



# PAW PRINTS

**Finney County Humane Society**

P. O. Box 2031 • Garden City, KS 67846 • 620-275-5651

July 2004

## HOUND HAULER

*by Jim Arwine*

Hundreds of shelter dogs from Southwest Kansas owe their chance for new life to a ride in an adoption vehicle dubbed the 'Hound Hauler'.

Twice a month, about 35 dogs of varied breeds and mixes are loaded into the large red van and transported by the Finney County Humane Society from Garden City's overly-crowded animal control facility to rescue sites that offer a better chance of adoption. Most of them end up at a rescue shelter in Denver, Colorado.

The local animal shelter, according to Finney County Sheriff's Deputy Karen Wesley, can only handle as many dogs as it can reasonably put in about 35 kennels. In some cases more than one dog can be housed in a kennel.

However, the animal control officer said, the flow of dogs into the facility continues daily, with warm weather months being the busiest. There just isn't enough room.

In order to make room for new arrivals, standard operating procedure calls for the dogs to have a stay at the shelter for only about 72 hours, she said. After that, animals that are not adopted, placed in foster homes, or taken to other shelters are subject to be euthanized.

The Humane Society, in conjunction with the staff at the local shelter, make continued efforts to find homes for dogs through adoption and foster home programs. A local outreach program viewed by some people in the community is the routine parading of adoptable dogs and cats at WalMart several Saturday afternoons each month.

Also, there are rescue groups throughout the Midwest that have interest in obtaining particular breeds of dog. They usually have a standing list of clients who

are seeking such animals because of their hunting or showmanship abilities.

During one transfer earlier this month, a dog was taken to Salina, Kansas, in the local Society's van, where it was then transported by the rescue organization to an interested person in Nebraska.

But rescue numbers provided by Glenda Hopkins, the society's president, show that the routine trips to Denver in the Hound Hauler produce the most dramatic results. Last year, 359 dogs made the trip. So far in 2004, another 173 have been given a new lease on life.

Humane Society volunteer Patty Sundstrom, who often drives the van full of dogs during such road trips, says the transfer program started in 1999 with a van borrowed from a Garden City business. In 2002, a used 9-passenger van was purchased with grant money from a local foundation. The vehicle was mechanically sound, but still needed some repairs and cleaning. Rear passenger seats were removed to allow for an open cargo area where kennels could be placed. A local sign maker donated the letters that spell out 'Hound Hauler' on the rear fenders.

Sundstrom, a high energy lady with a ready smile, has three years of experience packing as many dogs as possible in the van. She puts dogs in individual traveling containers that are arranged like a giant

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*Glenda Hopkins*

Boy, am I glad the Pitch for Pets softball tournament is over! It was a huge amount of work, but luckily it turned out to be a big success. Thank you so much to all the volunteers that worked hard for that success. Board members went to businesses and asked for sponsorships or prizes for the drawing. Businesses were as generous as they could be during these somewhat tough times. Most of our members came through with ticket sales. Teams signed up and hopefully had a fun day playing in the tournament. Four teams took home trophies. Hundreds of people bought tickets and some were lucky enough to win a prize. All the various parts put together added up to one big success. Thanks for your help, everyone!

I also want to thank Danna Jones for her generous donation to the FCHS. Danna has been a very active part of this organization since the beginning. Danna currently takes pictures for display in various places and for our website. She keeps our website current. Danna is constantly in contact with dog rescue groups and she has personally driven many dogs to a rescue. When we need a letter written to tell it like it is, Danna is the one we turn to. So again, thank you Danna for all of your help, and now for your thoughtful and generous donation.

Again this year, The Finnup Foundation has generously funded a grant for us. A good portion of this grant will be used for humane education in the schools and to aid us in providing spay/neuter help to those that can't afford the whole cost.

And I can't forget to say "Congratulations" to the newlyweds, Dr. Rodney and Tara York.



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## VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

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*Nancy Garhart*

Something new to think about for the future, a Dog Park.

