



AGGIELAND
Humane Society
Don't buy love, ADOPT it

Animal Talk

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Almost There:

Building a No-Kill Community

Precious but Fragile

What It Takes to Save Tiny Lives

Tails of Success and More

From our Director

Dear Friends,

Missy, a fluffy, black, Border Collie puppy, came to us with a broken femur.

Jack Sparrow, a friendly, brown tabby cat, came in with a bad eye that had to be surgically removed.

Thatcher, a yellow Lab, German Shepherd mix had a broken front leg and needed help.

The generosity of our local veterinary hospitals and your gifts have made a transformation for these pets. YOU have made a true difference with your friendship and support, lives are saved. Medical rescues are increasing!

Other good news: three foundations have given Aggieldand Humane Society funding for a mobile spay/neuter specialty vehicle that will fill the logistical needs of local shelters and rescue groups. It will also be a tool to help in low income areas where there is the highest need for subsidized spay/neuter surgeries of dogs and cats.

You cannot imagine the number of pets that never visit a veterinarian until you see 40-60 pets a week- some

orphaned, some owner surrendered, who are sick or injured. The unplanned litters from under-vaccinated areas are high risk for disease and abandonment, impacting the health of all animals in the shelter and community. We appreciate YOUR support as we triage all the requests for help in our community.

Our spay/neuter specialty vehicle will be a “stop gap” measure until a future facility is built. The vehicle can support 20-25 high quality surgeries a day.

We look forward to a ribbon cutting by summer’s end. Soon we will be hiring a high volume, spay/neuter veterinarian to be part of our team at Aggieldand Humane Society. Thanks for being a friend in our progress to a “no-kill” community.



Kathy Bice
Executive Director

Annual Report

At a Glance

To view our full fiscal year report, visit aggieldandhumane.org/about-us/report-newslette/

1,515

PETS
ADOPTED

677

PETS
FOSTERED

511

PETS REUNITED
WITH OWNER

7,475

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Tails of Success

AgHS Pets find Happy Endings



Baby Bleu became a long-term resident after being looked over time after time. This calm, gentle girl waited over 4 months for her forever home. One sunny March day, she finally met her new family. Her adopter had recently lost a dog, and her second dog Cash was depressed. Once they met Baby Bleu, they knew she could heal their hearts. A few hours after her adoption, her new mom said, “I know she will miss all of the great people who loved her and took care of her for the past four months. It has been a long day, but I’d say she is settling in just fine! Naps and cuddles are our favorite so far.”



Missy was originally adopted from us in early 2016. She was a senior girl, so we knew she may be a little harder to place. Luck was on this happy lab’s side, though. Her adopter frequented our website, and when she saw Missy, she knew she was the one. “I went that day after work to see her, and I left AgHS with her that evening. It is amazing to see how much she has changed in the year since we adopted her. She has overcome some health issues and is now very happy and healthy. Missy girl is a sweet, funny dog that has brought us so much joy. We love her to pieces, and we are thrilled she is part of our family!” Missy won our recent Adoption Tails drawing; here she is with her prizes.



Rapunzel came to us as a stray from College Station. A Good Samaritan brought her in, hoping that her luck would change. This beautiful, medium-haired tabby waited for nearly a month to be adopted; bouncy kittens managed to steal most of the attention. Rapunzel was selected to go to our Sterling Subaru Adoption Event, where pets are available fee-waived thanks to subsidies from sponsors. Rapunzel opened her big golden eyes and managed to charm an adopter in the first hour of the event! This pretty kitty gets a fresh start and doesn’t have to worry about being on the streets anymore. Along with our pretty tabby, 32 pets found their forever homes that Saturday.

Create Happy Endings with Paw Pals.

The easiest way to help make these happy tails possible is to join our Paw Pals with monthly giving of any amount. Your gift is put right to work helping pets. Contact Carolyn Young for more information at 979-775-5755 ext. 110.



Almost There:

Building a No-Kill Community in Aggieland

For shelter professionals and community leaders, the no-kill movement has progressed from a contentious initiative to a nationally respected strategy for communities with animal shelters.

The national no-kill target is at least 90 percent live-release rate. This live release rate is the rate that adoptable and treatable animals leave the facility alive—whether through adoption, return to owner, or transfer to another high-adoption facility.

With the community's support, Aggieland Humane has had averages of approximately 85 percent live-release rate and experienced a 100 percent live-release rate during two separate months in 2016.

Above: A care tech works with a dog on agility to keep her active and happy.

