gone, most days she feels great with amazing energy and two weeks after her surgery she had gained 5 pounds. She has probably gained another 3 or 4 pounds in the last two weeks and is almost up to the weight she should be.

As you read this, Rosie will be completing what we all hope is her final challenge on the road to her complete recovery. On March 16th Rosie underwent her heartworm treatment and will be recovering at



**Trash can pieces removed from
Rosie's stomach**

my house for approximately another month. I hope the next Rosie update will be to show everyone her adoption photo with her new family. Rosie and I have forged a special bond as we make our way through this unforgettable journey, one I hope I never have to go on with another dog and one I hope Rosie can forget. She is a very, very lucky dog to have found her way to CCHS as she would not have survived to make the journey without their care and commitment. But caring for dogs in need is what CCHS does and they do it well.

Rosie when she was rescued



**Rosie now—
FINALLY no
bones showing!!**



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How I found CCHS: "I'm Pretty Good With Money..." (continued)



Lisa's foster dog
Murdock

(Continued from page 2)

I took my new foster Murdock to the adoption event just knowing he would get adopted because he was such a good dog. He played with my dogs and slept in our bed. Little did

I know that he hated being in a crate with other dogs all around him barking. He was barking nonstop. I had a little talk with Murdock telling him no one would adopt him if he was barking so much. I then proceeded to take him out of the crate when I was approached by someone asking if he always barks like this. I assured them he didn't and sure enough they adopted him! Murdock had found his forever home! I periodically get pic-

tures from the adoptive family. He is one special dog.

Part of my job responsibilities are keeping up with the financials and dog adoptions. To this date we have adopted over 1500 dogs. I am so proud of everyone that volunteers for this organization and I am so proud that I have been there from day one to see how far this organization has come from that one night at Molly's house.

How sad, I wish there was something I could do... (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

ing the garage sale to take everything that doesn't sell. In the comfort of your own home, you can help two organizations with one great event! Send all proceeds to PO Box 2733 (McKinney TX 75070).

Donate unwanted dog items. CCHS always needs items for the fur kids in our program. Here is a link to our wish list for ideas of items that we can use: www.collincountyhumaneociety.org/wish_list.htm

"I have the time to help, but don't know where to start"

Write a Grant for CCHS. There are SO many grants out there but we just need people to take the time to apply for them. If you would like to get involved in writing a grant or two for CCHS, contact Kevin Olney at dogs2save@gmail.com for more details!

Organize a fundraiser. Gather up some neighbors, friends and family to put together a fundraiser for CCHS! Have kids with energy and time to burn? Do a Dog Wash or a Car Wash! Have a group of animal lovers with unwanted items around the house? Have a Group Garage Sale. Have a Book Drive with your office, apartment, neighborhood, school or church (cashing in books for money is an easy way to turn dust into aid for the fur kids). Organize a Food Drive. Send all proceeds to PO Box 2733 (McKinney TX 75070) or contact pres@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org for drop of details/location.

Help with a Fundraiser. The largest fundraiser for CCHS is the Gala in October. We need all the help we can get gathering items for the silent and live auction

as well as sponsors for the event. If you would like to join this campaign to gain support for this wonderful fundraiser, contact Lisa Weinstein for details at lweinstein@domistyle-inc.com.

Become a Foster. One of the best ways to help save the fur kids is to join the ever expanding CCHS foster team! CCHS supplies crate, collar, leash, food and pays for all medical care for foster doggies. If you are interested in becoming a foster, complete an online application at www.collincountyhumaneociety.org/Forms.htm

The list above just touches the surface of all the ways you can help! So now you have no excuses! If you have more ideas or would like to discuss future ways to help our cause, contact Molly Peterson at Pres@CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org

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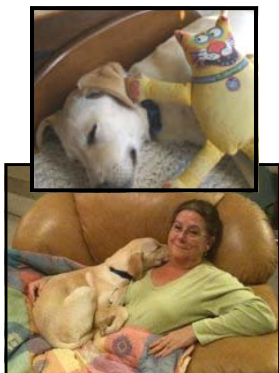
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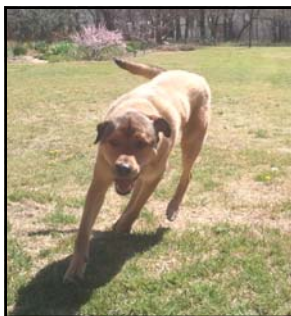
Featured Happy Tails

