

Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter (PAWS)

WHAT WE DO • Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, Inc. (PAWS) was formed by a group of concerned Pendleton County residents in April 2005. We hope to establish an animal shelter to serve the needs of Pendleton County animals.

- We are having a great deal of difficulty in finding 2-5 acres of land accessible to electricity and water on which to build a shelter. Construction grants are not available until shelter land is obtained. If you or anyone you know would consider donation of land, call PAWS Voice Mail at 304-358-3664 and leave a message. As PAWS is a nonprofit organization, donation of land will provide a substantial tax write-off.

DOG & CAT OVER POPULATION • A shelter alone will not resolve the overpopulation problem that results in dogs and cats being abandoned all over the county and in the development of a large number of cat colonies. You can help by spaying or neutering your pets and encouraging others to do so.

- PAWS obtained a grant to help people with the cost of spaying or neutering dogs in early 2008. To date 71 dogs were spayed or neutered. We have applied for a second grant and should have a decision on our application by June 2009.

- A SNAP-WV Grant to help low-income families with the cost of spaying or neutering cats was obtained in January 2009 and help is still available. Call PAWS to request assistance.

PET RESCUE • PAWS participates in a Pet Rescue Program, which works with other rescue organizations to find homes for many abandoned and unwanted dogs and cats. Pet Rescue's ability to help is limited by availability of a foster home to temporarily house the dog or cat and its adoptability.

- PAWS works with the Pendleton County Sheriff's Office to take dogs picked up by deputies.

HOW YOU CAN HELP • Our organization is small, and we can use a lot of help. Here are some functions which always need volunteers:

Pet Rescue

- Foster a dog or cat • Transport a dog or cat for veterinary care • Transport kittens to and from PetSmart in Harrisonburg on a weekend for the adoption program • Transport a dog or cat to a rescue organization meeting point

Fund Raising

- Work at the flea market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a Saturday • Work at the flea market booth for 3-4 hours during SpringFest or the Treasure Mountain Festival • Help with the Fun Dog Show at SpringFest or the County Fair • Donate and/or sell food and drinks at Country Store Opry concerts in Franklin • Donate aluminum cans and/or empty inkjet cartridges.

Serve on a Committee

- PAWS can use your ideas and your support. Current committees include Pet Rescue, Education, Fund-Raising, Publicity and Land Search.

DONATIONS • Our funds are low. How much help we can provide with rescuing animals, spaying or neutering, and cat colony projects depends on these funds. The grants we have been able to obtain are small and are not enough by themselves. As we are tax-exempt, your donations can be used to

help reduce your taxes. Simply mail your check to PAWS, PO Box 804, Franklin, WV 26807.

- PAWS donates dry dog and cat food to be given to low-income families, who receive food from the C.A.N. Food Pantry and from Pendleton Senior Center. If you would like to donate dry dog or cat food, call us.
- Envelopes for memorial donations are available at both Franklin funeral homes. Or simply mail a check to PAWS and indicate the name of the person for whom the donation is being made and the name and address of the person to whom the acknowledgement should be sent.

HOW PAWS VOICE MAIL WORKS • When you call 304-358-3644, you will be prompted to leave your name and telephone number. Also, state the subject of your call and a good time to return your call. Volunteers check voice mail daily and channel messages to members in charge of the various programs. Speak slowly to be sure that your message is understood. If you do not receive a call back within a week, you may call the PAWS President at 304-249-5954.

HOW PET RESCUE WORKS • We do not have a shelter or a place in the county to show animals to people who may want to adopt them. Neither do we have enough volunteers to transport them to a central place, show them and return them to their foster homes. Because of this lack, animals that are accepted into the Pet Rescue Program are worked into rescue programs in other counties or states for adoption into good homes. We are hoping to be able to adopt out locally in the future.

- Rescue programs are carefully checked out to make sure that dogs and cats will have good adoptions, assuring that none of these animals will be used for research.
- Dogs and cats are fostered in the county while they are being worked into rescue programs. They are given veterinary care, spayed or neutered and given in-home training to make them more adoptable. Their pictures and information are placed on the Petfinder website. Rescue organizations make their selections and contact the PAWS Pet Rescue Coordinator. If you are interested in adopting an animal shown on the website, send an e-mail request for the name and location of the rescue organization to which the animal will be transported.
- PAWS complies with WV State Law and fosters dogs at least five days before transporting them to a rescue program, allowing the owner of a lost dog time to contact the Sheriff's Office and PAWS to make sure that the dog was not transported to Pet Rescue. Lost dogs are returned to their owners, and the owners are asked to pay any boarding and veterinary expenses.

HOW CAT COLONY PROGRAMS WORK • The Trap-Neuter-Release Program got its start in cities. It involves trapping feral cats and transporting them to veterinary clinics for testing, spaying or neutering, and rabies shots. While adult feral cats are rarely adoptable, sometimes the kittens are. The adult cats are returned to their familiar habitat, where some dry food is put out regularly. This allows cats in the colony to gradually die out in a humane way. Having the cats in an area reduces rat and mouse populations. In cities this is a real advantage.

- In order for this program to work in Pendleton County, PAWS needs volunteers in the area of the cat colonies to trap cats and transport them to the veterinary clinic and back and to regularly put out dry food. If a cat colony is located near your home and you would like to help, call us. You may also report your observation of a cat colony to us.