



FRIENDS

UNION COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Issue No. 11 June 2015

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Humane Society Benefit Draws Enthusiastic Community Support.

The officers, board of directors, staff and volunteers of the Union County Humane Society wishes to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who attended the 9th Annual Benefit. It was our largest attended and most profitable benefit to date. Your donations are critical to our continued operation and mission.



Also in this Issue

PetSafe awards Grant to Union County Humane Society to help cover Medical Cost for one of Tennessee's largest Hoarding Rescues



Executive Director, Tammy Rouse reports on recent Hoarding Rescue.



Mayor, Mike Williams lauds Humane Society's Work.



Bethanie Poe, Ph.D. candidate and fellow in the veterinary social work program at UT addresses the audience on human & animal relationships.



Enthusiastic Humane Society supporters enjoy the program and a wonderful dinner. The 9th Annual Benefit attracted close to 200 animal advocates and generous donors.

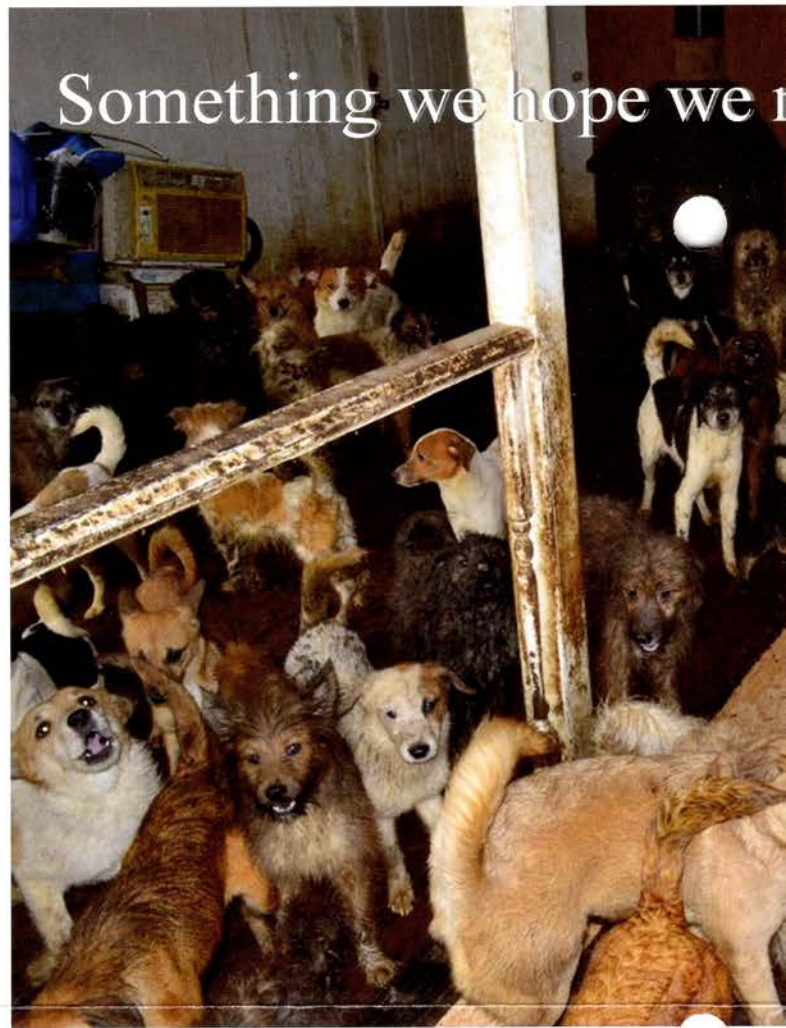




PetSafe Awards \$8,000. Grant to the Union County Humane Society to help with the Medical Costs for one of Tennessee's Largest Hoarding Rescues.

“On behalf of Radio Systems Corporation, it gives us great pleasure to notify you that the Radio Systems Corporation Philanthropy Committee has approved a donation to Union County Humane Society (“Grantee”) in the amount of \$8,000.00. This grant is to be earmarked specifically for veterinary service expenses incurred in the case of 136 dogs taken in March 2015. Our company is delighted to be able to help in your important work in our community. We share in your commitment to make our region a better place to live and work.”

Radio Systems Corporation, 10427 PetSafe Way, Knoxville, TN 37932 philanthropy@petsafe.net



136 Dogs living in their own filth in a 800 sq. ft. doublewide. One of the worst dog hoarding cases in Tennessee’s history.