185 Adoptions from January to March!

Carlton—Adopted by
Jenny and Ben
Fischer



Farley—Adopted by
Jennifer Rankin



Bo—Adopted by
LouAnn Haynie and
Damon Myers



Tommy—Adopted by
Joe and Marisa
Brown



Snookie (with
Buster) - Adopted by
June Holland



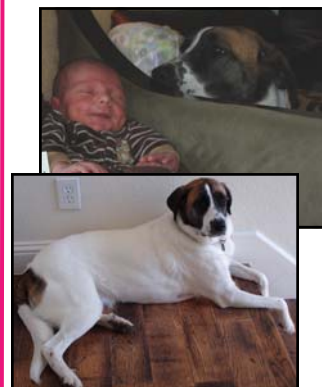
Annie - Adopted by
the Thursby family



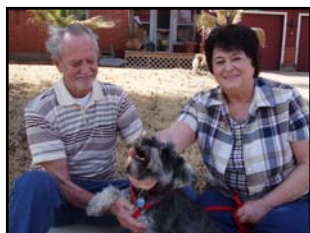
Tyler - Adopted by
the Lowery family



Shelby - Adopted by
the Arredondo Butts
family



Barney— Adopted by
the Henry family



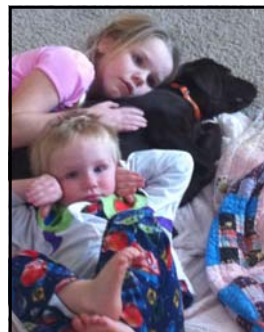
Tanner— Adopted by
the Martin family



Ryan and Lilly —
Adopted
by the
Veale
family



Charlie Brown—
Adopted by the
Blacketer family





More Happy Tails!

We just LOVE showing off the happy endings for these pups!!

Sampson and Lexi—Adopted by the Young family



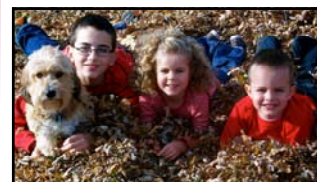
Holly—Adopted by the Hicks family



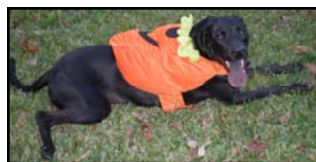
Flip—Adopted by the MacFarlane family



Pete—Adopted by the Beam family



Noel—Adopted by the Miller family



Seth—Adopted by the English family



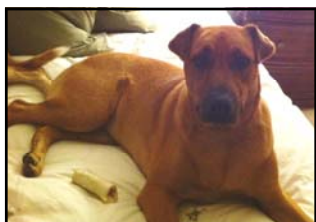
Stacey—Adopted by the Reddy family



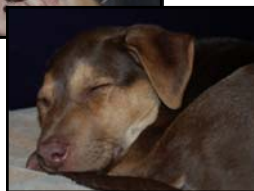
Cody—Adopted by the Petty family



Maggie—Adopted by Sandra DeLaunay and George Moore



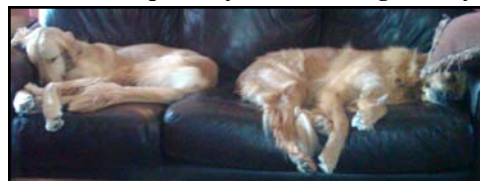
Hattie—Adopted by the Siegel family



Miley—Adopted by the Beard family!



Z and Shooter—Adopted by the Golding family!



Tammy's Training Tips *(continued)*

(Continued from page 2)

Training & Socialization – it is extremely important to make sure your puppy meets as many people and as many other puppies as possible between the age of 8 weeks and 16 weeks. Dogs that are not socialized are much more likely to not like other dogs or to be aggressive toward people once they get older. Be very careful of which dogs you let your puppy play with and make sure it's in controlled situations. I would not let a small puppy walk on the floors of pet stores, go to dog parks, walk on the floors where sick dogs have been etc. A good trainer will make sure all puppies have their shots started and will have a clean place to let the dogs interact. Even though puppies can catch deadly diseases at this age, it is much more likely that you will have a problem dog if you don't have some interaction during this time period. Obedience training is a must for a new puppy. Training is much easier if you start early.

