



Post Office Box 2091
1058 SFC 200
Forrest City, AR 72336-2091

February 14, 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I would like to thank all of our supporters past and present. Without your commitment and support we would not be able to do all of the current things we are able to do.

This past year has been one of great progress and challenges for the board and volunteers of the Forreest City Area Humane Society (FCAHS). Many positive things have happened. We have pictures of our adoptable animals posted on our website (www.fc humane.org) through Petfinder, and volunteer Alyssa Aldridge created a Facebook page featuring our animals. This additional exposure has resulted in dogs being adopted in many other states, including NY, TX, MO, MS, TN, LA, CT, and Iowa. Also in 2009 the FCAHS received a \$1,000 grant from the St. Francis Community Foundation to which we added nearly \$5,000 for the purpose of sterilizing 135 animals and to create educational materials about the importance of spaying and neutering. We emphasized that one unspayed female dog can produce 67,000 offspring in a six-year period! Happily, our adoption program found "forever homes" for 213 dogs and cats.

In 2009 the City Council began discussion of a new, very complicated and often confusing twenty-three page animal control ordinance. Unfortunately, it does not address the critical need for clearly defined shelter operation standards and procedures, nor does it provide training for the employees and abuse/neglect investigations. We have investigated five dog shootings, and we have worked closely with the sheriff's department on several abuse/neglect cases including a horse being hit by a truck. We have also conducted our own investigations of over thirty dog abuse cases and fifteen horse abuse cases. We are very concerned about the growing number of pit bulls that are showing up starving and homeless, most from the same area of our city. We fear that where there are fighting dogs, there are illegal dog fights that must be investigated by law enforcement. (Contact us for more specifics about this serious problem.)

We believe that, throughout 2009 there have been many serious instances of incompetence and disinterest on the part of Animal Control staff that we as a group were compelled to take action. Animals have been euthanized unnecessarily when adoptions were pending, many puppies have died a hideous death from Parvovirus, and animals have not been fed consistently. Equipment we have purchased for the shelter has disappeared, the three year old roof is leaking badly, and other basic maintenance is lacking in a building that was brand new in 2007. Worst of all has been the rodent infestation which has put both the animals and staff in jeopardy. (They have ruined the alarm system wiring and the dryer vent, posing a serious fire hazard. For more specifics, contact us.)

After sincere attempts to work with both the Mayor and members of the City Council proved futile, we felt compelled to release YouTube videos titled Neglect in Forreest City AR Animal Shelter, Mice at Forreest City Animal Shelter, and Forreest City Animal Shelter October 2009. Please be assured that these videos were approved by our attorney, they are truthful, accurate, and reveal the squalid conditions at that time. As a result, the Mayor has attempted to expel the Humane Society from the building and has publicly accused our members of various misdeeds. The city has filed a law suit against us, and we have accepted the challenge and will go forward.

We have received positive feedback and support reflecting the diversity of our community. We thank you for your overwhelming support and kindness. The care of animals should not be a

divisive issue, nor should it be about power or personalities; it must be totally focused on the care and well-being of the animals and the services being provided by the Animal Control Department. And you, the citizens of Forrest City and our organization, are the only ones empowered to bring about positive change for these helpless animals who have no voice.

We desperately need your support more than ever for 2010 due to some of the aforementioned unforeseen circumstances. You can help us by joining our Facebook page and most importantly by becoming a member at the highest level you can afford. Your gift allows us to create a better environment for the animals in our care as well as address the disrepair of the shelter. Please fill out the enclosed membership form and mail it to us, or go to our website www.fcahumane.org to donate online.

With much gratitude,

Janie Hicks, President
Forrest City Area Humane Society

2010 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Please mail to: Forrest City Area Humane Society, PO Box 2091, Forrest City, AR 72336

Bull Mastiff \$_____

Great Dane \$100

St. Bernard \$50

Labrador \$35

Fox Terrier \$15

Toy Poodle \$5 (child)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Needed items: travel kennels, dog houses, bleach, detergent, any type of cleaning & sterilization products, copying paper, canned chicken dog food, Neosporin, hay, flea/tick shampoo, straw, alcohol, etc.

If you have any of these items and you would like to share with us, please call (870) 633-7036.

Would you like to volunteer to: groom, walk, bath, or socialize dogs, serve on committees, fund raise, help with photographing the pups, other _____

No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing, because he could only do a little.
Edmund Burke