However, the no-kill movement is not an animal shelter endeavor; it's a community endeavor. AgHS is committed to reaching this goal with the help of the public (you) and other local rescue groups.

The community must satisfy 11 steps to claim no-kill status. Bryan/College Station and Aggieland Humane Society have satisfied 8 of the 11 and will complete the 9th step this summer with the addition of a mobile spay/neuter clinic at Aggieland Humane Society. The steps of the no-kill equation are as follows:

Did you know?

Aggieland Humane Society is an independent animal welfare organization. We receive no operational support from the ASPCA or the Humane Society of the United States. Help needy pets here in your community. Keep your support **local**.

11 Steps of the No-Kill Equation

A Proven Formula

✓ **Rescue Group Transfers**

Work with area groups and shelters to transfer animals in and out to enhance adoption options. 189 pets were transferred out last fiscal year, and we transferred in 75 from other shelter organizations.

✓ **Foster Care**

Building an active group of community volunteers who care for young, injured, or pregnant animals who arrive to the shelter. A core group of 50 families regularly work with animals at Aggieland Humane.

✓ **Comprehensive Adoption Programs**

A robust and creative marketing program for adoptions, such as Subaru Adoption events, Clear the Shelter events (a nationwide program), and Pittie Parties. These events draw many adopters each year.

✓ **Pet Retention Programs**

Working with owners to encourage keeping their pets and requiring owners to make an appointment to surrender pets to the shelter. Educate about responsible pet ownership and help owners find new homes for their pet, if needed.

✓ **Community Engagement**

Educate the community about the no-kill equation via civic groups, schools and other outreach. Host community-wide events such as Wiener Fest and deliver animal services such as microchipping and county tags.

✓ **Volunteers**

An army of active, dedicated community individuals and families who deliver daily care and work special events at Aggieland Humane Society. Last fiscal year, 7,475 volunteer hours were logged.

✓ **Proactive Pet Redemption**

Microchipping and county tag program for returning lost pets to their owners. Animal Control officers look up tags on animals, and citizens who find lost pets can call the county tag hotline for information. This system annually helps over 3,000 pets in Bryan/College Station find their way back home without having to come into the shelter.

✓ **Compassionate Leadership**

Experienced, compassionate staff who know about animal welfare- and specifically about animal welfare needs in our area. Currently, AgHS staff has over 113 combined years of animal care experience. A dedicated board of directors work tirelessly each year to set strategic no-kill goals for the future.

✓ **High-Volume, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter**

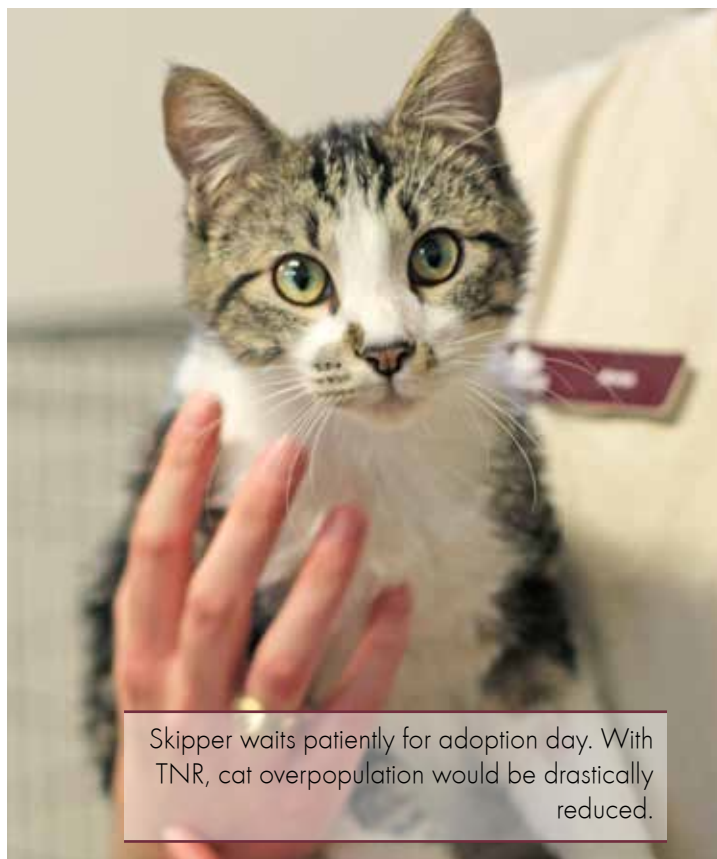
Deliver veterinary services for low-income families in the Bryan/College Station community through a new mobile spay/neuter clinic (coming Summer 2017).