Preventing Separation Anxiety – it is a good idea, for just a little while each day, to place your puppy in his crate or designated place with a yummy KONG toy while you are at home. Keeping your puppy by your side every hour of the day, day after day, can lead to separation issues that can be very hard to undo.

Physical Punishment – whether it's for housebreaking, jumping, nipping or chewing, physical punishment is never recommended. Since dogs are not human they do not learn the same way we humans do and physical punishment can lead to fear and aggression and also teaches the puppy not to trust humans. There are other ways to teach them the proper things to chew on, not to nip humans, and not to jump up on people, without using force. Redirecting a chewing dog, ignoring a dog who is jumping and then praising when they are not jumping are a couple of good examples.

These are just a few tips on raising puppies. I have, by no means, touched on every subject. They are all different with their own little personalities. Getting in touch with a good Positive Reinforcement trainer early in your puppy's life helps to make the transition of a new puppy in the house much easier.

One more quick note: If you are thinking about getting a puppy, carefully study the breeds and try to find the right puppy for you and your family's lifestyle. Adopting from a rescue or shelter is a great option. Good luck with your new furry friend!



Residents Lucian and Melvin
with pets Jake (Golden Lab) and
Astro (Black and Tan Shepherd)

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How Country Dogs Started Coming to Town *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

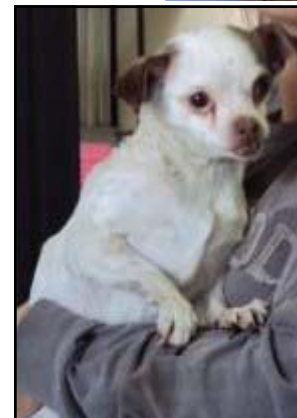
Young County which also has to serve as the city shelter for Graham. They take in an insurmountable number of strays and owner surrenders especially during kitten and puppy season. The shelter has to deal with people who want to surrender their animals and if told that they have to wait the people will threaten to shoot or drown the animal instead of waiting. I know you are thinking "how horrible"....but I bet you are starting to understand why it has become so important that CCHS and other groups try to help some of these "country" shelters.

I drive out to Graham or meet someone from the shelter halfway at least 2 to 3 times a month. I have tried numerous ways of stowing the crates in my small SUV but no matter how I arrange them or how many I take there is always too many dogs and never enough space. I still haven't figured out how Nancy gets all those dogs/cats packed in her little red Honda while I struggle even though my car is bigger but she ALWAYS makes them fit. Nancy is always sitting on "GO" anytime she is asked to help with transport as she lives to be

able to get those animals out of the shelter. I do not know a lot of people who would drive all the way to Boston to ensure that 7 little black puppies could find safety in a rescue there.... now that is DEDICATION!

Thru the efforts of CCHS to help shelters in places such as Graham it has made a tremendous difference in their "save" rate. We have been able to turn other rescues on to some of these shelters as well. One Saturday when we were driving back from Young County we decided to stop at the animal shelter in the small town of Jacksboro. We had passed by it numerous times in our travels but that one day we couldn't pass by without stopping. They had 9 dogs and they were all looking at us so sadly with pleading eyes to help them. My friends Jennifer and Brenda (CCHS foster) were with me and we all looked at each other knowing we were these dogs only hope. We drove away with 7 of them in the car and strict instructions to the Animal Control Officer that Brenda and her husband Grant would be back the next day for the other 2. We already had our dogs and cats from Young

(Continued on page 11)



Bosley (Lab Mix), Roxy (Chihuahua) and Delilah (Lab mix) have all been at the Young County shelter for a year or more and are still waiting for rescue
www.humanesociety-yc.org

Make sure to check out our new Facebook page for daily dog tips, adoptable dogs, articles, and MORE!!

