



WCSPCA Mission

The Washington County SPCA provides shelter, protection and care for animals. We handle strays, provide for animal adoption....and we are recognized as the first contact for animal care and pet recovery. We serve the animals, citizens and communities of Green Country from our location on Highway 123 North of Bartlesville. We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

SPCA Breaks Adoption Record!

Record Attributed To Several Factors

There was more record breaking going on recently than just the summer heat wave. In June, the SPCA found homes for 116 homeless animals. That was a new high for adoptions for the shelter. The previous record was 103 adoptions achieved in December of 2001.

When asked what contributed to this record high, shelter manager, Paula Blower said, "We're participating in the Humane Society of Boulder Valley Transfer Program. Locally, we've received a lot of good publicity about the animals the shelter has for adoption. There's our website where we feature the cats and dogs we currently have up for adoption. We're always encouraging people looking for a pet to visit our site as we keep it up to date with pictures of the dogs and cats.

"We also participate in the Petfinder.com site where we can register the pets that we have for adoption by breed, age and temperament notes. That's a national site. A family from Indiana adopted two of our dogs after seeing them on Petfinder.com."

91% Percentage of cat owners who pet and hug their cat daily. 29% celebrate their cat's birthdays each year.
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Special Thanks!

Special thanks goes to friends of the Shelter at Sissy's Books, Gifts and Toys for their recent merchandise donation. To the 66 Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the August Pet Page and to ConocoPhillips for donating to the Spay/Neuter Program.

Highlights From A Survey Conducted By The Nestlé Purina Petcare Company

The State Of The American Pet

The research makes it clear that pet owners are committed to their animals as never before. They take their dogs and cats shopping, to restaurants and on vacation. They give them respect, love and hours of attention. It seems like a great time to be a pet in America.

Pet owners find companionship in owning a dog or cat. The majority of dog owners (68%) and cat owners (61%) say companionship is the greatest benefit of owning their pet. Evidence of this companionship is apparent among both dog and cat owners.

Among dog owners...

- 95% pet and hug their dog daily,
- 92% play with their dog daily,
- 45% have taken their dog on vacation, and
- 43% have celebrated their dog's birthday.

Among cat owners...

- 91% pet and hug their cat daily,
- 85% play with their cat daily,
- 29% have celebrated their cat's birthday,
- 23% have visited health care facilities or schools with their cat, and
- 16% have taken their cat on vacation.

In addition to the benefits, there are challenges to owning a pet. The top four challenges of owning a pet are the same for both dog and cat owners, but vary slightly in the number of pet owners who mention them.

Among dog owners...

- Obedience training (15%) and maintaining their dog's health (15%) are the top two challenges.
- Cleaning up after their dog and just having something to take care of were each mentioned by 10% of dog owners.

Among cat owners...

- Maintaining their cat's health (13%) and cleaning up after their cat (13%) are seen as the biggest challenges.
- For 7% of cat owners, having something to take care of is the biggest challenge.
- Although at the top of the list for dog owners, only 5% of cat owners feel obedience training is their greatest challenge.

Behavior problems exist, but overall, pet owners say their pets are well-behaved

Among dog owners...

- The top three behavior problems experienced with their dog are barking and growling (17%), jumping on people (13%), and begging for food (11%).
- However, nearly all dog owners (97%) say their dog is well-behaved. This includes three out of five dog owners (60%) who say their dog is very well behaved.
- In fact, fewer than one out of five dog owners (19%) have taken their dog to obedience training.

Among cat owners...

- The top three behavior problems experienced with their cat are clawing the furniture (20%),

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Learning Corner. . . *Threats to free-roaming cats*

"Did you know outdoor living can be hazardous to an urban (or suburban) cat? Automobiles, other animals, parasites and viruses all pose threats to the outdoor cat." ~ The American Veterinary Medical Association

Cars

Cars are the number one killer and maimer of people, wildlife and cats. Cats and many wildlife species are particularly vulnerable at night, when they are easily dazzled by headlights. For cats out and about during daylight hours, an added problem is that they have a bad habit of running blindly across the road in front of oncoming traffic. Some cats in urban and suburban areas do become streetwise and learn to avoid traffic, but many thousands more do not and are killed.

