



Washington County

SPCA

Summer Newsletter 2020



Upcoming Events

WCSPCA Bingo Bash (Virtual Event)

Tuesday, July 28th, 6:30 pm

Purchase tickets online at wcspca.org

Doggie Dash (Virtual Event)

September 21st—October 4th

Sign up at arrowheadcharities.com

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

December 5th, 8:00 am

Masonic Lodge, 610 NE Washington Blvd

WCSPCA Open House

December 5th, 11:00 am—4:00 pm

16620 State Hwy 123, Bartlesville, OK

COVID-19 Shelter Update:

In March, WCSPCA made a difficult decision to limit the public's access to the shelter. To keep the staff safe and have enough room from the strays coming in through animal control, we suspended owner surrenders until our transports and adoption events could resume.

Thanks to our loyal supporters and volunteers, 47 animals were placed in foster care via curbside pick up, freeing up critical space at the shelter. We could not have made it through the shut down without our foster families.

Since resuming normal operations on May 26th, WCSPCA has taken in 263 animals, 174 of which are cats. Of those cats, 8 were pregnant.

If you are interested in fostering a mom and litter of kittens, please contact Kitha at coordinator@wcspca.org or 918-336-1577.

As our occupancy continues to rise, supply and monetary donations have gone down. WCSPCA can always use paper towels, Dawn dish soap, canned pet food, kitten milk replacer, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and laundry detergent. Please support our mission today!



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Get more details on our website at wcspca.org/getinvolved



**MONETARY
DONATION**



**SET UP A
RECURRING
DONATION**



VOLUNTEER



**DONATE
SUPPLIES**



**LEAVE A
LEGACY**



**HOST AN
ONLINE
FUNDRAISER**



**SHOP FOR
A CAUSE**

Is It Time To Shift Gears And Move Forward?

By: Clova Abrahamson

A summer wracked by concerns over a deadly virus and civil unrest is the perfect time for the humane community to examine our values and push forward. In the 1990's, many in shelters and other humane organizations put a lot of emphasis on what we called "The Link." The link between mistreatment of animals and mistreatment of people became widely accepted fact, based mainly on documented cases linking pet abuse to domestic violence as well as the case histories of serial killers.

It was in that same time frame that progressive cities began passing spay/neuter ordinances to curtail the vast pet overpopulation that was forcing shelters to euthanize an unacceptable number of cats and dogs each year. Such ordinances put the responsibility of caring for pets on their owners. Such ordinances reduce the massive suffering of pets in substandard homes where mistreatment is the norm, and also reduces the number of pets cast into the streets to shift for themselves until they are killed or placed in a shelter, to be handled at the expense of tax payers and/or financial donors.

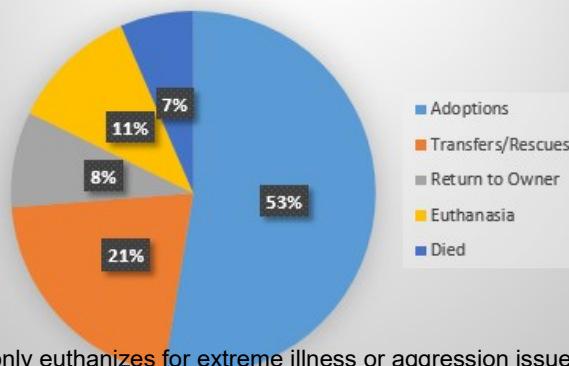
The cities that made their spay/neuter ordinances work did not have budgets to canvas their cities, but they had the will to enforce their ordinances at point of contact. Animal control officers, working on a complaint driven schedule contact primarily owners who provide substandard care for their animals. Ordinances that promote pet owner respon-

sibility, when enforced at point of contact, tend to encourage better living condition for pets as an expected norm within a community, while discouraging pet ownership by those who would mistreat and neglect animals to death. Not everybody who keeps animals sees them as "family" or even deserving of more than a chain and enough food and water to barely keep them alive.

