

Four Paws & a Tale

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The CMPD Animal Control Bureau Newsletter

Winter 2005 Edition



Manuel, Kippling and Maliyah Delgado.

Belonging Somewhere

We all desire to belong somewhere. The yearning to feel accounted for and also valued is inherent to most of us. Dogs are psychologically wired as "pack animals" and also seek a secure "den" founded on companionship. The white Siberian Husky mix confiscated from a Mecklenburg County residence in the month of November probably sensed that he did not belong at the end of the three foot chain within this back yard.

Bureau Enforcement Officer Shannon Corkwell responded to an animal cruelty complaint and eye witness account of a dog tethered without access to proper shelter. After issuing repeated warnings and citations for ordinance violations, the shelter's enforcement staff legally seized and impounded the canine at the shelter. This dog, named Kippling, was later made available for adoption and became a member of the Delgado family within the months following.

The desire to belong is truly understood by one member of the Delgado family. Trena Delgado gives the following empathetic account of the shelter's kenneled animals awaiting possible adoption placement. Her sensitive comprehension of their plight stems from her own experience growing up within the foster care system.

... It was a cool brisk morning in February when my family and I had been out visiting with family members. We decided to take a short cut back to Interstate 77 and passed the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Shelter. The kids immediately began to beg for us to stop and let them see the animals.

As we entered the shelter, for us kids knew exactly where they each wanted to go. My ten year old son, Manuel, darted around those visitors waiting in the lobby line to make a mad dash to see the dogs. My three year old daughter, Maliyah, wanted to see the cute little bunnies, nestled in their cages.

For me, visiting the animal shelter brings back childhood memories. Unfortunately they are not the ones that most twenty-seven year olds have. You know, those feel good memories of when Daddy or Mommy took you to the shelter to get your first pet. What I felt was a mixture of emotions.

As a child, I spent seven years in foster care. Each time I visit the shelter, I feel as though I am six years old again, but now as the "stranger" coming to see who's adoptable. As we passed through the halls of the shelter, I thought about all the emotions I had felt as a child on the days when the visitors would come. I understood the competitive efforts shown by the animals while trying to get our attention in one way or another. It saddens me to see the fear and anxiety in the eyes of the animals. There are even those animals that have adopted the human behaviors of using their manners and showing their obedience skills. As a child, those were all the things I was told to do on "visitor day". I remember everyone always heading for the babies or the toddlers and passing by the older kids who desperately wanted a family.

Although my family and I were still not sure what we were looking for, we knew that the idea of adopting a dog was a big responsibility. For some time now we hadn't had adequate housing for a dog, or any other pet for that matter. It seemed our busy life had taken control. I also knew that when the time finally came, I wanted to make sure that my children understood the importance of being responsible pet owners — animals are not "rewards" but rather "little hearts" needing love and respect, just like Manuel and Maliyah.

We were, in some strange way, drawn to the adoption kennels where we saw Kippling. Tears immediately came to my eyes, as I saw myself in

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“Overriding the Helplessness”

-Account of HSUS Volunteer Experience in Support of the Gulf Disaster Animal Victims

by Beth Josey,

After weeks of watching the Gulf Coast devastation on the news and spending countless hours worrying about the impact to animals and companion pets in that region, my husband and I jumped at the opportunity to travel down to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. During the last week of September 2005, we boarded a plane along with four other animal lovers from Charlotte. ST Motorsports and the Animal Adoption League donated the air transportation for our group of six in order to make the trip possible. We were also very grateful that Charlotte Kennels offered to board our four large dogs free of charge while we were away. We spent the week working at a temporary relief shelter managed by The Humane Society of The United States (HSUS) for the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina.

We had been given fair warning that the accommodations were similar to camping as the heat would be intense and the work would be hard both physically and emotionally. The heart-breaking television accounts of the frightened white Boxer in a tree, the hot Rottweilers on the roof and the helpless Pit Bulls chained to front porches made the decision to go an easy one.

Upon arrival in Mississippi, swarms of “lovebugs” greeted us and kept us company the entire week. The “lovebugs” are a species of fly but we were grateful to have them instead of mosquitoes. During our stay, we were housed in air conditioned tents set up by FEMA and ate our meals in the FEMA mess tent. Restrooms were of the portable variety and showers were available in pods. The HSUS staff set the daily routine but each day brought new projects and challenges to overcome.

The heat was oppressive for the animals and humans alike. Dogs were not walked during the heat of the day between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each afternoon, one by one, each canine was retrieved and hosed down to provide them some relief from the heat.

Animals were housed in a series of barns at the Forrest County Multipurpose Center. We were informed that over 1,600 animals had passed through the facility, but by the time we arrived, the count was down to around 950. When we left at the end of the week, the count was closer to 350



Charlotte volunteer group in Hattiesburg.

and plans were underway to get the remainder of the animals into foster care as quickly as possible.

