

Rescue the Animals, SPCA

www.RescueTheAnimals.org

4620 N. First St., Abilene, Texas 79603
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Both Paralyzed...
Need Stem Cell Surgery!

25th Anniversary Newsletter!
Help us Start Our Second 25 Years of Happiness!

Our Emergency Surgery Schedule is Still Full! Please Donate Today!



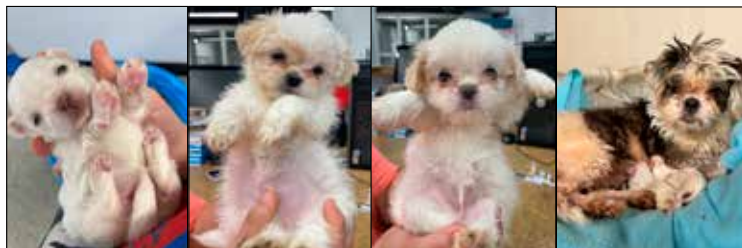
Long Recovery for One of our Favorites

The Animal Shelter sent Blackberry to us for emergency surgery months ago. Both of her front legs were broken. Worse, her owners did nothing! After surgeries and a long recovery she can walk, but the delay in getting treatment meant that her legs would not heal right. Everyone loves Blackberry including our resident goat Leo.



Vegas has a Permanent Wink ...Very Cute?

Over breeding has made Shar Peis prone to serious eye problems. We have three needing "eye opening" surgeries. The surgeries are very expensive, which is why we have three Peis in trouble!



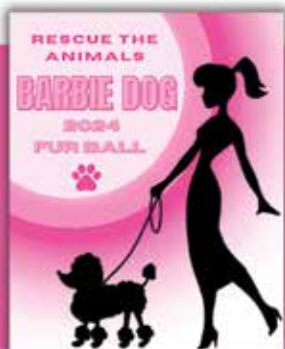
Corona Makes You Pregnant?

Isabella came to us from the Metroplex and was about to leave for a new home, when we found she had the Corona virus. She missed her ride but recovered. Then, two very tiny puppies appeared. She forgot to tell us she was pregnant! Aspen, Magnolia, and Isabella are all fine.



Piper Pirate, Heartworms and a Bad Leg!

Super dog Piper asked for a pirate's wooden leg, when told her badly broken leg would have to be amputated! It would have been a great permanent chew stick, but we couldn't find one! Piper also had to be treated for heartworms. We do emergency surgeries like this every week. Your donation is badly needed!



Don't Miss the biggest Barbie Event Ever on February 17, 2024!

Barbie Dog Fur Ball Dinner Dance

Our biggest fundraiser and your biggest chance to put on your best Barbie.
Barbie Style show, Barbie Mom, Daughter, and dog look-alike contest,
Barbie kids games and much more.

Rescue the Animals, SPCA Mail to: 4620 North First, Abilene, TX 79603

Newsletter design: Debbie Heep

OUR FIRST 25 YEARS

Rescue the Animals, SPCA



55,000 Cats and Dogs
Were Killed at the
Abilene Pound 1998-2005!



Could just two people really make a difference?

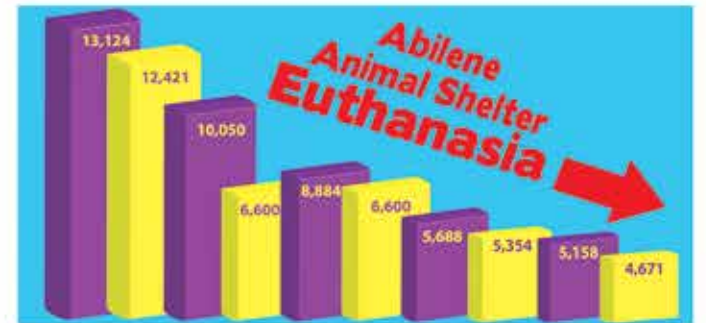
In 1998 Paul Washburn and Kay Johnson found a Golden Retriever at the Abilene Animal Shelter and could not bear to see him die. At the time thousands and thousands of animals were dying at the shelter each year, and no animal was allowed to live there for over three days. Only 15% of incoming animals left alive!

Paul and Kay built a temporary kennel at their place of work and took Jake to safety only to find neighborhood kids walking him down North First Street a few hours later after breaking him out!

A larger kennel was built and soon several more dogs called a local mobile home park storage yard home until they could find families. This was the start of Rescue the Animals SPCA in 1998. An early problem was soon confronted with Kay telling her partner in crime that she might have to visit the pound alone if he continued to cry on every visit! Others soon volunteered and things began to happen.

A nonprofit was quickly created, and Kay's son Colby developed one of the first websites in the nation to post pound cats and dogs for adoption. Every week each animal was photographed and put on the web. Soon KTXS TV agreed to video animals at the shelter each week beginning a 25 year tradition that continues today. KEAN radio's Rudy Fernandez joined the team with PSA spots and weekly promotions as well.

