



PAW PRINTS

Finney County Humane Society

P.O. Box 2031 • Garden City, KS 67846 • 620-272-5651

Winter 2005

Teen Volunteer

by Erin Dehn



Karson Brennaman loves to read and go to the movies, but she isn't your typical teenager. She enjoys spending her weekend with friends, but hers are the four-legged kind.

"I would rather do this," Brennaman said.

While her human comrades are hanging out together and enjoying their Saturdays away from school, 13-year-old Brennaman is volunteering at the animal shelter.

"She has a real rapport for animals," said Mark Morell, shelter coordinator for the Finney County Humane Society. "It's very rare to find someone her age like that."

Brennaman has been a shelter volunteer for about one year. She asked if she could volunteer because of her love for animals. "You can see these animals in their eyes, how sad they look," Brennaman said. "They just need someone to care for them."

Forget shopping or going to the movies, you can find Brennaman at the shelter every Saturday from open to close. She walks the dogs and interacts with the cats. She even braves sharp claws – bathing the animals. "They don't do it on purpose," Brennaman said. "It's just a little scratch. The pain will go away later. "It helps their chances of being adopted."

Morell said Brennaman has a special gift of being able to pick up on part of a dog's personality that others might not see. "It makes it so much easier. The dogs are able to see someone else," Morell said.

Brennaman is an animal advocate. She takes the time to get to know each animal, which helps her to match a pet parent with the perfect pet. "It's really cool when a kid gets attached," Brennaman said.

Brennaman knows many of the shelter animals won't get adopted. She tries not to think about it. Instead, she focuses on working with each cat and dog – making it the best pet it can be, in hopes of giving it a second chance at a good life.

"They just need loving," she said.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is set for Thursday, January 19, 2006. It will be in the endowment room of the GCCC. The cost will be \$10 for a buffet meal. The meal will begin at 6:30pm so we will have a table set up early to collect membership dues and the cost of the meal. We would like to encourage everyone to attend.

Flea Market Thank You

by Erin Dehn

The shelter was full. The Hound Hauler was on its last leg. We, humane society board members, knew we needed to



replace the van quickly so our transfers to Denver could continue. However, as a non-profit organization, funds were limited. That's when the idea of having a flea market was born. Thanks to you, it was a success.

I cannot think of a place that has more caring, thoughtful people than Finney County. Everything we do as a humane society is to help the creatures that cannot help themselves. I'm honored to be a part of this great organization – but even more honored to be a part of a community that is willing to support us. We asked and you delivered – furniture, toys, books, clothing ... the list goes on. Your donations made our flea market a hit. We made more than \$3,000 during our one-day event. Words cannot say how much we appreciate your donations and support. On behalf of our four-legged friends and the Finney County Humane Society board, thank you.

AWARD WINNING STORY

Several months ago Mark Morell heard about a contest run by the Humane Society of the US called "Super Shelter Stories". This contest was being held in honor of National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. A person could enter this contest by writing about their own special shelter story. Mark remembered back to a recent special adoption and decided that he would write his story and send it in just for the heck of it. Well, a heck of a thing happened. Mark won the grand prize!

Along with a few prizes for Mark, his story was made into a Sunday edition of the comics, Mutts, which ran November 6, 2005. He also won money and free food for a year for the shelter from Science Diet.

Congratulations Mark! The FCHS and the shelter animals are lucky to have you working for them.

(Turn the page to read Mark's story!)

Meals on Wheels for Pets

The FCHS has started a new program for the elderly and handicapped in Garden City. Nancy Garhart and Mark Morell are coordinating a program to provide pet food to individuals on the Meals on Wheels program that have pets. The FCHS is excited to be able to help animals and their elderly or handicapped owners.



END OF YEAR GIVING

Now is the time to be thinking about last minute charitable giving so that you can have tax deductions for 2005. The FCHS is a 501c3 not for profit organization so all of your contributions are tax deductible. By giving to the FCHS you will help save lives, help pay for medical treatment for animals or to help educate children and the public on humane treatment of animals and the need to spay or neuter their pets.

VOTING

For the board member election this year we only have one candidate, Dr. Rodney York. Dr. York is finishing his three year term and has graciously consented to run for a second term. Although voting is just a formality, it is a formality that we must observe to be in compliance with our by-laws.

Please submit your ballot before January 19, 2006

Dr. Rodney York

Write in candidate _____

'Super Shelter Stories' Contest Winner The Humane Society of the United States

November 1, 2005
Grand Prize Winner
Mark Morell
Garden City Animal Shelter
Garden City, Kansas



The Garden City Animal Shelter was close to closing for the day, and since it looked like no one would be coming in to look at the dogs and cats, I decided that I would leave. As I exited the shelter, a van pulled up and a 12-year-old boy with red hair and freckles jumped out and came running up to the door and asked, "Is Sarah still here?" His voice sounded apprehensive, and when I told him that she was still available, his face lit up with a smile, and he yelled to his mother and grandparents in the van, "She's here, she's here! Come on!"