Our day began at 6 am with a quick trip to the mess tent and then a scramble to get dogs walked prior to the 8 am daily meeting. This was the coolest time of day and volunteers took advantage of it by attempting to give all of the animals a good walk and some fresh air. The 8 am meeting was an opportunity for the HSUS staff to update volunteers on daily plans, make volunteer work assignments, and address concerns or suggestions. The “Charlotte group,” as we were known, were given a barn assignment. The dogs on a certain row of one of the barns were our primary responsibility. After the 8 am meeting adjourned, the morning feeding began followed by second walks for those who had not completed their “business” previously. During 10 am to 6 pm, dogs took it easy and stuck close to the fans that were set up to cool them. Volunteers became very familiar with bleach and soap during this time of day. Bleaching floors and kennels, washing dishes, and the never-ending job of breaking down and cleaning crates were daily

chores. FEMA provided a bag lunch of sorts, which was greatly appreciated, but difficult to stomach after the second day. They also provided a hot meal at 6 pm. The evening included a second feeding and evening walks for the animals when the sun went down. By the end of each day, we were looking forward to a few moments of cold water in a stall of the shower pod!

I was extremely impressed with the “organized chaos” of this temporary shelter. The animals were receiving lots of love and attention, there were plenty of supplies, and the attending vets and technicians were available to address any health concerns immediately. Some animals were fighting kennel cough and at least one on our row had to be transported to a local vet after kennel cough, stress, and heat had become too much for her. Nevertheless, most of the animals were in amazingly good spirits and were appreciative of the toys, bones, and bedding which had been donated from animal lovers around the country.

Another daily challenge, at which my husband proved to be particularly useful, was in loading the transport vehicles. Rescue and animal welfare groups, pre-approved by the HSUS, arrived from all parts of the country daily to pick up animals from the facility. These groups agreed to house the animals for at least 30 days, mostly in foster care arrangements, during which time the animals would be advertised online in an attempt to reunite them with their owners. These rescue groups also agreed to transport the animals back to the region if any owners came forward. After a 30-day holding period, the animals would then be available for adoption. Each member of our Charlotte based group quickly developed favorites among the animals. We were fortunate that most of our favorites made it to rescue transports before we left Hattiesburg.

A daily joy was in occasionally hearing the ringing of the “Found Bell”, meaning an owner had been reunited with his or her pet/s. All of the Katrina animals in Mississippi were sent to the HSUS Hattiesburg shelter, so distraught pet-owners arrived daily to complete the “Lost Pet” form and search the barns for any possible matches. It was obvious many of the animals in our barn had been beloved pets. One Weimaraner on our row quickly offered a sit and “shake” when presented with a treat. Another gentle and affectionate Pit Bull just wanted someone to sit with him in his stall so he could nap with his head in your lap. It was difficult to see them go and know that it was not possible to bring them home with us and ensure that their lives would never again be so uncertain. We all felt we were doing the best we could to improve their situation. Several of the Charlotte volunteers even put notes in the medical paperwork of their favorites stating they would foster or adopt if no placement could be found.

We all left Hattiesburg eager to get home to our own animals, our own beds and showers, but I am sure many of the other volunteers wonder daily as I do about those special animals that touched our hearts during the trip. I did not see

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Belonging

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everything that Kipling was. There he sat, this snow white husky, sitting quietly with his back straight and ears pointed while “not barking”. For a moment, time stopped as the two of us shared a quiet moment being “good” and using our manners as we had been told.

My son saw me standing there in awe of this dog and Kipling sitting there, looking into my eyes. It seemed as though Manuel was also trying to make sense out of the feelings the dog and I were sharing. My son immediately said “Mom, this is the one! This is the dog that I want. Kipling is the one who will play ball with me, the one who will cuddle with Maliyah, the one who

can run with Dad, but most of all, the one who is as beautiful as you!” I was sold, but would my husband be? The kids hurried over and grabbed their father and brought him to see Kipling.

We spent the next twenty minutes playing with him through the cage. We also asked to see Kipling in the side yard as we wanted to see what he would do without the distractions in the facility. Of course, he did everything that a dog is supposed to do; he ran, jumped and accepted treats as well as catching the ball when the kids threw it. That was it. Kipling had to come home with us. The kids loved him, my husband found a new friend and I finally got to rescue the “older one”. The feeling of completion came back to me, just as it did in June of 1990, when a visitor came to get the “older one”. This was Kipling’s special day as it was my day all those years ago.

Enforcement Officer Perspective on Coliseum Intake of Displaced Pets and Their Owners

by Officer Robert Campos

I had the honor and privilege to assist the Red Cross in taking care of animals that were displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Katrina at the Charlotte Coliseum in September. The owners of these animals had some interesting stories to share as they spoke of the most horrible experiences of their lives. I was fortunate that they opened their hearts to tell me their stories. For some of these people, their pets were all that they had when they stepped off the bus from Louisiana.

Mr. Hoffman and Penny

The first owner and pet I met at the Coliseum was an older gentleman named Mr. Hoffman and a terrier mix named Penny. The

make shift shelter for the animals was located on the main concourse of the Coliseum. Mr. Hoffman was a man on a mission concerned more about his dog than for himself. After much concerned negotiation, he relinquished Penny to my care.

