



**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.*

**Planning For Next Year Underway!**

**Trail Ride At Rocking T Ranch Successful**

The SPCA had it's first ever trail ride Saturday, May 10th at the Rocking T Ranch owned by Diane Tempelmeyer. This new event raised funds for the SPCA in support of their mission to help the homeless pets in Washington County and to provide a spay/neuter program to prevent unwanted litters from entering the shelter.

Eighty riders and their horses turned out to enjoy a beautiful day at the ranch. The ride was led by a local group, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. They generously donated their time and energy to make this event a big success. A delicious lunch was provided by Dink's Pit Bar-B-Que. SPCA employee Larry Hunter provided entertainment and was emcee of the lunch-time events. A silent auction and a 50:50 drawing helped raise additional funds for the shelter. Some of the SPCA dogs were treated to a day out at the ranch and had an interesting time visiting with the horses.

The SPCA would like to thank all the sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible. LeRoy Shepherd and Victor Jones continued page 2

**90%** Percentage of dogs that bite that belong to the fear biter group. 10% of biters belong to the brave biter group.  
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Our newsletter is now available to read online. If you would prefer not to receive a newsletter in the mail, contact us at:  
[manager@wcspca.org](mailto:manager@wcspca.org)



**Friends For Life**  
**Find a Friend On the Web. Visit our website at:**  
[www.wcspca.org](http://www.wcspca.org)  
&  
[www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

did a great job leading the ride. A very special



to Diane Tempelmeyer for allowing the SPCA to hold the ride at her beautiful ranch.

Planning for next year's trail ride is already underway. Call 336-1685 to be added to the mailing list announcing the event.

*Advisor:*

### *Fresh Bedding*

Dogs can have quite an odor that we, as owners, do not always like to smell. To help combat this aroma and improve your pet's coat try the following. When bathing your dog add a couple of cups of vinegar solution to the final rinse. This helps reduce the doggy smell and makes their coat gleam. The same applies to their bedding. Add a cup of vinegar in the final rinse. When the bedding is dry, sprinkle it with some baking soda. Vinegar and baking soda actually absorb odors.



## Another Successful "Doggy Drive" Undertaken

It was an adventure that wasn't always fun. But it was a journey embarked on by five brave shelter dogs in an effort to find, new loving homes. On May 31st, the five dogs and their two volunteer drivers left Bartlesville in a rented van for the trip to the Humane Society of Boulder Valley (HSBV). This brings the number of dogs accepted by the HSBV Transfer Program from the Washington County SPCA to 14.

The SPCA would like to thank the volunteers who generously donated their time, Wilderom Motors for helping sponsor the second trip by giving us a discount on a van rental and the people who donated money for gasoline to take the dogs to Boulder.

"By making these trips on a regular basis, we can save 60 or more pets from being euthanized at the shelter each year", said Anita Stepp, Executive Director of the SPCA. "We are trying to find new ways to reduce the number of pets that have to be destroyed. There aren't enough homes in Washington County to place all the excess pets, so we are reaching out to other counties and states. We have had a lot of successful adoptions by posting photos of our pets on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). People have come from as far away as Louisiana and Indiana to adopt dogs from us. Earlier this year we found out that the Humane Society of Boulder Valley and the Larimer Humane Society in Fort Collins, Colorado will accept transfers from other animal shelters. They have very strict guidelines that must be met before they will accept pets, but we have many pets that meet these guidelines. It's a shame to euthanize them here when they can be placed in good homes in Colorado."

To continue making these trips, the SPCA will need volunteers to drive, vehicles to transport the animals and donations for gasoline. Future trips are planned to take more dogs and also some puppies, cats, and kittens.

"If anyone is going to Colorado on vacation and has room for even one dog or cat, that is one more life that can be saved," said Anita.

The SPCA is also looking into the possibility of purchasing a specialized trailer for

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Learning Corner. . . (reprinted from CRD Animal Control, Victoria, BC, Canada)

### **APPROACHING DOGS**

All strange dogs must be treated with caution and a person should not approach or stroke a dog unless invited to do so by its owner. If given permission to do so, approach the dog slowly, allowing it time to sniff you or make friendly contact with you. Crouch down, speak to the dog gently, avoid eye contact, and pet it around the chest or neck region since these are all non-threatening actions. If you are crouching, keep your face well clear of the dog's face.