□ **Medical and Behavioral Rehabilitation**

Medical rescue, socialization and training by a qualified behaviorist and veterinarian for pets who need extra help.

□ **Feral Cat Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR)**

Reducing feral cat and orphaned kitten populations by allowing spayed/neutered and vaccinated cats to return to their communities to live out their lives. More on this can be found at Alley Cat Allies' website, at www.alleycat.org/our-work/trap-neuter-return/



Skipper waits patiently for adoption day. With TNR, cat overpopulation would be drastically reduced.

Precious but Fragile

What It Takes to Save Tiny Lives



A foster puppy waits for his six-week checkup and vaccinations.

Cuddly puppies and curious kittens make for endearing photos and melt hearts during playtime. But these precious babies are also some of the most vulnerable animals that staff and volunteers care for at Aggieland Humane Society.

Generally, these little creatures are strays born outside a protected environment and with low immune systems. Shelter medicine professionals recommend starting vaccinations as early as possible; puppies and kittens could receive up to 3 rounds before adoption. AgHS staff do not allow any puppies or kittens to walk on the ground while in their care to prevent a deadly Parvo infection. Young puppies and kittens are isolated and shuffled into foster care to limit their exposure to the kennels and to provide a clean, safe environment.

Foster parents play a vital role in helping puppies and kittens grow into healthy, adoptable animals. AgHS provides the needed supplies—pet housing/crates/play pens, food and replacement milk, medicines, and supplies such as heating pads.

Foster care is truly a labor of love. Time in foster care generally runs from 1 week to 10 weeks, depending on the animals' situation. Foster families also volunteer to care for pregnant adult animals and their offspring once they are born. Sometimes, though, foster families inherit babies that haven't been weaned, which calls for bottle feedings every two hours.

Jasmine Farrel, a foster who specializes in bottle-baby kittens, talks about why bottle babies are her niche.

Leave a Lasting Legacy.

Remember homeless pets in your estate plans—leave AgHS in your will. Our Tax-ID is 74-2150288.

“They are so small,
but a lot is at stake.”

“Taking on neonatal kittens sounds daunting—they are so small, but a lot is at stake. Waking up every couple hours through the night to feed and care for them sounds hard, but once you’re holding them in your hands, you’re happy to do it. Working to save these little lives puts a lot of things into perspective and gives me a feeling of purpose.”

The sad reality is that many puppies and kittens born on the street don’t receive this care and face a perilous future. Aggieland Humane hopes to help manage this vulnerable population through services by its new mobile spay/neuter clinic, scheduled for delivery this summer.

Does helping these most vulnerable little creatures interest you? Consider serving as a foster parent or foster family. Find out more at aggielandhumane.org/foster-care/ or call our foster coordinator at (979)775-5755.



“Do I look like I was born yesterday?”

Life for a one-day-old kitten is exciting, but a little confusing. At this stage in their development, they have no vision or hearing and can’t regulate their body temperature.

Naturally, these babies would stay close to mom who communicates through contact and grooming. But without a mother, this orphan will be placed with a foster parent who will hand-mix formula for a kitten-sized bottle and keep him safe and warm through the nights.

Upcoming Events

Let’s Meet Up!

April 8

Name Your Own Price Event & Wellness Clinic

Come out for “Name Your Own Price” adoptions on all pets and a discount Rabies Clinic for owned pets.

June 3

Discount Microchip Day

Prepare for summer festivities by making sure your pet can always get back to you. \$15 microchips all day.

June 17

Sterling Subaru FEE-WAIVED Adoption Event

Fee-waived adoptions on dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. Join us 10am-4pm at Sterling Subaru in C.S.

July 1

Discount Microchip Day

Prepare for summer festivities by making sure your pet can always get back to you. \$15 microchips all day.



August 5

Discount Microchip Day

Prepare for summer festivities by making sure your pet can always get back to you. \$15 microchips all day.

August 19

Clear the Shelters Day

A nation-wide event to encourage the clearing of America’s kennels. Come adopt a new best friend.

Corporate Sponsors

Best in Show



BRYAN
BROADCASTING



The Eagle



Best in Breed



Blue Ribbon

Waggie Pet Zone

Kelly Burt Dozer

Double your Impact.

Does your employer match your gifts or make a donation in honor of your volunteer time? Check with your company's HR Department to find out.