My coliseum assignment included assisting owners with pet issues and I was presented a problem that Mr. Hoffman was very concerned about. He had found a relative in Arizona who wanted to fly him to Tucson. Penny could go along as well, but only if Penny's travel carrier could fit under an airline seat.

This was a problem as Penny was as tall as the bottom of a passenger seat. Mr. Hoffman called the FAA to get the specific dimensions of

approved animal carriers. He wouldn't go without her. He brought the dimensions to me and I looked for a carrier of that size. I could not find one. Officer Jake Phillips brought in more carriers that we checked. They were either too big or too small. Then a couple wanting to help were directed to us. They donated a large travel kennel for Penny and made financial arrangements that enabled Penny to fly to Arizona with her owner. In addition, they came by and took Mr. Hoffman and Penny to the airport.

Mr. Morgan and Ginger

Mr. Morgan and I spoke about his dog, a Yorkshire Terrier named "Ginger". My intent was to provide relief through a conversation about commonalities in life and not about the devastation that he had just experienced. And that's what we did. Ginger was a "Daddy's girl" according to Mr. Morgan. Ginger, upon hearing her owner's voice, would look right into his eyes, cock her head to one side, and perk her ears up. He would talk to her like she knew what he was saying. Ginger would then cock her head to the other side. She did not bark, whimper, or make a noise, only speaking to her "Daddy" with her eyes. Everyone there seemed to understand what Ginger was saying. Every day, Mr. Morgan would walk his dog and tell me a little more about her. When I first met Mr. Morgan, he told me that Ginger had never been too far away from him since her birth and her place in bed was just above his pillow. On a subsequent visit, he mentioned that Ginger did enjoy having you talk to her, and of course, her eyes would talk right back to you.

Daily, Mr. Morgan would come down every few hours and take his "baby" for a walk. One day, I noticed that his visits were becoming more infrequent. I, the other Animal Control officers, volunteers and the Red Cross staff continued to walk and care for Ginger. One morning, I was near the main entrance and saw Mr. Morgan approaching. He was looking like a new man and was smiling. He came over to me with pride and said that he was not an evacuee anymore for now he was a volunteer for the Red Cross. Mr. Morgan was on a break and stopped by to check on his baby. I smiled and told him that Ginger

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HSUS volunteers exercising displaced Gulf region animals.

Helplessness

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the frightened white Boxer I had seen on CNN who was perched unsteadily on a tree branch attempting to stay out of the filthy water, but I did find a senior brindle girl with a horrible crop job on her ears and a tumor on her leg. She needed

me just as much as the one dog on CNN. Spending time with her and making her feel more comfortable in that environment was enough to take away my feelings of hopelessness and helplessness that many people across the country felt as we sat in our cool, dry homes surrounded by our own pets while watching the tragedy unfold on the television.

State Animal Response Team and CMPD Animal Control Staff Action to Gulf Disaster

State Animal Response Teams are inter-agency state organizations dedicated to preparing, planning, responding and recovering during animal emergencies in the United States. North Carolina SART is a public-private partnership, joining government agencies around the common goal of animal issues during disasters. Each county in North Carolina also has its own County Animal Rescue Team (CART) trained to respond to animal related disasters within the state of North Carolina and to assist other counties when needed.

When Hurricane Katrina came ashore onto the gulf coast of Mississippi and Louisiana on August 29, 2005 she left in her wake the worst natural disaster the United States has ever experienced. On September 5, 2005, Mecklenburg County CART Coordinator

and Animal Control Supervisor Chris Peninger activated the Mecklenburg County Animal Response Team when evacuees began arriving at the Charlotte Coliseum after being flown out of New Orleans. All of these people were now homeless, arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs. And their pets.

A makeshift kennel was immediately set up in the basement of the Coliseum and staffed around the clock by Animal Control staff and volunteers. Evacuees were given the opportunity to accompany any Red Cross volunteer down to the kennels at any time to visit with their pets, taking them outside for walks, fresh air and play time. Housing pets at the same facility as evacuees was a first for both the Red Cross and the shelter staff, with both agencies quickly forming a unique partner-

ship. It was a win-win situation. With the owners visiting their pets several times a day, the animals showed very little anxiety during their stay at the Coliseum. By having their pets near them, the evacuees were less stressed after the horrific ordeal that they had been through.

On September 19, 2005 NC SART was activated and Supervisor Chris Peninger was asked to join the team for deployment to Hattiesburg, Mississippi as part of the Incident Management Team. Chris requested additional assistance from Kennel Supervisor Robbi Porter and shelter veterinarian Dr. Mary Blinn for deployment to the gulf coast. SART team members spent ten days in Hattiesburg assisting with animal response and recovery management.

Captain Tammy Williams - A Commendable Storied Career

by Major Tim Stewart

About twenty-nine years ago, a young woman from Iredell County recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and decided she wanted to be a police officer. I am willing to bet she didn't think then where her storied career would take her. After being hired, Tammy McConnell, was assigned to the Adam Five District and, after a period of time, was then transferred to the Charlie Three District.