Dogs

Loose dogs can kill and/or inflict dreadful injuries on cats. Young cats in particular may be overconfident that they can escape from a dog or that the dog is not a danger.

Diseases

Cats can be vaccinated against most of the killer feline diseases but unfortunately there is one against which there is as yet no vaccine - feline immunodeficiency virus or FIV, an illness that compromises the immune system much like AIDS in humans. It is transmitted from one cat to another mainly through bites from fighting with an infected cat. The disease may lie dormant for a long period, even years, but eventually infected cats develop a variety of life-shortening health problems.

Cat Fights

Cats are as fiercely territorial and will fight seriously in an attempt to drive an intruder away. Eventually one or other of the combatants will be badly hurt. Cat bite wounds are particularly prone to infection and can result in systemic illness. A cat obviously unwell, in pain and depressed from even a seemingly small bite wound should receive veterinary attention.

External parasites

Cats are notorious and fastidious groomers. But that won't stop fleas and ticks, determined parasites that may threaten the health of your cat. The leading cause of skin problems in cats is the ordinary flea. Heavy flea infestations can even cause anemia and death. Ticks attach to pets to feed. You might not even notice these minute pests on your cat until the ticks have fed so much that they've become engorged. Ticks may transmit diseases that can cause serious cat health problems. Besides fleas and ticks, cats have other skin parasites such as mites and lice.

Chemicals and poisons

Illness and death in cats is possible from indiscriminate use of garden chemicals and poisons, but most responsible people would keep both pets and children away from such products for the recommended period. A real risk is spilled or leaking antifreeze which is quite deadly. Illegally laid baits are always a worry, though cats are naturally suspicious and less likely to take a bait than dogs. Rat poisons are a real concern, cats can die a horrible death from eating a poisoned rodent, although cats used to catching their own prey are unlikely to touch a rodent that is already dead. They might, however, catch and eat a rodent that has been poisoned but not yet seriously affected by it.

Cat haters

Some people really hate cats because of their perceived threat to wildlife and birds, or simply because they can't stand to see strange cats on their property using their garden or children's sandpit as a litter box. Cats have been cruelly tortured and killed as a result, been shot or had things thrown at them, not to mention being the cause of bitter neighborhood feuds.

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climbing on furniture or counters (16%), and eliminating in the house outside the litter box (10%).

However, like dog owners, nearly all cat owners (97%) say their cat is well-behaved. This includes seven out of ten cat owners (72%) who say their cat is very well behaved.

The single greatest health problem pet owners have experienced with their pet varies.

Among dog owners...

Fleas and ticks (6%), ear infections (6%), and allergies (5%) are the three most common problems.

Each of the other health problems was mentioned by four percent or fewer dog owners.

Among cat owners...

Hairballs (6%), fleas and ticks (5%), and urinary tract infections (4%) are the top three most common problems.

Additionally, each of the other health problems was mentioned by three percent or fewer cat owners.

When asked why pet owners have not spayed or neutered their pet, many say they have just not taken the time to do it yet

One-third of dog owners (34%) and 15% of cat owners have not had their pet spayed or neutered.

The top reason given by both dog owners (30%) and cat owners (27%) is that they have simply not bothered to do it yet.

Other reasons given by dog owners include...

wanting to breed their dog (21%) and the dog being too young (13%).

Other reasons given by cat owners include...

the cat being too young (20%) and affordability (18%).

Pet overpopulation problem is an important issue to many

Reducing the pet overpopulation is the issue most important for both dog and cat owners.

Over half of dog owners (56%) and nearly two-thirds of cat owners (63%) rank this issue number one in importance to them.

For both dog owners (17%) and cat owners (13%), promoting a more pet-friendly society is the second most important issue.

Twelve percent of dog owners and 10% of cat owners say increasing preventive healthcare for pets is the most important issue for them.

Finally, for 10% of dog owners and 8% of cat owners, increasing funding for research to improve pet health is the most important issue

More pet owners without children consider promoting a more pet-friendly society as their most important issue (16% vs. 13%), while more of those with children see increased funding for improved pet health as important (11% vs. 8%).

Veterinarians are the source both dog and cat owners turn to the most for information about their pets. More than seven out of ten dog owners (78%) and cat owners (71%) turn to a veterinarian most often for information about their pet. Other sources, such as the Internet, books and friends or family members are each turned to by fewer than 7% of both cat and dog owners alike.