When we all entered the shelter, the boy told me that he saw Sarah, a Shepherd mix, and that he wanted to see her again. I told him that I would get her from her kennel and put a leash on her so he could take her out for a walk.

Sarah was a 2- to 3-year-old Shepherd mix who came to the shelter as a stray. She was fearful at first as it appeared that she had been abused, but she gradually began to regain her confidence. She was a gentle dog, and she learned to sit and heal very quickly, but she never did totally trust anyone who worked with her or looked at her for adoption. I was concerned that we might have trouble finding her a home.

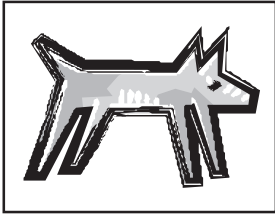
The boy and his mother and grandparents stepped outside the front door, and I brought Sarah to where they were. I handed the boy the leash, and he and Sarah walked down the sidewalk to a grassy area, and they were both looking at each other all the way with smiles. When he reached the grassy area, he knelt down in front of Sarah, and she sat down at the same time. He started stroking her neck and she gently licked his face. They looked at each other with love and happiness, and you could see a total acceptance of each other.

I was standing beside his mother and grandmother, and the grandmother said softly, "He said he just wants a friend." I looked at the mother, and with tears in her eyes she said, "What do we have to do to take Sarah home with us today?"

I have seen hundreds of adoptions and pets being reunited with their owners, but I have never witnessed such total love and acceptance by a boy and a dog. If there was ever a match made in heaven, it was between this boy who just wanted a friend in life, and a dog who had never known love.

A Letter from the President Nancy Garhart

What would the animals do without YOU?



The past three months have been so busy with all types of "projects" for the animals my head is spinning. I was sure we could not accomplish them all. But, with help from so many we were able to complete more than I ever dreamed of.

Christy Botts, board member, was able to get three dates to sell concessions at Johnstons' auctions. That meant three Saturdays we had to come up with servers and home cooked food to serve. Thank you, thank you, to all who helped us accomplish those concessions dates. You were a dream team.

Danna Jones has to have a star in her crown for spearheading and working long hours to make the huge flea market a reality. Again we had people helping that were not members of the FCHS but wanted to support the cause for the animals.

That cause (dream) was to purchase a reliable van to take dogs to Denver and other out of town rescues. That dream was purchased in October and has already made 5 trips to Denver. We still have a small loan at the bank and those who pledged an amount each month will help to pay that loan.

Thanks to Mark Morell for winning the story contest of the HSUS and to Arlie Defreeze who organized and worked hard to make the Texas Hold-em tournament on Dec. 3rd a success. We now have some money to start a medical room at the pound. Officer Cassanova, who has her vet tech license, will be able to treat injured animals at the pound.

We are grateful to those private citizens and companies who donated large and small sums to our van fund. Several individuals also pledged a monthly amount to us for a year so that we could get a loan for the van. Thank you again!

Our year has been outstanding because of all the support that has been given to the fundraisers and projects we have done this year. It couldn't have happened without your help. Thank you so much, friends of animals.



**To Donate
Call 620-272-5651
or 620-275-6364**

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

for adoption



CATS AND KITTENS NEED FOREVER HOMES

Several adult cats and kittens are still in foster care and need forever homes. Most of the available cats are already spayed or neutered and have had their rabies vaccination. All of them are healthy and litter box trained and would make wonderful companions. The cats have no outdoor skills so they need to have inside homes. The costs for these cats are very low. The FCHS is only asking \$25 to help cover the cost of having these cats spayed or neutered.

If you are interested in adopting, call Carol at 275-8943 or Kay at 276-6537. They have all types and colors to choose from.



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ATTENTION
FINNEY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY MEMBERS



Renew Your Membership for 2006

We are in the process of updating our membership files and mailing labels.
 Please remember to renew your membership in our worthy organization.

Membership dues provide a large part of our operating and projects revenue.
 Not only does it help pay for fuel and maintenance for the Hound Hauler and medicine for sick animals, it also
 pays for printing and mailing of your Paw Prints newsletter.

PLEASE clip the coupon below and renew your membership **NOW!**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Business/Corporation \$100

FINNEY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY • PO BOX 2031 • GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

Thank You!

*We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare.
 And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. • M. Acklam*

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**OUR MISSION
 STATEMENT:**

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