Tammy was a quick study and transferred to Fraud in 1981 where she worked for nearly nine years. Her work in fraud was described on numerous occasions as "exemplary". Tammy's personnel file is full of commendation letters from the department and the public on her performance as a fraud investigator. She set an extremely high standard for herself early in her career and maintained the same intensity for twenty-nine years.

After her tenure in fraud, Tammy was promoted to sergeant in 1988 and transferred to the Adam One District (Central Division). That was my first experience with supervising Tammy. We were only together a few months because I was transferred to the Felony Investigations Bureau. She adapted to the rigors of supervising officers very well and worked with Sergeant John Templeton who is now retired. During this time period, Tammy attended the General Instructor's School in 1990 and was involved in teaching a great number of classes at the Training Academy. After a couple of years, somebody decided that she had had enough of the Adam One crowd and Tammy was transferred to the Court Liaison position in 1991.

It was as the Court Liaison Officer that Tammy fell into a real niche. During her nine year tenure in that position, she served with distinction. She served on a variety of committees that are too lengthy to list, but made a great impact on the efficiency of the court system. Some of the notable committees on which she served included CJIS Operations, Arrest Procedures, No Probable Cause, DWI Task Force and a Domestic Violence sub-committee. Again she garnered the respect of the District Attorney's Office and the Judges alike for the exemplary ways she performed her duties. She was always noted as being a caring and very compassionate person.

In October 2000, Tammy was promoted to Captain and assigned to the Animal Control Bureau. The bureau had just undergone a tremendous restructuring effort and Tammy came in as new challenges were becoming evident. The population of the shelter continued to increase and the number of euthanasias were on the rise. The rendering service was about to go out of business, staffing levels were beginning to drop, and the Charlotte Observer started a series about the death rate at area shelters and pounds.

But, Captain Williams took all of this in stride and as she had done in many previous occasions, met the challenges head on. One of the best tactics to address staffing was to increase the volunteer base at Animal Control which now has the largest base of committed volunteers in the



Captain Williams thanks the Girl Scouts.

organization. They perform hundreds of hours of service in a number of tasks. This has taken a tremendous burden off of the full time employees. Regular staffing is full for the first time in a while.

She committed the bureau to a training regiment that is unequalled in the state, she has increased the off site adoptions and coordinated clinics in fragile and threatened neighborhoods. Captain Williams has stayed abreast of the trends in dangerous dog legislation and worked closely with the City Council and State Legislators on this issue. She has spent countless hours helping refine ordinances and local agreements to make animal management in this county the best it can be.

Captain Williams' successes over the past five years have been impressive. The incoming population is down and adoptions are up. Reclaims are up and euthanizations are down. She set a first by becoming a member of the Humane Society Board of Directors, she has sought and been awarded grants totaling thousands of dollars to hold clinics in disadvantaged neighborhoods. She cured the rendering problem by having an incinerator built and we could go on and on about the accomplishments she has made including the enhanced partnerships with humane groups and the construction of a spay/neuter clinic in the shelter facility.

What a great legacy she leaves! This bureau is in a better condition, both the physical structure and staffing, than the way it was when she came in the fall of 2000. Twenty-nine years is a long time and Tammy Williams has made a very positive impact on this department in many, many ways. Her dedication to this department and community is on par with anyone who has ever worked here and that, my friends, is saying a lot. She has been entrusted with a four million dollar budget and has been accountable for it, something few public managers do. As Mark Moore of Harvard University has stated, one definition of success emphasizes the personal success of managers themselves, a second definition, and the one that fits Tammy, is that she succeeded in building a strong, durable organization and focused on that accomplishment rather than her own reputation. Congratulations on a fine career. You will be missed.

Coliseum Intake

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was popular with all the volunteers. He thanked me again for the hundredth time for caring for his pet and said, "She is all I have." Taking care of a loved one for someone else puts a feeling in your heart that makes you want to do more.

Ms. Romano

Ms. Romano's story was interesting because it indicated her desire to help others while having to cope with an ordeal herself. She began by telling me that while she was in her home with floodwaters several feet deep, she would occasionally see the Army's National Guard drive by. Ms. Romano decided to help them out by making them a hot meal. She used her trusty Coleman stove and gas grill and fed many of the soldiers several times. When she was forced to evacuate, these soldiers were told "No pets" and forced Ms. Romano to leave her cats. She gave her pets cat food for a week and left in despair.

At the time she did not understand how these same soldiers she fed could lack compassion for her pets. While the soldiers were mak-

ing another stop at a home, Ms. Romano jumped into the water, waist deep, and found her way back home. She held her eighteen year old cat and vowed not to leave it ever again. Another truck came by and Ms. Romano got on it accompanied by her cat. She told the soldiers they would have to shoot her before she would leave her cat. Therefore, they decided to let her keep the cat.

These people have lost almost everything in the world so why take away the only thing they have left - the companionship of their pets. That is why the Red Cross staff allowed these evacuees to be housed with their pets at the Charlotte Coliseum.

It was a good experience to have helped these people in their time of need. Although resources and pride were washed away in the floodwaters of the hurricane, the evacuees were still open with accepting a helping-hand and that was a wonderful thing to experience. It was awesome to see the community come together to help those in need. There was heartfelt concern displayed by all who volunteered to assist the evacuees and their pets. These pets were often the only family that these people had. Pets are family. Family should not be left behind.