Article by Tammy Rouse

On March 12 we received a call from a utility worker regarding a house that had a very strong ammonia smell and lots of dogs barking inside. We contacted the Union County Sheriff’s Dept. and an officer went to the location. He was able to speak with a woman at the home who admitted to having " 35 or 40" dogs and puppies inside.

When I arrived at the house, it was clear to me that the conditions inside were going to be very bad. She gave me permission to go inside and take a look. Inside the front door was wall to wall dogs, terrified and covered in filth. I cannot begin to describe the unbearable ammonia smell.

The Sheriff and assistant DA were notified, pictures taken and warrants issued for cruelty to animals. The owners were cooperative and willing to surrender all animals over to us. The man of the house agreed to put them in crates and help carry them out. After the first load of 44, it was sickening to discover at least twice that many still remained inside.

The couple appeared in court on Friday. They pleaded guilty and were sentenced to: No ownership of more than two dogs, mandatory psych counsel, recommended treatment and random monitoring by UCHS for a year.

We contacted the Humane Society Of The United States and The University of Tennessee to get help and guidance to process and move the expected 100 plus dogs. On Saturday the 14th, 2 vets 4 techs and several vet students arrived and proceeded to do physical exams and vaccinate and photograph over 94 dogs. Claiborne County animal shelter came and took 28 of the dogs as we brought them in.

Animal shelters from across the state called to offer help after hearing the news. Over the next week the Union County Humane Society shelter was abuzz with caring people who came to volunteer time, money and supplies. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming and heartwarming and will never be forgotten.

never have to see again.



Bitter Sweet Tail

As I was driving home from Indiana from visiting a friend, I received a call from my husband who was very upset to hear the news of the recent hoarding case. He called asking what I thought we could do to help. Thus our journey began: Bathing, cleaning pens, and washing feed bowls was a start. We also purchased much needed supplies to help the shelter care for the animals. While many of the dogs were eventually relocated, a dozen or so were too terrified to leave the shelter. We had to work closely with them and make them comfortable with people if they were to be adoptable.

I watched as Tammy convinced dog #72, better known to us as Shadow, that people could be kind to him and I also watched my husband spend countless hours working with the dogs, little by little slowly gaining their trust.

The Humane Society of the United States referred Tammy to the Richmond SPCA in Virginia who have staff and volunteers who work with dogs from hoarder cases. Here then perhaps was a sanctuary ready to accept these poor animals!

My husband and I readily volunteered to transport them there despite our initial skepticism. Our doubts about this endeavor faded however the minute we walked through the door of the Richmond facility; it was clean, warm and friendly. The staff there welcomed us with open arms and made sure we knew these precious animals were in safe hands.

While touring the facility, we saw special housing for animals with attitude issues, rooms set up for people to spend time with an animal they are interested in adopting, rooms for the public to come to just spend time with an animal and much more. In addition, they staff a full time vet, behavioral therapists, fund raisers and others who have the knowledge to work successfully with temperamental animals.

We left Richmond with bitter sweet tears: "bitter" in the knowledge we had to say goodbye to dogs with whom we'd become so attached, but very "sweet" in knowing that our babies had a very bright future.

Our journey was a very rewarding one.

Written by Volunteer, Ruth Sharp



UCHS Executive Director, Tammy Rouse, working with Shadow, one of the hoarding dogs, trying to socialize and rehabilitate him for adoption.



Richmond SPCA Staff Volunteers with one of our Hoarder Dogs

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Some attendees check out the Silent Auction "Art for the Animals" items offered at the Humane Society's Annual Benefit Banquet

New shoes and dental work for Shelter's resident donkeys.



Equine Dentist, Dr. Robin McLamrock, Examines Jack's teeth.

Resident donkeys Jack and Lucille, had a busy first week in May. They had an exciting visit with their new friend, Farrier Zophia Kneiss, now aka "the donkey whisperer". Her patience and skill with the two was amazing to watch and much appreciated. Zophia is also known for her award winning artistic sculptures at Burning Art studios in New Tazewell.

Jack also became acquainted with Dr. Robin McLamrock, Equine dentist. At 19 years old Jack's teeth and hooves are very important for his health and comfort during his senior years. We sincerely appreciate and recommend these two individuals for thorough and humane equine care.



Make an Appointment to have your Pet's Portrait taken June 27th at the Shelter by Professional Photographer, David L Lambert Jr.