The City Parks and Trees committee is considering the possibility of a dog park in Garden City. It will be a gated, restricted area with spaces designated for small dogs and for larger dogs. The FCHS board endorses this effort. If you have questions or ideas for the park, please call Mark Morell at 275-6785, or e-mail him at [Markmo@pld.com](mailto:Markmo@pld.com).

We are still recycling printer and copier ink cartridges. The small cartridges can be dropped off at Campbell Abstract or Janet's Hallmark. For the larger ones, phone 272-5651 and leave a short message with your phone number. We will pick up the larger ones. Our bank account has grown over \$200.00 from these donations. Remember, this is trash recycled.

Please be our eyes and ears for suspected animal abuse. If you suspect abuse and prefer not to call the police, we can take that call at 272-5651 and channel it to the proper authorities.

Thus far we have distributed 110 spay/neuter certificates. Is your pet spayed/neutered? WHY NOT?

REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR OUR DONATION CANS when you shop!

**[www.finneycohs.org](http://www.finneycohs.org)**

This newsletter and lots of other valuable info is now available on our web site.

# THE PET'S BILL OF RIGHTS

1. We have the right to be full members of your family. We thrive on social interaction, praise, and love.
2. We have the right to stimulation. We need new games, new toys, new experiences, and new smells to be happy.
3. We have the right to regular exercise. Without it, we could become hyper, sluggish...or fat.
4. We have the right to have fun. We enjoy acting like clowns now and then; don't expect us to be predictable all the time.
5. We have the right to quality health care. Please stay good friends with our vet!
6. We have the right to a good diet. Like some people, we don't know what's best for us. We depend on you.
7. We have the right not to be rejected because of your expectations that we be great show dogs or show cats, watchdogs, hunters, or babysitters.
8. We have the right to receive proper training. Otherwise, our good relationship could be marred by confusion and strife—and we could become dangerous to ourselves and others.
9. We have the right to guidance and correction based on understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.
10. We have the right to live with dignity...and to die with dignity when the time comes.



# V E T ' S V I E W

By Dr. Rodney York, DVM

Are you a responsible pet owner? Every year massive numbers of dogs and cats are euthanized or put to sleep because they cannot find loving and caring homes. Foster homes, rescues, and no kill shelters have helped, but they are not the cure to the problem. This problem will not go away until each pet owner fulfills their obligation to care for an animal and have them sterilized. One unneutered cat and one unspayed female cat and their offspring will produce 100,000 kittens in 7 years.

Pet population control is every owner's responsibility. All dogs and cats should be neutered or spayed to prevent unwanted puppies and kittens being born. The surgical procedures are very easy and require a very short recover time. Pain medication will make recovery much more comfortable for your pet.

Neutering is a surgical procedure done on male animals. The testicles are removed which prevents them from producing offspring. Neutering also will reduce aggression and unwanted behaviors of excess marking, roaming, and prostate cancer.

Female animals are sterilized by the surgical procedure called a spay or an ovariectomy. During this surgery, both ovaries and the uterus are removed. This prevents pregnancy from occurring. Other benefits to this surgery are prevention of pyometra (uterine infection) and mucomitra which tend to occur after age 6 in females. The greatest benefit of spaying your pet before they achieve estrus, is the reduction of mammary cancer. Spays performed prior to estrus (heat) reduces the chance of cancer by 200 times.

As a practicing veterinarian I become very agitated when pet owners come into my clinic with a dog or cat that is in labor and can't have their babies. This usually occurs when finances are tight for the owner and the animal requires a caesarian section to remove the babies. I have had owners request euthanasia or simply take the pets home to die because they can't afford this procedure. Spaying and neutering at a young age can prevent this heartache and pain.

**HOUND HAULER**—*continued from pg. 1*  
puzzle inside the van. Large kennels are placed on the floor with smaller ones taking up space on and around them.

The early morning loading process usually goes without a hitch. However, sometimes a large dog has misgivings and has to be wrestled into a kennel. Sundstrom, who was raised on a ranch in Texas, often sports scratches on her arms that attest to her ability to win such contests with animals.