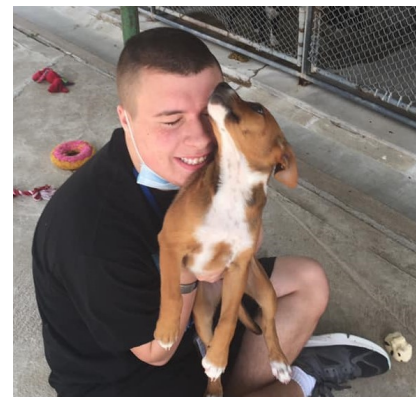
Among the several hats I have worn in my 50 years of animal advocacy, I had the honor of serving on the WCSPCA Animal Control Ordinance Committee, which got the Bartlesville intact permit ordinance adopted in 1999. WCSPCA has used that ordinance to get owners reclaiming animals impounded from within the city of Bartlesville to choose spaying or neutering instead of paying the intact permit fee. But the number of impounded animals, which are reclaimed, is relatively small. That ordinance needs to be enforced on a broader front.

I submit that now is the time for us, as a community of caring people, to examine our priorities and take a hard look at the harsh realities of animal abuse/neglect and its link to how people treat other people, including how people even mistreat themselves with drugs and other self-abuse. We can make our community a better place for animals, knowing that better animal care ultimately makes the community a better place for people, too.

2020 YTD Shelter Metrics Percent of Intake



We only euthanize for extreme illness or aggression issues.



Thanks to the students from the PTI for volunteering their time with us.

Adopting During A Pandemic:

By: Lacey Fisher

Everyone would tell you that I am not a dog person. I'm totally fine with other people's pets but did not feel the need to have one of my own. My daughter on the other hand, LOVES dogs. She is the one that will always stop and help a stray dog find its way home. She has asked for a dog for several years but the timing was not right to add a pet to our home. My oldest son has recently overcome an early fear of all dogs. He really wanted to pet and play with dogs but was just afraid. He pushed himself to overcome his fear and had also been asking for a pet.

My main reason for not wanting a pet was that we are such a busy family. And then the coronavirus happens. Suddenly we are not very busy at all and the idea of adopting a pet wasn't so far-fetched. I knew we could, as a family, work together to give a dog a good home. I also wanted

there to be positive memories that came from such a strange and stressful time.

I spent most of March and April searching for the right puppy for our family. I focused mainly on rescues and the shelters in hopes of giving a puppy the best chance of life as possible with us. Then we found her at the Washington County SPCA, our June! A sweet and playful puppy that I knew would be a great fit for our family.

I pulled off the greatest surprise ever by adopting her and bringing her home without the kids suspecting anything. To say they were shocked would be an understatement! The even more shocking thing? Turns out, I am a dog person. I just needed to take a chance on the right dog. Thank you WCSPCA for making the adoption process so easy and giving so many animals the best chance at finding their forever families.



Do you have a great adoption story? E-mail story and pictures to director@wcspca.org

Petco Foundation Invests in WCSPCA Efforts to Save Animal Lives:

The Washington County SPCA (WCSPCA) of Bartlesville, OK announced it has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Petco Foundation to support its life-saving mission to provide safe shelter, medical care, and arrange caring homes for animals in Washington County.

The Petco Foundation's investment will help to support the WCSPCA in its goal to increase its live release rate to 90% by 2025. The \$50,000 in operating support will address the challenge of improving live release rates by providing for caregiving, medical, and supply expenses for the animals it serves.

Many animals that come into the shelter's care have serious health conditions that pre-dated their time in WCSCPA custody. About 87% of animals the

WCSPCA receives have not been spayed or neutered, and only 8.5% are ever reclaimed by their owners. This grant will help cover the costs associated with keeping the shelter's animals happy and healthy including caregiving, medical and supply expenses. Petco's grant will provide operational support so that the WCSPCA can continue to serve as the county's only open-access animal shelter.

"Petco has been one of our shelter's most consistent supporters since their store opened. Their continued partnership means more animal lives saved, and we couldn't be more grateful," said Tonya Pete, WCSPCA Executive Director.



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Ashley Nicholson

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Steve Rohleder

Abigail Singrey

Advisors:

Clova Abrahamson

Bryan Acker

Washington County SPCA Hours of Operation:

Monday: 8 am to 12 pm (Reclaims only)

Tuesday - Friday: 1 pm to 6 pm

Saturday 11 am to 4 pm

Closed Sunday

(918) 336-1577 · wcspca.org

Did you know it costs almost \$40,000 a month to operate the shelter?

As an individual, you can make your gift go further by setting up recurring donations at:

www.wcspca.org/donate

Does your employer offer matching donations and volunteer grants? Maximize your donation by submitting a form today!



Together, we DO make a difference!

16620 State Highway 123
Bartlesville, OK 74006