Coliseum Provisions Provided to Bureau by Petsmart

Gulf coast evacuees and their pets were provided temporary lodging and supervision in September within the Charlotte Coliseum through partnership efforts between the City of Charlotte and the American Red Cross. Petsmart joined this partnership through its support of this disaster relief effort by donating \$1,000 of pet merchandise to the CMPD Animal Control Bureau. Petsmart generously contributed animal kennels, crates, collars, leashes and toys to support the care and management of the victims' pets.



The Gary T. deLisser Clinic

by Lisa Yaeger-Easton

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Animal Control Bureau and The Humane Society of Charlotte are working together to reduce the number of unwanted animals in Mecklenburg County. Both organizations have a common goal of increased adoption rates, shorter shelter residency, and a decrease in the number of animals euthanized in Mecklenburg County. The Animal Control Bureau is witness to the non-stop arrival of animals through owner surrenders and strays. The animal intake numbers are averaging sixty canines and felines per day; thus making sterilization a necessary part of responsible animal ownership.

In a unique partnership between The Humane Society of Charlotte and CMPD Animal Control, the new Gary T. deLisser Spay/Neuter Clinic was constructed within the existing Animal Control Bureau building. A much anticipated "Grand Opening" ceremony was held on Thursday July 14, 2005. CMPD Public Affairs Manager Keith Bridges welcomed visitors. Police Chief Darrel Stephens, Mayor Pat McCrory and Charlotte Humane Society President Katie Tyler expressed their gratitude on behalf of the homeless animals of Mecklenburg County. After the ribbon cutting for the clinic, former Director of CMPD Animal Control Captain Tammy Williams gave the closing speech. Visitors were served refreshments and encouraged to tour the clinic and Animal Control facility.

The Humane Society of Charlotte has furnished the facility with state of the art veterinary equipment as well as providing staffing assistance needed to operate Monday through Friday. The clinic was outfitted with two operating rooms and equipment. This was completed with the understanding that the county must spay/neuter its way out of pet overpopulation. Currently one veterinarian and two technicians perform up to twenty sterilization surgeries each day. Animal Control volunteers contribute daily with animal



CHS staff preparing a dog for spay/neuter surgery.

processing, surgical instrument cleaning and recovery assistance.

The Gary T. deLisser Spay/Neuter Clinic will expand The Humane Society's sterilization efforts by one hundred percent. Prior to the opening of this in-house clinic, all animals that were adopted intact from Animal Control were transported on the next business day to The Humane Society's low cost spay/neuter clinic on Toomey Avenue. Animals adopted on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday had to wait until Monday for surgery. Quite often anxious new moms and dads would be required to take time off work in order to pick up their post-operative new pet. The new goal is to have animals sterilized prior to being placed up for adoption thus allowing for same day adoptions.

The new clinic will also benefit the citizens currently applying for low cost spay/neuter surgeries at The Humane Society's clinic on Toomey Avenue by shortening the wait time for the surgeries. The surgical space previously reserved for the anticipated Animal Control Bureau's daily adoptions will now be made available to owners of animals that are in need of low cost spay/neuter options.

Gary Turner deLisser gave unselfishly to numerous charities in her lifetime. Her bequest to the Humane Society of Charlotte will benefit the animals she loved so dearly for many years to come. The Gary T. deLisser Spay/Neuter Clinic was named in her honor and will ensure her legacy.

Fall and Winter Pet Care

Daylight is growing shorter and soon there will be a nip in the air. The time is now to begin thinking of winter pet care. The following items are just a few of the tips that can be found at ASPCA.org.

Keep your cat indoors. Cats should be kept indoors during winter to avoid exposure to cold temperatures, dogs, and wildlife. Cats that sleep outdoors will often crawl up into the engine of a car. Please remember to bang lightly on the hood of your vehicle or beep the horn if you have outdoor cats in your area as this will usually scare them out and keep them safe!

Keep your pet away from toxic substances. Anti-freeze and ice melt chemicals are lethal to both dogs and cats. Be sure to check your pet paws upon entering the house and wipe off any residue from ice melt. Keep your pets from anti-freeze or better yet check the ASPCA website http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc for poison control safety information.

Keep your pet's identification tags current. According to the ASPCA "more dogs are lost in the winter season than during any other season..." Make sure that both dogs and cats have proper ID and a microchip with current contact information. Make sure your dog's collar and leash fit properly.

Keep your pets bedding in good repair. Make sure your pet has sufficient shelter. Warm dry bedding placed away from drafty areas will keep your pet comfortable.

Keep your pet's food and water fresh. Fresh water and food are a must all year round. Winter time can bring freezing temperatures that make a water

dish freeze solid. Maintaining a watchful eye on your pet while outside and adjusting their food and water needs based upon outside temperatures and activity are a must. Your veterinarian can guide you on any adjustments that may be needed.

