



30 puppies a day to Shelter!

Help us Raise Funds for the First Ever Vet At the Abilene Animal Shelter

## 31 Horses Starving with No Water in Summer Heat.....

On a blazing hot summer day, Deputy Ben Yarbrough from Eastland County called us about 20 horses with no access to water and starving. He was in the process of getting a seizure warrant, but had nowhere to hold the horses for the 10 days before a court hearing (or after that as well). Yarbrough had attended our Animal Cruelty Investigation School just days earlier.

Our Lynn Pitcox called one of our partners in the Metroplex and by 3:00 p.m. the next day our team was on the location with Yarbrough and Chief Deputy Don Braly for the seizure. They found 31 horses. One blind, 12 in various stages of total starvation, and what turned out to be 5 pregnant mares.

One recently deceased horse was found near a "bone pile" of skeletons that included at least one longhorn and many other livestock.



Before: Honey



After: Honey and Peaches



After

The incredible heat forced the team to take several breaks inside their air conditioned trucks. By 8:45 that night all but two horses were loaded. The following morning the last two horses left the property.

At the court hearing, the owners said they saw nothing wrong with the horses and could not understand why they were being seized. The seizure was affirmed, and two owners were arrested. Their criminal trial is pending.

Honey, the starved palomino, now wears a bell and is the lead horse for Peaches, the blind horse. Both are recovering quickly.



# Rescue the Animals, SPCA



## Your Help Can Provide the First Ever Vet at the City of Abilene Animal Shelter...

Help us Raise \$20,000

Several months ago, Rescue the Animals, SPCA asked the City of Abilene to include funding for a full time vet at the Animal Shelter in their next budget. We offered to pay up to \$20,000 of the first year's salary for a vet at the Abilene Animal Shelter. Our offer led the city manager and mayor to include hiring a vet in the council's budget workshops (the first step in funding). Now the council has indicated that they will fund a full-time vet starting on October 1, 2018. Three other staff positions will be added as well!

This will be the first time ever that a vet has been employed at the Abilene Animal Shelter. It will mean that dogs and cats can be evaluated on arrival to identify medical problems and arrange treatment when needed. Over 30 puppies a day arrived during part of the summer, and others were born at the Shelter.

The Animal Shelter is also hoping to spay/neuter pets before they leave the shelter when adopted. Presently adopters are given 30 days to have their pets fixed, but the shelter staff have to follow up to make sure this happens. A small percentage of adopted pets are never fixed despite the best efforts of the staff (including filing charges under state law to compel spay/neuter of adopted animals).

Now we need your help to raise \$20,000 as our part of the new vet's first year's salary. After the first year, the City of Abilene will bear all the cost.

Your donation will make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for cats and dogs at the Abilene Animal Shelter. Since we contributed \$20,000 earlier this year toward the cost of the new adoption/surgery trailer for the Animal Shelter, the vet already has an operating room ready to go!

**Attack of the Killer Heartworms....** It is not very romantic, but when we think of hearts we often receive the bad news that the dogs have heart worms. Even with a dry year and fewer mosquitoes, we are treating dogs every month for heart worms. At retail these treatments can run over \$1,200 per animal. Our rate is much less, but it added up quickly for Anthony, Tess, Susie, Robin, Woo Woo, Sherman, Jimbo, Durango, Hooper, and Jessie, just to mention a few or our recent patients.



Hooper



Jessie



Jimbo



Robin



**Saving the Animals That Have Homes Waiting.....** In pounds all over Texas, dogs and cats are dying every day AFTER someone has agreed to take them. Why? Because they can't be transferred fast enough or they need medical care. Through our network of rescue partners in 35 states, we rapidly transfer these animals to safety and also provide essential medical care. Annabelle made it home because of your support!

## Emergency Airlift Saves 11 Puppies

Over 30 puppies a day were coming to the Abilene Animal Shelter when a litter of 11 arrived on a hot summer day. Within 24 hours we located a rescue partner in Oklahoma.



An online posting found pilot Scott Ermis who was in Abilene on his way back to Oklahoma City, and the puppies were delivered immediately. We then took a mom and 10 more puppies for a total of 21 puppies in 24 hours! But, the shelter was still full...

## Dumpster or Convection Oven?

A securely taped closed cardboard box was tossed into a dumpster in Midland with these four tiny puppies inside. By luck they were found and came to us and then on to Wisconsin, a much cooler neighborhood.



## New Mexico Dumping Case

A breeder in New Mexico dumped 21 dogs, overwhelming the local facilities. Our rescue partners acted quickly moving them all over the place. The last three came to Abilene.



## Lady Slashed...Recovers

Lady was slashed across the belly with something leaving a terrible wound. The Ft. Worth shelter asked for immediate medical help, and we responded within hours providing treatment that put her on the road to recovery.