Not all the dogs transferred during the runs to Denver are from the local shelter. A few are brought to Garden City from Bucklin and Hugoton, Kansas for the ride to Colorado. The Hound Hauler also makes a short stop in Syracuse, where a few more dogs are added.

Once on the road, barking from excited dogs and noise from open windows drowns out other sounds. But eventually, most of the dogs settle down to napping during the 3-hour ride to La Junta where they are transferred to another van, from the Dumb Friends League of Denver, for the final leg of their journey.

Despite the fact that one small dog got motion sickness during a recent tip, and another broke away during the transfer (but was quickly caught), Sundstrom said it always feels good to know that another load of 30+ dogs is headed to a quality facility.

According to Sundstrom, the Denver facility accepts animals from several bordering states. The large shelter is able to house dogs for several weeks, sometimes months, before they are eventually adopted. It has adoption procedures that screens and matches dogs and potential owners. The shelter boasts a 97% adoption rate.

After the transfer of dogs from the Hound Hauler to the custom-made van from Denver, Sundstrom heads back to Kansas with a van full of empty kennels that she will need to clean on her return. Meanwhile, she has 163 miles to drive and plenty of time to reflect on her day. She starts planning the next run to Colorado, and has already identified some discarded animals who deserve their ride in the Hound Hauler and another chance at life.



# ABOVE AND BEYOND...



K a y Gillespie has been fostering animals for just under a year but she goes above and beyond just fostering. Kay, in her short

year of fostering, has taken five different litters of puppies, feeding them with bottle formula. At the present time she has six Chihuahua puppies that have special feeding requirements. Just a few weeks ago she fostered and bottle-fed six Lab puppies. They will be ready for adoption soon. One of the litters she fostered had Parvo. Kay played nurse to these little guys with special medicine and shots but was only able to save two out of the five. She named the survivors Rufus and Ruby; yes, they were adopted.

Kay not only fosters puppies but she has some unique cats. One was a large Rag Doll cat with long silky hair. When she picked this cat up it would go limp just like a rag doll. Kay seems to take on the special cases and those animals that might be a challenge. The FCHS is grateful for foster homes that can give that much time and love to fostering.

## THANK YOU!!!

We couldn't have held our Pitch for Pets softball tournament without the help of our many sponsors. Thank you for your generous support! Our sponsors were as follows:

- Campbell Abstract
- Coca Cola
- Comfort Inn
- Garden City State Bank
- Garden City Teachers Federal Credit Union
- Golden Plains Credit Union
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Karkiainen
- KUPK
- Dr. E. Grant Larkin, DDS
- R.K. Painting, Inc.
- Security Savings
- Mr. & Mrs. Lot Taylor
- Western State Bank

**ONE MORE THANK YOU** to the generous businesses and individuals that donated prizes for our donation drawing, and congratulations to the lucky winners.

• Gillian Kohlhorst won the Las Vegas El Cortez hotel package donated by John Drew.

• Rayna Brown won the Kodak EasyShare digital camera donated by an anonymous individual.

• Mel Galvez and Ardeen Webster won the 2 free spay/neuters donated by Dr. Rodney York, DVM at Animal Hospital.

• Erin Dehn won the free night stay donated by Plaza Inn.

• Howard Lehman won the free night stay donated by Holiday Inn Express.

• Leslie White won the free night stay donated by AmericInn.

• Tyler Schiffelbein won the 5 gallons of paint donated by Sherwin-Williams.

• Susan Mujica won the 3 free months donated by Curves.

• Brian Bucl won the free eye exam donated by Dr. Kristina Reimer.

• Christy Creacy, Carol Hauschild, and Pat Baughman won gift baskets donated by Wishful Thoughts Specialty Gifts.

• Steve Hamann and Rayna Brown won free dinners donated by Wheatlands Restaurant.

• Lynn Gennette won a free year membership to Lee Richardson Zoo.

• The Watering Hole won \$25 gift certificate donated by Garden True Value.

• Debi Zimmerman and Chrisy Creacy won free meals donated by Adams Rib.

• Marjorie Williams and Angel Palomar won free meals at JAX.

• Dave Johnson won a basket of hair products donated by Signatures Salon.