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How Country Dogs Started Coming to Town *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)

County in the car, so with the addition of these 7 we had dogs EVERYWHERE including all of our laps. The only place we had space left was if we had made one a hood ornament on our car. We were so excited about saving all the dogs then reality set in and we realized we had 7 more dogs than we had planned for. We had to quickly get on the phone and try to find CCHS fosters or other rescue groups to help! It was a LONG ride home but what a rewarding day!

Speaking of rewarding ... I cannot tell a story about country dogs without mentioning Chance.



Chance in his foster home

Three words I would use to describe him would be shy, shy, and oh yeah shy. When we went outside his kennel he ran inside, then we went inside and he ran outside. We just had to laugh because he wanted no part of us even looking at him. I told the shelter I would take him if someone could catch him. My friend said "so much for you not getting a dog today".... That's always the way it goes in rescue with squeezing just one more into the program. I knew as we were driving away with him that his name HAD to be Chance because CCHS was his ONLY chance. The first week I had to keep a long leash on him so when he went outside I could step on the end of it and reel him in. He was not my biggest fan, but the best part was he LOVED the other dogs. Every week by watching the other dogs he made progress by leaps and bounds (thank goodness for chicken jerky treats also) and within 2 months he found the perfect forever

home. He now has the Cohorn family to love him along with his yellow lab buddy Raider to play with (Raider was also adopted from CCHS!). This is definitely one "country" dog's story with an incredibly happy ending!

It always amazes me when working with the Graham shelter what a positive attitude the manager Kim and the rest of the staff there has. They always have well over 100 dogs and 100 cats on any given day with a waiting list for people to surrender more. I always think "how depressing for that number NEVER to go down".... But they always manage to keep their chin up. They try diligently to get to know the animals and do everything they can to avoid euthanizing. The first kitty I ever rescued from them was named Prince and he had been at the shelter for 2 ½ years.... Now what shelter keeps a kitty that long? None that I had ever heard of but he was a great kitty and they were positive



Prince—rescued after 2.5 years at the Humane Society of Young County

that one day he would find his forever home. After only a couple of months in rescue at my house he got a fabulous home where he truly gets treated like a "prince!"

CCHS has really broadened our scope of animals we help stretching way beyond the metroplex to these rural "off the beaten path" shelters. I simply use Graham as an example to try and explain the magnitude of what we as a rescue community have been able to do. These "country" shelters do not get the food donations, veterinary help, or



Humane Society of Young County in Graham, Texas



monetary support that other places do so anything CCHS does to help them is very much appreciated. We as a group feel very fortunate to be able to say we have made a difference in bringing "country dogs to town" These are some of the best dogs in our program.

I love the quote by Bob Barker "A person who has never owned a dog has missed a wonderful part of life." So whether it is a "country" dog or a "city" dog please think of rescue when you add a canine or feline friend.

There are approximately 77.5 million owned dogs in the United States

Thirty-nine percent of U.S. households own at least one dog

Nineteen percent of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter

From the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey

Fostering. Easy Breezy? *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

said this very thing to me. "It's easier than you think". The conversation typically goes to "But I would get too attached", and I usually just smile in return. They then go on to tell me how much they love animals, and it's so wonderful what I do... yaddayaddayadda...

I still haven't gotten the nerve to tell the person (mostly because I know they mean well) that they are looking at it all wrong. So many times I have wanted to look at them and scream, **"but it's not about YOU!"**. I resist.

So, what *does* it take to be a foster? I'm here to break it down for you, plain and simple.

Time: Really...not a lot. You probably already have dogs. You are used to putting out food, going on walks and general day-to-day dog ownership. With fostering, there will be extra trips to the vet with every new foster, and travel to and from adoption events from time to time. The majority of the dozens of CCHS fosters all have full time jobs and family. We go on vacations. We go to soccer games. Yes, we all have a life outside of fostering. You can too.

Money: CCHS pays for all vetting of your foster, and also provides food and crates if needed. Treats and toys are up to you....but you probably already have a TON of those lying around already.

Patience: You have more than you think. Dogs are smart, resilient creatures that for the most part want to



Allison Pickering meditating with her posse of foster puppies

please humans. I am constantly reminding myself (and my family) that it was the pathetic human before us that never potty trained the dog and allowed it to climb on tables (I swear to the fact that a few of my fosters have been ¼ monkey - even if I can't prove it). Basic animal training is amazingly easy if you know what to do (and we can teach you).