The arrival of fall and winter also bring with them many holiday festivities. Here are a few tips to keep your pet safe during the holidays (for a full list of items to keep from your pet please visit http://www.aspc.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=17784&security=2220&news_iv_ctrl=1400).

Keep candy away from your pet. Chocolate can be fatal to your dog or cat. Treats with xylitol as an ingredient are also quite dangerous to pets. Be especially cautious of candy wrappers as they can become ingested and cause choking and/or intestinal blockage.

Keep your pet on his/her diet. Tempting as it may be to give Fido or Fluffy some turkey or mashed potatoes this can upset their stomachs and cause diarrhea. And keep all alcoholic beverages away from your pets. Alcohol can lead to respiratory failure in pets.

Keep your pet away from holiday decorations. Be mindful of where the electrical cords are as pets often like to chew and can be electrocuted. Watch for decorations that could break or have easily dislodged small pieces that could find their way into the stomach of your dog or cat. Trees with lights, glass decorations, and tinsel are attractive to cats and have many dangers.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested something or has been poisoned seek help immediately!

Volunteers at the Bureau

Due to pet abandonment, neglect and abuse, the CMPD Animal Control Bureau receives 20,000 animal annually through its doors. The care, socialization and citizen adoption/reclaim procedures for the animal residents require a tremendous amount of time and energy on behalf of the staff. Volunteers are partnering with this staff to make a commendable commitment towards the welfare of the in-house, orphaned animals. Bureau management and staff are grateful and impressed with the work and talent contributed by its volunteers.

Lesly Wisch is among these volunteers who compassionately and consistently devotes a part of each week to the animals and programs at the shelter. She exercises the kennelled dogs both on and off leash within the yards surrounding the shelter. She demonstrates a thorough understanding of the shelter's policies and is instrumental with training the incoming, new volunteers on procedures. Lesly facilitates lobby adoption interactions and gives guidance to the shelter's visiting public. Lesly also volunteers within the bureau's in-house spay/ neuter clinic with animal processing, surgical recovery and instrument cleaning.



Lesly Wisch

Lesly has lived in Charlotte for 27 years and shares her home with husband Don, Golden Retriever MG and Bernese Mountain Dog Healey. Lesly states that, "my love of animals began as a very young child. We always had pets while growing up and it was during those years that I realized

how special it was to have animals in one's life." She and her husband raised three children and instilled the love they have for animals in them. Lesly turned to the bureau's volunteer program "to help care for and to bring love to those animals that need a larger dose of tender loving care."

Jeannie Jandrew understands that the spay/neuter clinics are the heart of the solution to ending the euthanasia of so many unwanted pets. She assists at the mobile clinics with patient check-in, post surgery monitoring and with client documentation. Jeannie exercises the shelter's kennelled dogs and attends off-site adoption events to further reach potential homes for the in-house animals. She also has aided staff with bite prevention programs at the county's schools.

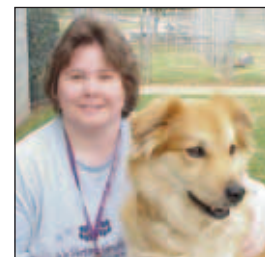


Jeannie Jandrew

Originally from Hickory, North Carolina, Jeannie began her work with animals at the Humane Society of Catawba County. Upon moving to Charlotte in 2003, she wanted to continue helping homeless animals. Jeannie is currently a principal intern in Cabarrus County. She will graduate in May with her Master's in school administration from UNCC. She resides with husband David, five year old Basset Hound Sidney, and three year old Basset-Beagle Rudy. Her hobbies include dog park romps, volunteering, exercise work outs, sorority alumnae club activities and

spending time with friends and family.

Tammy Pritchard exhibits a deep commitment to the welfare of animals. She demonstrates this through her frequent visits to the shelter throughout the workweek. Tammy exercises dogs and reaches out to those canines in need of basic obedience training through praise and food rewards. She assists with the shelter's Head Start Training Program and helps train identified, adoption kennelled dogs to enable them to interact with potential adopters with calmer and learned responses, increasing their chances for adoption.



Tammy Pritchard

A native of Charlotte, Tammy is a staff member at the American Red Cross. She has always had German Shepherds growing up. Now, her best friend is Sandi, a Collie mix that someone was "throwing away" in a store parking lot. Sandi is the inspiration behind Tammy's commitment to the shelter. Along with volunteering at the shelter, Tammy helps with the Horse Protection Society in China Grove. She is also a member of the music department at her church and helps with the different outreaches of ministering to and feeding the homeless. She and her family also help with Operation Christmas Child through the Samaritan's Purse organization. Whether it is an orphan in a war torn country, a homeless person or animal, Tammy believes that all of God's creatures need someone to love and care for them. Tammy's hobbies are photography, reading, music and travel.

There's No Place Like Home

Part of the American Dream is home ownership; our canine companions share this dream. Our furry family members enjoy living indoors and all the benefits that it brings; however, they also benefit from having shelter outdoors as well.