Statistics

	June 2003	July 2003	August 2003
Surrenders	350	321	266
Adoptions	116	94	88
Reclaims	12	19	17
Euthanasia	196	188	221

Excuses For Allowing Cats Outdoors

"My cat doesn't like to stay inside."

Cats can be perfectly happy indoors. Even cats who are use to living outdoors can become happy, content indoor cats. The adjustment period for an outdoor cat to learn to live indoors requires patience.

"It's not fair to keep my cat locked inside."

It's not fair to unnecessarily risk your cat's life. If you provide your cat with a stimulating indoor environment, there is nothing unfair about keeping them indoors.

"I can't keep my cat indoors."

If you have a door that closes, you can keep your cat indoors.

Chaining of Dogs Undesirable and Unnecessary

by Clova Abrahamson

Chaining of dogs as a means of confinement, except in brief and temporary circumstances, is condemned by most humane organizations, animal control officers, animal behaviorists, dog trainers, veterinarians, and even the United States Department of Agriculture. The practice is widely condemned because it invariably results in discomfort to the dogs, in some cases, discomfort that is nothing short of torture. The tight collars on chained dogs, more often than not, cause some degree of skin irritation. It is not unusual for tight collars, ropes or chains to actually cut into the flesh of an unfortunate dog.

Many dogs react to continuous chaining by becoming neurotic, anxious and aggressive. Studies show that chained dogs are much more likely to bite than unchained dogs.

Some chained dogs experience deaths as

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Advisor:

*Cats Can Be
Finicky Eaters*



Don't panic if your cat rejects his favorite meal. Cats are notoriously finicky eaters.

Instead, offer something new. Cats love variety and sometimes offering them something new will entice them to eat. If that doesn't work, don't worry. Cats go through cycles that cause them to adjust their eating patterns. If this is the case, all the variety in the world will not make your cat eat more. Just continue to offer a nutritionally complete and balanced diet. Avoid feeding excessive treats and table scraps. If your cat persists in not eating and begins to lose excessive amounts of weight, see your veterinarian.



2003 Drive Begins November 10th

How did Home 4 the Holidays get started?

Home 4 the Holidays began in 1999 when Helen Woodward Animal Center organized 14 San Diego area shelters that found homes for 2,563 orphaned pets. Each pet "went home"

with a holiday meal of Iams food and a booklet of coupons redeemable at PETCO.

How did it become the largest adoption drive in history?

130 shelters in 5 states found homes for 20,000 pets during Home 4 the Holidays 2000. In 2001 spokesperson Diane Keaton lead 450 shelters across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico, finding homes for more than 100,000 pets. Home 4 the Holidays 2002 grew to 1200 shelters and rescues in 20 countries, completing 180,000 adoptions and breaking all previous records!

Last year, which was the first year the Washington County SPCA participated in the program, we completed 172 adoptions.

Why is Home 4 the Holidays so successful?

More families bring pets into their homes during the holidays than at any other time of year. What better gift can any of us give during the holiday season than to give a home to an orphaned animal? Nobody wants to think about an orphaned waking up behind bars on a holiday morning.

In the past some shelters have discouraged families from adopting pets during the holidays, forcing them to support the puppy mill industry. Home 4 the Holidays shelters work together to match the needs of the pets with the desires of the families. Everybody wins.

What do we hope to accomplish with Home 4 the Holidays 2003?

During the 5th annual Home 4 the Holidays pet adoption drive our goal is to find loving, lifelong homes for 200 orphaned dogs and cats.

When does this year's drive start?

This year's drive will start on November 10, 2003 and run through January 4, 2004.

How was it possible for the non-profit Helen Woodward Animal Center to operate a world-wide pet adoption drive?

Home 4 the Holidays 2003 is sponsored by The Iams Company, PETCO Animal Supplies, the PETCO Foundation, and Petfinder.com. These partners provide funding and help spread the word about Home 4 the Holidays.

The Helen Woodward Animal Center organizes and oversees the drive. Home 4 The Holidays artwork is the property of the Helen Woodward Animal Center. All rights reserved.