• Jammie Eagan won a \$25 gift card donated by Wal-Mart.

• Jerry Ortiz won a \$25 gift card donated by 4-Paws Grooming.

• Bryan Cucl won the free therapeutic massage donated by Wendy White.

• Deb Baer won the silver coin donated by Gipsons Diamonds.

• The Watering Hole won the \$20 certificate donated by Klass Act.

• K. Arnberger won the \$20 certificate donated by Ehresman Paking Co.

• Karen Shirk won the free oil change donated by Oil Alley.

• A&C Rentals won the free Oster toaster.

• Tracy Homm won the Rubber Maid water cooler.

• Darwin Miller won the carpet cleaning donated by Pats Steam-Way.

• Casco and JAX donated several baseball hats. The winners were Juan Vanegas, Carol Blackburn, Jan Ramirez, Christi Guy, Darin Miller, Debbie Cargile, Gene Gile, and Kim Keller.

# PAW PRINTS

by Jim Arwine

The second annual Pitch for Pets softball tournament, played June 26, was a grand slam summer event for the Finney County Humane Society, the players, and the ball fans, said FCHS President, Glenda Hopkins.

The FCHS and KUPK-TV hosted the men's double-elimination tournament at Wiley baseball complex to raise much needed funds to support the many programs offered by the society.

"The tournament was a great success," said Hopkins, "even better than last year".

She said the sanctioned tournament not only generated funds for the Humane Society, but players were happy to play the tournament. Most teams, she said, indicated they would return next year. Along with them would be the dozens of family members and friends who filled the bleachers this year, cheering on their favorites.

Debbie Foreman, whose husband Chuck is the coach and the pitcher for Brent's Concrete, Garden City, said she really got into the game. "My husband told me to quiet down. I guess I was yelling too loud".

Garnering tournament honors this year were: The Superstore, 1st place; Thunder, 2nd place; El Rancho, 3rd place, and Soldiers, 4th place. Other teams entered were Balz Deep and Brent's Concrete. One team from Wichita forfeited the tournament.

Fund raising during the event included softball team registration fees, public donations for a drawing of prizes, and donations of cash, merchandise, and services from local businesses.

Organizers said donations for tickets from the public were much better this year. For suggested donations of one dollar per ticket, participants had a chance to win a variety of attractive items and services to include means at local restaurants, gift baskets, merchandise certificates, overnight stays in local motels, a professional eye examination, and spaying or neutering of a pet. High-dollar prizes included a digital camera and a 3-night's stay in a Las Vegas hotel.

Retailers who contributed cash or merchandise received public recognition through television promotions, commemorative

T-shirts, and newspaper advertising.

The pre-tournament television spots were produced by KUPK's Erin Dehn, who also is the Secretary of the FCHS.

Early figures from the FCHS account debit and credit columns show profits that are greater than those generated during last year's Pitch for Pets tournament, said Treasurer Patty Sundstrom. "We made about twice the profit from a year ago".

Proceeds from the softball event are used to help the non-profit, all-volunteer organization provide the community with animal support services and programs. Pet owners who spay or neuter adopted pets receive reimbursement from the society. The FCHS also provides support services to the animal shelter, transports animals headed for other shelters or rescue homes where they stand a better chance at adoption, produces a newsletter and provides in-school education on pet care to youngsters. Funds also are used to obtain veterinary care for sick animals, to help animals in foster care and to advertise pets that need adopting.



*Gillian Kohlhorst receives her prize tickets from John Drew.*



Don't forget to save your used inkjet and laser cartridges!



## **PAW PRINTS**

**Fi. Co. Humane Society**  
**P. O. Box 2031**  
**Garden City, KS 67846**



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

To prevent cruelty to animals, to relieve suffering among animals, and to promote the extension of humane education

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Glenda Hopkins, President • Nancy Garhart, Vice President • Patty Sundstrom, Treasurer • Erin Dehn, Secretary • James Arwine • Dr. Kent Garhart, Ph.D. • Ellen Irsik • Mark Morell • Dr. Rodney York, DVM