Dogs love spending time outside and providing shelter outdoors helps to keep them safe. A doghouse provides escape from sun or rain, protection from the wind and cold, and a safe place to sneak a snooze.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Control Bureau has been gifted this fall with three separate donations of doghouses. These doghouses were built by private citizens and donated to Animal Control. These dog houses will be given to members of the community that are in need of better shelter for their pets.

The first donation is courtesy of Junior Girl Scout Troup 421. The girls built and painted the doghouse with the intent that it be given to a family in need. The girls who gave their time and talents to help others are: Michaela Davis, Amy Wooten, Eliot Woody, Emily Dinnsen, Eden Creamer, Victoria Lemley, Jocelyn Dawal, Emily Aspinwall, and Brittany Dybzinski.

The second donation is courtesy of John, Janey, and Rebekah Rosser. The Rosser's were planning their eleven year old's birthday party. Mr. Rosser told us that they allow their children to



pick the theme of these parties. It was then that their daughter, Rebekah, remembered a display she had viewed at an event attended by Animal Control on ways the community could help. One of these ways was to build a doghouse. The plans were from the Lowe's website: (<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=howTo&p=Build/DogHuse.html>) and Lowes donated hammers and aprons for the party. The birthday party attendees, supervised by Dad, built and donated four doghouses.

The third donation is courtesy of Isabelle Blumer and Amy Styers Bissett. Twelve year old Isabelle, who attends St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Charlotte, chose to make a doghouse to meet the requirements of her confirmation class service project. Isabelle combined



her love for people and animals in constructing the house. Her mentor, Mrs. Amy Styers Bissett, commented that Isabelle chose this project because she wanted to provide "a doghouse for someone who would give a home to a dog and love it if they had a place for the animal to live..."



A huge thank you goes out to Girl Scout Troup 421, Isabella Blumer and Amy Styers Bissett, and Rebekah Rosser's family and birthday party guests. The service and caring spirit that each of you demonstrate will warm the hearts of those who receive your gifts as well as providing warmth to the canines that will call them home!



Kennel Attendant Alex Howard



by Janette Purtell

The Kennel Attendants are Animal Control's unsung heroes. Alex Howard appreciates the importance of the work that he and his colleagues perform every day. The physical and psychological well-being of every animal that enters our facility is impacted by these hardworking employees.

When Alex was considering a job with ACB nearly two years ago, he was fortunate to have a friend who worked here. Roberto Roldan provided Alex with an accurate portrayal of the job — no fluff and no false promises. Alex explains that it isn't the prettiest job at the shelter, but it is vital to the shelter's mission. Alex's love for animals and his strong sense of responsibility make this job a good fit for him. Unlike the "ninety-nine percent of the working populace" we've all read about, Alex really likes his job.

Growing up with animals, Alex assumed full responsibility for his pets at an early age. When Alex was ten, he taught his parakeet to dance. Alex, his wife, and their children now share their lives with two cats taken in as feral kittens, and one cat that was a roadside adoptee. The three lucky felines, aptly named Mischief, Nosey and Sassie keep the Howard home filled with cat-itude.

Alex has also fostered a dog, Scarlet, who came to him horribly emaciated from a heartbreaking situation. After a successful recovery period Scarlet has been restored to physical and mental health. This sweet dog now revels in being spoiled by her adopted family. Alex's compassion is not limited to canines and felines; in fact, one of the current shelter residents that Alex has befriended is an exceptionally stubborn goat which the staff named Alex. The goat is very lucky to have Alex watching out for him.

Alex is a native Charlottean. After graduating high school and prior to joining ACB, he sampled various occupations and acquired a wide range of useful skills. If all kennel attendants were expected to do would be to keep the kennels clean and ensure that food and water is fresh, that alone would be a never-ending job. Kennel attendants are often stopped by citizens with questions about the animals and ACB policies and procedures. Alex enjoys assisting when he can and will refer them to other staff as needed. He does not begrudge interruptions to his appointed rounds. After all it is

all about providing service to the animals.

Alex honed his customer service skills in restaurant work and has experience in roofing, fire restoration, flooring and masonry. While kennel attendants are not involved in health care, per se, they are in an excellent position to make critical observations of the animals on a daily basis. This is where Alex's attention to detail is so important. The kennel attendants report to the animal health technicians when anything seems amiss in an animal's appearance or behavior. Alex believes that this is part of his responsibility to the animals. Catching a wily escapee can offer a much needed bit of levity, or some high drama to an otherwise routine day. Alex feels that ACB's volunteers allow the kennel attendants to do more of their assignments thus facilitating ACB's ability to serve and care for more animals.

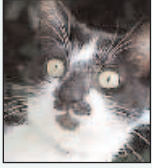
After being mentored by a senior kennel attendant, Alex began the process of learning from experience and from his teammates. He continues his education via CMPD courses in a wide range of topics. Part of the job that he particularly likes is the freedom to develop his own work style while adhering to shelter procedures. He finds that employment at ACB is conducive to being an individual. And that is very important to him.

Alex has a strong sense of self and is clear about those things in life that are most important to him. He hopes that others perceive, as he does, that all the good within him is a gift from The Lord. The same dedication that Alex brings to his ACB career is also applied to his church. He assists his fellow congregation member in the mutual understanding of their faith through drama, music, and his service as a youth pastor and Sunday school teacher.