Memorials

Pat Barr

Martin & Dianne High

Shawn Conover

Bobbe Hornback

Doug Hann

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Berger
 John & Jan Castelli
 Helen Gaydos
 Everett & Virginia Hackett
 David & Patricia Hicks
 Don & Lea Little
 Verner & Jane Nellsch
 Paul Parsons
 Tom & Mary Yokley

Florence Hedeem

Marsha Stacco

Lorrie Pitchlynn

Arvin Todd & Friends

Pet Honorariums

Mariam & Hank Mattix in honor
 of Suzy Q

Calendar of Events

October 25

Pet Costume Contest & Live Auction at St. James Church's Pavilion
 3:00 PM—8:00 PM

December 20

Christmas Open House at the Shelter
 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM



To date a total of 26 dogs have been accepted by the Humane Society of Boulder Valley Transfer Program from the Washington

County SPCA! The SPCA would like to thank the volunteers who generously donate their time and people who have contributed to the success of this program.



SPCA Booth at Gan's Mall

If you have stuff you need to get rid of but don't want to go through the hassle of having a garage sale—think about donating your usable items to the SPCA. All donations are tax deductible. We also need help with restocking the booth. For details contact the Shelter at 336-1577.

Washington County SPCA Board Members

Bill Griffin President	Lindy Kidd Vice President
Susan Coker Secretary/Treasurer	Mary K. Crain Correspondence Secretary
Diana Adams	Randy Bluhm
Stephen Colaw	Bob Heil
Bruce Peabody	Kevin Potter

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cruel as their lives on a chain, when a dragging chain tips over a water bowl on a hot day and the dog dies of thirst. Some chained dogs die hanging by their chains when they attempt to jump over a nearby fence or other obstacle.

Chaining a dog is simply not necessary if an owner will make an effort to solve the problem that led them to chain the dog outside in the first place. Fences can be modified in a variety of ways to keep dogs from digging under, jumping or climbing over them. The Washington County SPCA has a file of information to share on the various methods that have been used successfully to modify fences. Information on how to build fences cheaply is also available

Often it is not a question of what is wrong with the fence, but what is wrong with the dog or the relationship between the dog and the owner. Does the dog suffer from separation anxiety or from lack of training and companionship? Washington County SPCA Shelter Manager, Paula Blower, is always willing to counsel dog owners with problems. Additionally, there is a wonderful book entitled Dogs Behaving Badly, An A - to Z Guide to Understanding & Curing Behavior Problems in Dogs by Dr. Nicholas Dodman, that has been helpful to a lot of people. Veterinarians can refer dog owners to a professional animal behaviorist. There are also several websites devoted to a growing humanitarian effort to end the practice of chaining dogs. <http://www.dogsdeservebetter.com> is one that I recommend.

**Shelter Hours:**

Tuesday through Saturday
10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Surrenders:

Tuesday through Friday
between 1:00—5:30 p.m.

(Please make an appointment)

Phone : 918-336-1577

Fax: 918-336-1687

Web: www.wcspca.org

Executive Director:

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918-336-1685

E-mail: akstepp@wcspca.org

Shelter Manager:

Paula Blower

E-mail: manager@wcspca.org

Staff:

Mark Tinsley

Adoption Tech.

Angela Thomas

City Tech.

Cheri Harms

Med. Technician

Larry W. Hunter

Grounds Keeper/
Maintenance

Brenda Lopez

Angela Inman

Animal Tech.

Clint Hamilton

Stefan Hollis

Emily Mott

Cleaners

Location:

On Highway 123 between Bartlesville
and Dewey

We Need Your Help

Your financial support is literally a matter of life and death to the thousands of abused and neglected animals across Washington County. These innocent creatures depend on the WCSPCA to be a strong voice on their behalf and come to their rescue and defense in the face of cruelty, danger and neglect.

Please join us in our quest to create a more humane world for our animal friends. Your support through donations is vital to ending the suffering and ignorance. It is your generosity and concern that allows us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Enclosed is my Pet Page donation \$50.00 ___ \$100.00 ___
Other _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
I would like to donate as a memorial to a loved one \$ _____

In Memory of _____
Send Acknowledgement to _____

Your name and address (Thank You,
deductible)

Phone _____



Your Donation is Tax De-

ductible)

Washington Co. SPCA

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Bartlesville, OK 74003

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