Heart: Here's where it gets a little more difficult. Yes, I do get a bit attached to some of them. You can't cuddle a dog that was formerly terrified and not give away a bit of your heart. However, as I watch my foster trot off, tail wagging high in the sky with a family that has fallen in love with her before my eyes, the hole in my heart is filled. I now have space in there for the next foster. Simple as that.

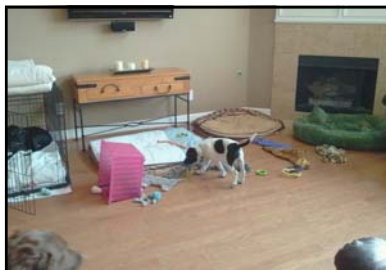
It's not about you: I couldn't think of any other way to say this. It's simply not about what I want. It's about those sad eyes peering out at me from behind those bars that somehow seem to know their days are numbered. It's about the confusion in the dog's body

movements that is still trying to figure out if I can be trusted, and so badly wants to trust. It's about watching that same scared dog sleep quietly on the dog bed in my living room, knowing in her heart she is safe and will wake up warm and with food. It's about saving one more from certain death, and giving it a second chance. You have the strength to get past your desires to keep that animal for yourself so you can give a second chance to another one, and another one. Really. You do.

Think you've got what it takes? I do. We desperately need fosters to save more animals. Seriously, we can't do it without you. Contact me at tressa.broadhead@yahoo.com if you have questions, or if you are simply ready to begin the journey of saving lives. We have several one-hour foster trainings occurring all over the metroplex that you are welcome to sit in on to learn more about CCHS and how we work. Don't hesitate, even though space isn't limited. There's a whole line of grateful tail wags and slobbery kisses waiting on you.



Mr Mugs and Chips hanging out in their foster home prior to being adopted.



Typical foster home living room

Pet Toxins—Did you know?

Xylitol, grapes, raisins, onions and garlic are commonly ingested by our pets. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs, while onions and garlic can cause anemia if enough is ingested. Xylitol, a sugar alcohol used to sweeten sugar free gums and mints, can cause low blood sugar and liver failure in dogs.

From the ASPCA's Top Ten Pet Toxins of 2010 list: www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/top-10-pet-poisons-of-the-year.aspx

**We're starting a Happy Tails Album on
Facebook**

**Please send us pictures of your adopted CCHS dogs
hanging out with their family!**

Email to admin@collincountyhumane.org



Sophie (upper left), snoozing with foster siblings on foster mom's bed. Sophie is currently available for adoption.

Foster Fun!!



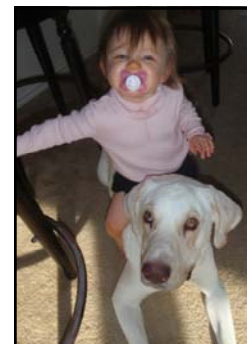
Askher taking a much needed nap in her foster home prior to adoption



Sunday taking a nap after a long day of playing in her foster home. Sunday is currently available for adoption.



Traveler, middle, hanging out in his foster home prior to being adopted



Foster dog Humphrey enjoys being Kenzie's horsey! He passes the kid test with flying colors!

www.CollinCountyHumaneSociety.org

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**CCHS Adoption Event—Every 1st and 3rd Saturday
of the month at PetSmart in Allen**



Est. March 2008

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Who We Are

Collin County Humane Society is a non-profit 501c3 organization established in March of 2008. We are dedicated to helping dogs who are unwanted, abandoned or lost. We focus on finding these loyal souls proper care and loving homes.

CCHS does not have a shelter. All of our dogs live in foster homes with volunteers until they are adopted. We provide all necessary veterinary care for our foster dogs, including vaccinations, spay/neuter, heartworm treatment if needed, heartworm preventative and any other special care they require.

Please consider CCHS when you are ready to add a furry friend to your family.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month:**
Adoption event at PetSmart - 170 E Stacy Rd, Allen TX
- ⇒ Yappy Hour! April 17th from 1-3pm at Black Finn in Addison.

We're on Facebook!