Alex's message to the potential pet owner would be to adopt, spay/neuter, and properly care for the animal(s) in your charge. He reminds us that taking full responsibility for the creatures we bring into our home and life is not an option — it is a duty. Animal ownership is to be taken very seriously as a precious life is at stake. Responsibility, respect, and hope are qualities that Alex Howard endeavors to reflect in his work as well as in his personal life.



Pets Needing Loving Homes

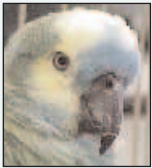


If you are looking for a new pet, The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Shelter has hundreds of dogs and cats, along with occasional snakes and pot-bellied pigs, to choose from for adoption. The shelter also has two specially designed bonding areas for people to interact and play with the animals they are considering for adoption.

Cat Information



Feline fanciers can find what they're looking for in a furry friend. Prices are \$66.50 for adult females and \$60.50 for adult males. This includes the vaccinations against feline distemper, upper respiratory complex and rabies. The cats are given a physical exam and tested for feline leukemia and feline Aids. The cost for spaying/neutering and microchipping is also included. Charlotte and Mecklenburg County residents must pay \$10.00 for a license which is also included in the adoption price.



Kittens usually are more available in the spring and summer months. Females are \$86.50 and males are \$80.50. Prices include the vaccinations for feline distemper and feline upper respiratory complex, deworming, a physical exam and a feline leukemia test. The spay/neuter and microchip are also included.



Dog Information

From Airedales to Yorkshire Terriers (and all mixtures in between), the Animal Shelter is the place to find your new canine companion. The price is \$73.50 for adults dogs which includes all vaccinations, a physical exam, a heartworm test, a fecal exam, spaying/neutering and microchipping.



The dog is dewormed if necessary and started on heartworm preventative. Charlotte and Mecklenburg County residents must also pay \$10.00 for a license which is included in the adoption price.



Based on requests, puppies are probably our most popular pet available for adoption. Waiting lists can be long but don't let that discourage you from trying. All puppies receive two vaccinations for canine distemper, parvovirus and kennel cough. Puppies also receive a physical exam and are dewormed. All this for \$93.50 (the cost for spay/neuter and microchip are also included).

Exotic Animal Information



The Animal Shelter is not just a place for dogs and cats. We may have a variety of animals from ferrets and rabbits to iguanas and snakes. The prices will vary depending on species and size.

Livestock Information



On occasion, we have large animals available for adoption. Ordinance requires that livestock be auctioned, so the animal goes to the highest bidder. Auction notices are posted at the animal shelter, the courthouse and on this site ten days prior to the auction. If no one appears for the auction, the animal will be placed up for open adoption at a price set by the bureau.



General Electric Employees Compete in The Pet Pursuit 100!

by Ann McClellan

Employees of General Electric divided into teams and competed in a race they named The Pet Pursuit 100. The "race" comprised of sixty-six people on six teams competing to see which team could bring in the most donations for the animals at the CMPD Animal Control Bureau.

The winning team received a free lunch provided by General Electric. The number of contributed items for each team was tallied on a magnetic board using race cars to show the leaders. Event participants donated over three hundred items to the shelter. Donations included: pet shampoo, towels, grooming supplies, and toys.

Volunteers who participated are part of a global organization comprised of General Electric employees and retirees who participate in a wide variety of community service projects. In total, this volunteer organization donates more than one million hours per year to organizations in need.

The CMPD Animal Control Bureau staff and volunteers would like to thank General Electric and their caring employees who volunteered their time and effort by contributing these needed items.

Community Partnership Support ACB

The CMPD Animal Control Bureau staff and volunteers thank the following local newspapers, television stations, businesses, schools and athletic organizations for their efforts to inform the public sector on the adoption availability of the shelter animals.

- Charlotte Observer Neighbor's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- The Mecklenburg Time's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- Charlotte Weekly's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- Huntersville Herald's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- ShopperCharlotte.com's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- Channel 6 News Tailwagger's weekly segment highlighting a shelter animal
- Peak Fitness's coverage of homeless animal photos and profiles
- Petco's monthly host of adoption off-site events
- Pet Essential's monthly host of adoption off-site events
- Petsmart's monthly host of an adoption off-site events
- Apperson Print Management Services computer graphics & design
- WSOC 103.7's weekly advertisement of our homeless animals

Become an ACB Volunteer!

Want to volunteer at the CMPD Animal Control Bureau?

Contact Linda Hagemann:

704/336-6694 or lhagemann@cmpd.org

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Public Information Assistance | Exercising Animals |
| Adoption Sign-Ups | Rabies Certificate Data Entry |
| ID Search & Owner Notification | Head Start Training Program |
| Animal Feeding | Adoption Follow-Up Program |
| Bathing/Grooming Animals | Animal Profile Writing |
| Adoption Off-Site Clinics | Writing for the ACB Newsletter |
| Spay/Neuter Off-Site Clinics | Animal Photography Assistance |
| Cleaning/Disinfecting Kennels & Cages | |