



A Paws-itive Difference

A Monthly Publication for the Volunteers of the Montgomery Humane Society

January 2009



Volunteer Spotlight: Walter Brenner



What is your Volunteer Area:

Pet therapy and offsite events

How long have you been a MHS volunteer?

Since March 2008

Which has your heart, cats or dogs?

Definitely dogs

Do you share your life with pets? Yes, Honey an 11 year old yellow lab

What is your favorite movie?

“Sound of Music”

What is your favorite food? Hot Dogs

What book are reading right now? *The Life of Lou Gehrig*

What is the most rewarding part of volunteering for you? Pet Therapy and how it helps not only the residents but the staff. At one of the nursing homes, a nurse fell in love with the pet therapy puppy and actually came out to the shelter during her lunch hour to adopt it.

What is your goal while you are volunteering? To make others appreciate the same love I have for dogs.

Why would you recommend that someone volunteer at MHS? I recommend that others volunteer at the shelter to give those animals care and love.

What is the hardest part about being a volunteer? Knowing that all the animals cannot be adopted and that is sad. I wish all the animals at the shelter could have a wonderful home like my dog Honey.

What A Difference Our Volunteers Make!

We have a total of 246 volunteers registered at the Montgomery Humane Society, and 163 are actively volunteering their time. At the beginning of 2008, our volunteers averaged 100 hours a month. Currently, our volunteers are logging 468 hours a month. What a tremendous increase!

We can't stress how essential all of our volunteers are to the ongoing work our shelter does on behalf of the unwanted, abandoned, and many times, neglected animals that come through our doors. The hours our volunteers spend walking dogs, participating in the Pet Therapy program, and helping at various off-site events is time well-spent—for our community, our shelter, and of course, for the dear animals that we take in each month.

For organizations like the Montgomery Humane Society, budget is always a pressing concern. With our country presently in troubling economic times, non-profits are feeling the pinch. But our volunteers help us greatly on the financial front too. Last year, our volunteers' work saved the shelter \$24,000. Montgomery Humane Society volunteers also helped to raise \$100,000 through fundraisers over the course of 2008. We couldn't do a fundraiser without you!

Thank you, volunteers, for all of the invaluable work you do. All of the animals here at the shelter send you their best cat purrs, puppy kisses, and tail wags

Adopted And Off to a New Home

Helen, Rory, Xena, Karen, Daisy, Kioko, Ringo, Tazz, Katie, Grady, Hank, Harmony, Murdock and many many more.

Four of our abused and rehabilitated horses at Seven Oaks Equestrian Farm were adopted.

Important Message for all Volunteer Dog-walkers!

First, a sincere thank you is in order to our dog-walking volunteers for the energy you devote to walking, petting, and giving affection to our shelter dogs. The dogs relish the time you spend with them. It means so much for a dog to have a chance to run in the play-yard, enjoy the sunshine, and of course, soak up some loving attention.

We'd like all of our dogs (unless unable for some reason) to get walked each day. Because walks are so important to our shelter dogs' well-being, we need a streamlined system to help volunteers quickly keep track of which dogs have been walked and which ones haven't. So here's the how-to on our new, clothespin system!

Clothespin Kennel System

*Kennel cards identifying the dog(s) in that kennel should be attached to each kennel door. Wooden clothespins should be clipped to the bars of each kennel.

*After you walk a dog and return it to its kennel, "check off" that you have walked the dog by carefully attaching a wooden clothespin to the appropriate dog's kennel card, located on the front of the kennel.

*It's important to start our clothespin system each day. If you arrive earlier in the morning and are the first volunteer to walk dogs for the day, all or some of the clothespins may still be attached to the kennel cards from the day before.

*First, double-check with a shelter employee to make sure that none of the dogs in the runs have been walked yet. Then, for all the dogs who have not been walked, remove any clothespins still attached to their kennel cards and clip the clothespins up high on the kennel bars.

That way, the clothespins will be ready for you (and any other volunteers walking dogs that day) to clip onto the correct kennel card, once you have walked the dogs in that particular kennel.

****Note:** There should be one clothespin for each dog's kennel card. If any clothespins are missing, please inform a shelter employee. That way, we can get some extra clothespins and keep the system rolling!

Upcoming Adoption Counselor Class

The next class for those interested in volunteering as adoption counselors will be on February 7, 2009 at 10:00 am. The class should last around two hours and will be held in the conference room here at the Montgomery Humane Society. There are fifteen seats available.

Anyone who wants to volunteer as an adoption counselor, either at our shelter or at any of our off-site events, must attend an adoption counselor class. To register (or ask any questions), please contact Lisa Bragg by phone: 409-0622, ext. 202 or e-mail: lisabragg@montgomeryhumane.com



Jason Hartshorn and Chica enjoy Walk N Wag. Chica was adopted Oct. 23.

Events and Fundraisers

When you work in animal rescue, there can be quite a few sad, sometimes wrenching stories. But good news comes along too, and we wanted to share a little of it with you.

A few of our recent events raised some needed funds to support the work we do on behalf of animals at our shelter. We are also happy to report that some of our wonderful shelter animals were adopted into homes through these events.

To all of the volunteers who helped out at one or more of these events, thank you. We also want to thank our rescue transports and foster families. Your efforts are essential to the work we do for our animals. We appreciate you all!

Pictures with Santa at Petsmart: sold 105 pictures sold = \$1,000

Christmas Gift Wrapping: \$13,500

SAC Arts and Crafts Event: \$600

PepperTree Steaks and Wine Tasting: \$1,500

Walk N Wag: \$7,000

Pet Photo Contest: \$45,000

Pike Road Arts and Crafts: \$400



Pawprints: Shelter Q&A

Question: *I'm a new volunteer at the Montgomery Humane Society. How many volunteer hours do I need before I can adopt an animal from the shelter?*

Answer: You need to work 16 volunteer hours before adopting an animal from our shelter.

Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan. 16: "Hotel for Dogs" Movie Premiere, Eastdale Mall

Saturday, Jan. 17: Petsmart Adoptions at the Shoppes at Eastchase

Saturday, Jan. 24: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
"Change A Pets Life Day" - To be announced.
Here at the shelter and at an offsite location

Sunday, Feb. 8: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
St. James Methodist - St. James Methodist

Friday, Feb. 13: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. "Second Chance for Love Adoption Weekend" at Petsmart in the Shoppes at Eastchase

Sat Feb 14: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. "Second Chance for Love" Adoption Weekend at Petsmart in the Shoppes at Eastchase

Sun Feb 15: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. "Second Chance for Love Adoption" Weekend - Petsmart in the Shoppes at Eastchase

See for updates by email!

New Volunteer Bulletin Board: We Want Your Ideas

The Montgomery Humane Society has come up with an innovative way to recognize shelter volunteers and all the work they do. Lisa will be placing a volunteer bulletin board in the main lobby of the shelter. The bulletin board will be a colorful, visible place where we can put up photos of our volunteers and post little "sound bites", acknowledging their accomplishments and describing some of the work they do for our animals.

We're actively looking for ideas for the volunteer board. Tips for decorating the board and input on what you'd like to see posted are needed. So if you have some creative suggestions, pass them along! You can e-mail your ideas to **Lisa Bragg: lisabragg@montgomeryhumane.com**.

We also would like to put together a volunteer suggestion box for the main lobby. This would provide our volunteers another venue to offer feedback. Anyone want to tackle the creative task of decorating a box for us to use?

Thank you to our Rescue Transports and Foster Families

Melaine Golson and Family
Maite Kollmann-Carter
Darleen Reynolds
Phyllis and Lee Angle
Gillian Cumming
Scott Ellis

Ronnie Leigh Porath and Family
Dorothy Joseph and Family
Susan Harper
Ann Purman
Cindy Weeks
Lea Turbert

A “Care Kit” Just for You!



Volunteering on behalf of shelter animals can be rewarding beyond words, but there are times when the work is hard and often, heartbreaking. To show our appreciation for all our volunteers do, we have a special “care kit” for you. When you’re in need of a pick-me-up, your little “care kit” will give you a boost.

Contents of Volunteer Care Kits

A **cotton ball** to rub when you need to remember the gentleness of a dog and cat.

A **rubber band** to remind you that you are flexible and can stretch to fit just about any demand or challenge.

A **band-aid** to remind you that even though there may be times when you feel hurt for what you are trying to do, you will heal and be even stronger.

A **safety pin** to remind you that you are bright, sharp, and utterly indispensable.

A balloon to celebrate your accomplishments.

Hershey’s Kisses: The only thing as sweet as puppy kisses.

Paper clip: Paper clips have many uses just like each volunteer has many talents. Volunteers hold our society together.

Heart sticker: This heart represents the ability to reach out and care. You care about our animals and their plight.

Mint: This mint represents the fact that each of you is worth a mint. You are very special and make such a difference.

Lifesavers: Because that is what you are.

Payday candy bar: “Volunteers don’t get paid because they are priceless.”

Tea Bag: Our volunteers are tea-rrific!

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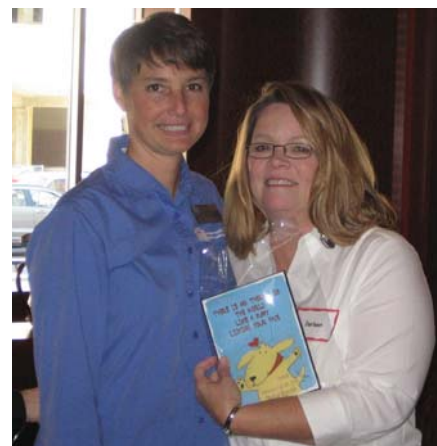
Many thanks to Jennifer Winslow for writing and editing our new publication. Thanks, too, to Jean S. Bradley for the layout and design. If you’ve ideas for the newsletter, contact Lisa Bragg by phone: 409-0622, ext. 202 or e-mail: lisabragg@montgomeryhumane.com.

Animal Abuse Sentencing January 30

Many of you have probably been following the progress of Louis Vitton, the dog rescued by our animal cruelty investigators in August of 2007. Louis was the victim of abominable abuse. He came to us as a severely hurt, burned dog, and he required a tremendous amount of medical attention. His road to recovery has been a long one, but his loving nature through it all has been an incredible inspiration.

We are happy to report that Louis is now safely housed with a wonderful foster family. Unfortunately though, animal abuse is a much too common occurrence. At the Montgomery Humane Society, we want to spread the word that animal neglect and abuse will not be tolerated and should be persecuted as fully as the law allows.

Juan Daniels pleaded guilty in court on January 12 for the abuse of Louis Vitton. His sentencing is January 30. If you want to express your outrage at the abuse Louis endured and urge that his abuser receives the full 10 year sentence (the maximum the law currently allows), you may write a letter to the judge of the case. The judge’s address is:
Judge Charles Price
251 S. Lawrence
Montgomery, AL 36104



Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Bragg, left, congratulates Volunteer of the Year Darleen Reynolds, right. Darleen manages the Pet Therapy program. She visits nursing homes and

assisted living facilities each month. Darleen has volunteered over 300 hours during 2008.