

# FCAHS volunteers working to get more animals adopted

Any program dealing with animals — most of whom arrive in that program because they're unwanted — is going to have endings both happy and sad.

What follows are some statistics provided by the Forrest City Area Humane Society. Despite recent controversy involving the FCAHA and the City of Forrest City, a spokesperson said they make no accusations, just a rundown to show that things are happening at the shelter.

Humane Society members report that as nearly as they can tell, in 2009 there were 696 animals taken into the shelter. There were some cats, and even one goat, but the overwhelming majority of animals were dogs.

Of the 696, 163 were abandoned at the shelter, and 406 were picked up as strays.

"The rest were from various other situations including being abandoned at residences when people moved away, safe keeping from abuse situations, and one quarantine for police," a Humane Society spokesperson stated.

According to the FCAHS figures, 216 were adopted. Forty-one died at the shelter, mostly of diseases like Parvo and Distemper — puppies are especially vulnerable. Four escaped, 330 were euthanized. In addition, 68 were returned to their owners.

"We would have liked this number to be much higher," the spokesperson said. "Very few of the dogs that came to the shelter had collars or ID. We also scan for microchips which resulted in the return of several dogs."

A disturbing trend is the high percentage of Pit Bull Terriers, it was reported.

"Many of them are in terrible shape from neglect, abuse and/or fighting," when they arrive, the spokesperson said. "These dogs are very hard to adopt out even if they have good temperaments. We require a home visit and very strict conditions before we approve homes for Pits, Rottweilers and other breeds that might be used in dog fighting."

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# HUMANE

(Continued from Page 1) The saddest cases are those that have been used as bait dogs and breeders."

With all that, there are dogs making it into good homes.

"Alyssa Aldridge is an ASU student who has set up and maintains our new Facebook page which has had enormous success in getting our story out to the public and resulted in numerous out of area adoptions," the spokesperson said. "She comes home to FC just about every weekend to work with and for the dogs. Due in no small part to Alyssa and her tireless work the shelter population has been lower than it has been in months."

The Humane Society also provided a list of dogs who have been adopted by people outside

Forrest City. The list, which probably isn't complete includes the following:

- Mercedes, a.k.a. Chloe, Germantown, Tenn.
- Merc and Camry, Lyon, Miss.
- Alice, Memphis.
- Chalupa, a.k.a. JJ, New York City.
- Jack, rescue transfer, Plover, Wis.
- Jude, Arlington, Tenn.
- Annie, Irving, Texas.
- Lucy, Memphis.
- Sable, New Orleans.
- Nip, Memphis.
- Loner, Whoopi, and Koahla, Iowa.
- Frodo, rescue transfer, Orlando, Fla.
- Goldie, Connecticut.
- Mistress, LabRescue, Broken Arrow, Okla.

- Lockett, Memphis.
- Hazel, Last Day Dog Rescue, Michigan.
- Rhonda, Denver, Colo.
- Money, a.k.a. Noahs Ark Rescue, South Carolina (This was a fought dog tied to a stop sign in town, in bad need of medical care, and an eye had to be removed. Noahs Ark tells what a sweet and gentle dog he is).
- Elvis, Maumelle.
- Pluto, Searcy.
- Shannon, Lawson, Marion.
- Joe Joe, Enola.
- Max, Pocahontas (Max had a badly broken leg in cast for six weeks, is now a cat's best friend, can howl/sing to music and is living the good life on a farm.
- Moe, Cordova, Tenn.
- Emma, Memphis.
- Bojangles, Patterson, AR
- Stud, McCroy.
- Larry, Centerton.
- Lorelei, Cabot.

"Lets just make sure we give credit where credit is due, meaning Alyssa," said Janie Hicks, FCAHS president. "I just love how we are all working together getting these dogs adopted. We have such a great group of people working together. We communicate well with each other, and its like an assembly line so to speak, we all have certain things we do, when one gets done with their part of the adoption process, then it goes to the next person, until the dog is adopted, rescued and off to their new home. What a great feeling, and none of this would take place if we didn't work together, that is the key. Time consuming, yes, worth it all, most definitely."