## Flight to Surgery

Kaiser arrived at the Abilene Animal Shelter with a damaged eye that we had to remove. Next we discovered that he has a serious birth defect affecting his neck that will result in compression of the spine and paralysis if not treated. One of our partners in Houston has taken him and will provide his surgery costing around \$10,000! He loved his flight to Houston.



## Famous Chicken Salad & Kittens?

The wonderful team at Hickory Street Café rounded up mom, dad, and three kittens that arrived looking for Chicken Salad and brought them to us along with a terrific donation for their care!



## Rescue the Animals, SPCA 20TH ANNIVERSARY

We're celebrating with major improvements in animal care in Abilene. We've already donated \$40,000 to the City for the new spay/neuter program and an adoption trailer that has a surgery room in it. We need to raise \$20,000 more for the first ever vet at the Abilene Animal Shelter.

### Spay/Neuter Everyone Can Afford! \$20 Introductory Rate!! 698-0085

The most important development in our 20 years of work is the new City of Abilene/Rescue the Animals, SPCA low cost spay/neuter program. Abilene Animal Shelter director Mirenda Walden has enlisted the help of a large group of local vets to do spay/neuter, and we have donated \$20,000 to kickoff the program. Better yet, there is no cost to taxpayers!

**For a very limited time, Abilene residents (only) can have their pets fixed for just \$20!**

Prices for residents outside Abilene start at \$30 for cats and \$40 for dogs. Final price depends on size and sex. These will be the prices for everyone after the introductory period.

### New Cat Isolation Room at Shelter! New Puppy area too!

For over 30 years all incoming cats that acted wild (frightened) have been placed in the same room that is used as the sick bay for dogs. Now, thanks to our great friends Joe (aka George) and Anna Johnson, we have just donated a large portable building to the Abilene Animal Shelter for use as a cat isolation room.

Incoming cats will be in a nice quiet room of their own. Our donated building is under a large metal roof, has twin cooling and heating units (for backup) and has been sprayed inside with foam insulation.

By remodeling kennels we also created a new puppy isolation area for better disease control. The move freed up additional space for larger dogs, too.

### Does Abilene need a new Animal Shelter? YES!

The Abilene Animal Shelter was built as an old fashioned pound. It was designed to hold animals for just 3 days for owners to pick them up or for them to be killed. Heating, air conditioning, and overall air circulation are not designed properly to prevent the spread of disease and keep the rooms at proper temperatures during our violent changes in weather. Sewer drains and kennel structure are also problems as is limited space for cats.

We are now working with Mayor Anthony Williams (who is very supportive) on a plan to build a new City Animal Shelter.

## Sassy on 3 Wheels

Little puppy Sassy got her leg entangled in her bedding, and the loss of blood supply did permanent damage. When she came to us, we hoped that the leg could be saved, but unfortunately it could not. The good news is that she is just as fast on three legs and still has a big puppy smile.



## Sassy Pirate?

A serious and neglected eye infection brought Sassy the Tortie cat to us, and we had to remove her eye. The surgery was a success and she is loving her new home as the chief pirate in residence.



## No One Hipper than Tess

Sweet Tess came to us for double hip surgery. One of our partners raised the money for her surgery and sent her to Abilene for Dr. Bolt to treat her.



## Big Summer Puppy Saves....

First Gemma and then Vegas (a month later) both had their puppies within hours of arriving at the Abilene Animal Shelter. Both litters were quickly transferred to Dr. Bolt's clinic. Gemma is now in a new home up north while Vegas is still being mom.



Gemma's pups



Vegas' pups



Robin's pups

After a jolly chase, Animal Services finally caught Robin, a very, very pregnant Chihuahua who had been running loose in traffic. We raced to pick up mom, and she soon gave birth. She was so weak she could not feed her puppies. We had to bottle feed them.

## Sharpy Has Own Grapefruit

Porcupine quills in his throat and the largest testicular hernia in the world made life really difficult for Murphy the Shar Pei when he arrived at the Abilene Animal Shelter. We quickly arranged surgery and a new home.



## Love Bug's Dash

All the cars missed tiny one-eyed Love Bug and a lady scooped her up and brought her to us. She needed immediate surgery for a golf ball-sized hernia. Her life is now enchanted in New Mexico!



## Pinky and the Brain in Concert

James Matthews was all set to fly with his wife to Houston for a concert when he heard about two scruffy dogs that needed an emergency flight to Abilene. Dropping his wife off in Austin on the way, James flew them to us.



## Stepping into a New World

Workmen unloading a truckload of steps from Tennessee to Abilene in the terrible summer heat heard a soft "meow." Looking deep in the truck, they found Tenny under the steps! How he got on the truck and survived the heat is amazing. No owner could be found, and Tenny is now a Texan.



**We Need Your Help Today! Please send your donation to: Rescue The Animals, SPCA, 4620 N. 1st, Abilene, TX 79603**