For the first time people could actually see what beautiful cats and dogs were dying every day at the local pound. We paid for advertising for the pound, and adoptions soared.



In 2001, Dr. Allen Bolt opened a new practice in Abilene and started construction of his new building. Since Rescue the Animals did not have a building, he agreed to house cats and dogs from the pound and offer them for adoption. He built additional rooms for these animals. Rescue the Animals bought used stainless steel cages, and soon hundreds of animals each year were leaving the pound for medical work, a safe place to stay and ultimately new homes. We saved up to 1,000 animals a year this way.

In 2007, we purchased the Pampered Pet Inn and the Elm Creek Vet clinic to create our Rescue the Animals, SPCA center that is now one of the largest hubs in America for transporting animals to 43 states and Canada.

Read on to see what else has happened in our first 25 years!

25 Years of Innovation and Hard Work

Rescue the Animals, SPCA

Saving Thousands of Animals No One Else Would Take

1st In Supporting the Abilene Animal Shelter

For 25 years we have taped animals at the shelter for KTXS TV as well as featuring them on KEAN radio and our social media.

Every year we take hundreds of animals from the City Shelter.

1998 1st Pound Animals on the Internet

When we started putting the pound animals on the web every week in 1998, no other shelters were doing this.

2006 \$10,000 New Cat Cages

2014 \$33,000 Outdoor Kennels New Shelter Wing

The original plans had only 3 foot X 3 foot boxes for big dogs! We paid to add large outdoor runs.

- 2018 \$10,000 Portable Building for Cat Isolation
- 2018 \$20,000 Toward City Adoption & Surgery Trailer
- 2018 \$20,000 To City low cost spay/neuter vouchers
- 2020 \$20,000 Toward hiring first City Shelter Vet

2005 "We'll Build a FREE City Shelter" ... City Said "NOOO!"

We spent two years raising millions to build a new City of Abilene Animal Shelter and donate it FREE to the city. The City of Abilene said, "NO" tabling the proposal without debate! Today we are partnering with All Kind and helping with the construction of the new shelter.

2000 1st Mobile Adoption Trailer in West Texas

Thanks to a grant through the Community Foundation our adoption trailer has saved thousands of animals over the years.

2007-2015 1st Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic in West Texas

In late 2007 we hired a part time vet to do spay/neuter and low cost vaccinations. We fixed thousands of cats and dogs and vaccinated thousands more. The program ended in 2015 when we no longer had a vet.

2011 Named First in America!

We were chosen most outstanding humane group in the nation by the Animal League America, the world's largest no-kill adoption organization.

2015 1st Transportation and Rehab Hub for Interstate Shipments

We have one of the largest transportation and rehab operations anywhere sending 1,500 to 2,000 Texas animals a year to our partners in 43 states and Canada through our Pets On the GO Network. We do not adopt locally, to avoid competing with the Abilene Shelter.

1st In Fighting Animal Abuse

We are the only group that works with law enforcement all over West Texas and beyond to investigate animal abuse and take abused animals for medical treatment and placement in new homes. We have two investigators and offer rewards in abuse cases.



Our Investigation Saved 218 Animals. West Texas Largest Animal Seizure!

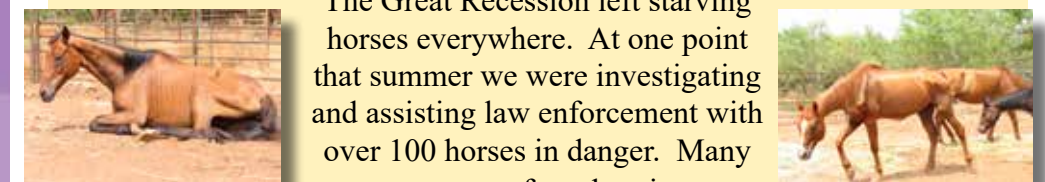
"Every animal on the place had significant medical problems," court testimony.

1st Free Animal Abuse Investigator Schools in West Texas

We bring instructors to Abilene to train law enforcement officers all over West Texas for FREE. When we started, there was only one law enforcement officer in our 20 county area certified as an abuse investigator. We have trained over 100 more including two of our staff to fight animal abuse every day.

2010 Horse Disaster in West Texas

The Great Recession left starving horses everywhere. At one point that summer we were investigating and assisting law enforcement with over 100 horses in danger. Many came to us for rehoming.



2017 We saved 300 Hurricane Harvey dogs

and delivered over 3 tons of food to Houston. Our partners in Texas, Iowa, and Indiana all brought big loads of dog food. Jackson Brothers took donations. We also took some dogs from Louisiana.



Please send your donation to: Rescue The Animals, SPCA, 4620 N. 1st, Abilene, TX 79603