

Duch making changes in way shelter operated

Police Chief looking to other groups for help in establishing procedures

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In the short time since Mayor Gordon McCoy assigned Forrest City Police Chief Dwight Duch control of the Forrest City Animal Control Division, there have been many changes ranging from cleaning procedures to the hours of operation.

Duch invited the *Times-Herald* along for a surprise inspection of the local shelter on Friday and explained what is being done to improve the conditions there. He said one of the first things that was done involved general cleaning.

"The building wasn't in bad shape when I took over; it just needed some minor things done," said Duch. "We got the building cleaned up on the inside and we did some cleaning outside as well. I can't say enough about our

guys (Animal Control Officers Jonathan White and Jeremy Holmes). They have been working very hard on these things."

"We have a checklist for cleaning now, and cleaning in a shelter can be difficult. You have to clean in a way to avoid cross contamination."

— Chief Dwight Duch

avoid cross contamination. Also with feeding, there is no state or national standard to how many times a dog should be fed each day. Some places say feed them once, while others say feed them twice. That's where the humane society and other shelters can offer us some help."

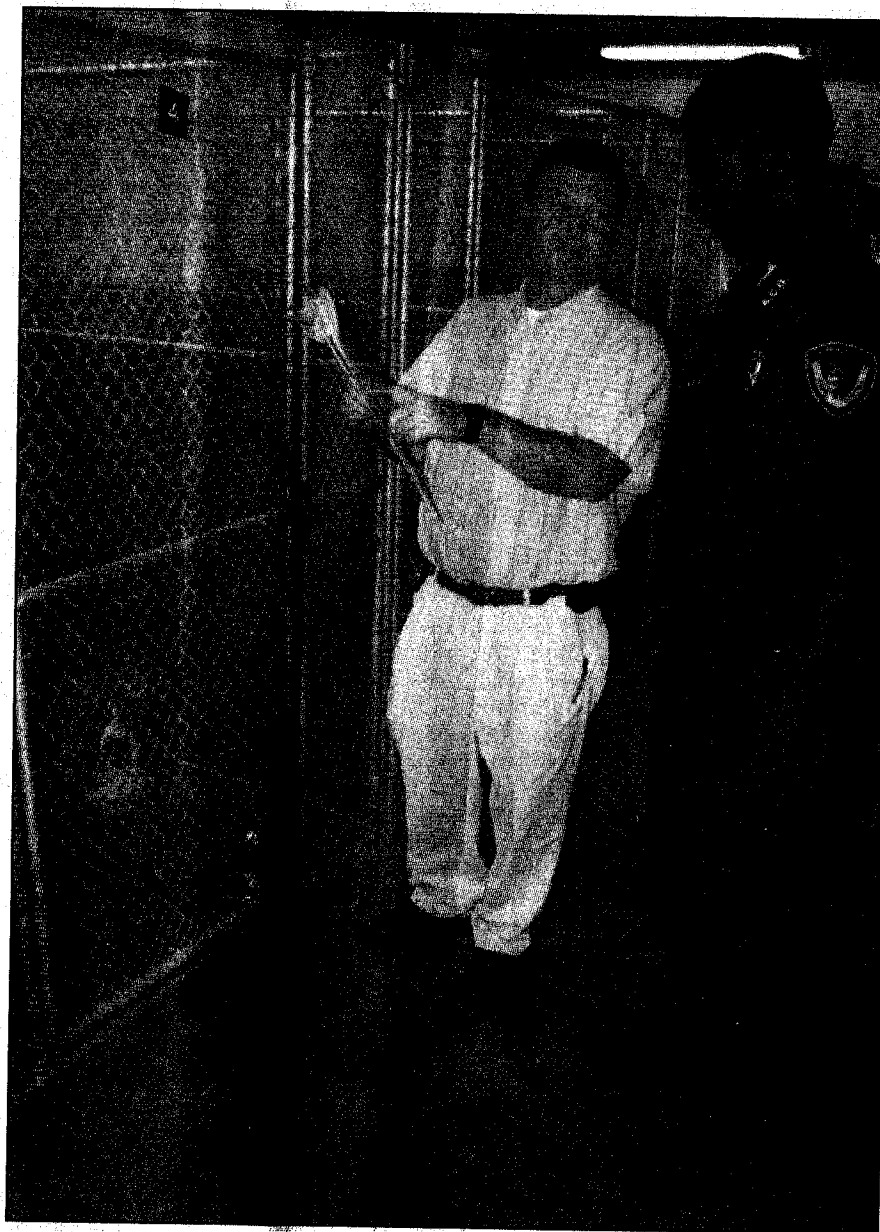
According to Duch, he wants to send the officers to other shelters for training, which he feels will help in situations like feeding the dogs.

"I want to send them to other, bigger shelters so they can get a feel for how they operate," Duch continued. "They can then bring that experience back to our shelter here."

While on the tour, Duch spoke about a new system of paperwork that he says keeps better track of the dogs that enter the shelter.

"We have a paperwork system now that keeps track of each dog from the

time they enter the shelter to the time they leave. We list when the dog came in



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Changes at Shelter: Forrest City Police Chief Dwight Duch, left, paid a surprise visit to the Forrest City Animal Shelter Friday morning. Duch, who recently was assigned control of the Forrest City Animal Control Division, says he has put in place procedures for the Animal Control Officers (ACO) to follow regarding cleaning. He also stated that paperwork at the shelter will allow them to keep track of dogs from their arrival through their entire stay. Duch discusses one dog's paperwork with ACO Jeremy Holmes.

adopted out. If we have a problem with one of those dogs, we let them know and

process is still ongoing.

"The new procedures have slowed the