Approaching suddenly, bending over the dog or petting it on the head or back are dominant and threatening gestures and may cause a dog to react by biting. Each dog has a different social and personal distance that a stranger is permitted to enter. This is why a dog that is tied up outside may snap or bite when someone tries to pet it. The dog cannot escape when there is a sudden invasion of its personal space.

### **IF THREATENED**

Many dog bites are the result of people reacting wrongly when they are approached or threatened by a dog. The initial reaction should be to stop and remain completely still. Eye contact with the dog should be avoided and it should be spoken to gently.

A command such as "sit" or "stay" can be given softly to the dog because many will obey these. All threatening gestures such as yelling at the dog, waving one's arm or rushing at it should be avoided. In some circumstances these actions can scare a dog away, but other dogs may react by attacking. Unless you have the skills, experience and the equipment to deal with this, any reaction that may accentuate the dog's aggression is not advisable. Erratic nervous movements or screaming will also cause the dog to advance further. Crouching to reduce one's body size may relax some dogs, but any movements must be made slowly and deliberately. An article of clothing can be carefully removed and used to take the first bite if the dog suddenly lunges.

If the dog relaxes the person should back away slowly. Turning and running are signals for the dog to chase and attack. Most people are bitten moving away from a dog when they turn and run. If the incident occurs outside or near the dog's home it is important for the person threatened to gradually increase the distance from where the dog lives, as dogs are usually less aggressive on neutral ground.

### **AGGRESSIVE DOGS—Avoid Being Bitten**

There are many reasons why a dog may behave aggressively but there are only two characteristic groups of biting dogs. The chances of being bitten can be reduced by recognizing each behavior type and adopting the appropriate responses. Dogs do not smell fear but do read body language quite well.

The first group is the fear biter. 90% of biters belong to the fear biter group. Generally these dogs feel threatened.

The second group is the brave biter. 10% of biters belong to the brave biter group. Generally these dogs want to establish dominance.

These two groups of biters must be dealt with differently, so it is important to be able to tell them apart.

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**Fear biters characteristically behave in the following ways:**

- Fear biters act angrily.
- They bare their teeth a lot.
- They are usually crouching down.
- They try to get around to one side of you or circle you.
- They may lunge in and out, trying to bite on the run.

**Fear biters usually will not bite if you adopt the following stance:**

- Stop walking or running.
- Face the dog with your eyes and body.
- If the dog lunges in or tries to circle, pivot with your feet to keep facing him.
- If he tries to bite, tell him "NO" in a stern voice.
- If you are carrying something, keep it between you and the dog.
- If the owner arrives, do not take your eyes off the dog.
- If the dog is persistent, walk backwards slowly and carefully until you are out of its territory.

It is important that you **do not turn your back, run or scream**. All of these submissive acts will encourage the dog to continue its attack.

**Brave biters characteristically behave in the following way:**

- They seldom act angrily.
- They will always keep their ears up and tail held high.
- They prance proudly when they approach you and stand erect.
- They do not try to circle.
- They may wag their tail while held high.
- And put their paws on you.

**Encounters with brave biters should be handled in the following manner:**

- Stop walking and try to relax.
- Turn your body slightly so you are not facing the dog head on.
- Fold your arms or keep them up by your chest.
- If he stands up on you do not try to push him down.
- STAND STILL!
- If the dog walks away, slowly and carefully walk away also, but keep an eye on the dog without facing it or making eye contact.

The brave biter will probably sniff your crotch area, shoes or pants and then leave. He may do this more than once. Do not try to pet the dog because you may transmit signs of dominance which the dog will resent or you may bother a hidden injury.

**SUMMARY**—Dogs rarely bite without some warning or initial contact.

**BE AWARE!** - Remember dogs bite because they feel threatened or they think one of their family is threatened. If a dog chases you, do not run. Dogs also bite because they feel challenged. Avoid these circumstances.

Above all, do not rely on the owner to control the dog. Do not ignore the dog. Decide what type it is - a fear biter or a brave biter - and adopt the appropriate stance.

## **Cockfighting Ban Update**

By Clova Abrahamson

In 1999, the Oklahoma Coalition Against Cockfighting circulated an initiative petition to send SQ 687 to ballot. Following almost 3 years of court battles to have the petition signatures recognized as valid and despite a campaign of misinformation spread by supporters of cockfighting, 565,967 Oklahoma voters approved the state question making cockfighting a felony. Although some voters in every county voted for the ban, SQ 687 was approved by the majority of voters residing in 33 of the 47 Oklahoma state senate districts and in 64 of the 101 state house districts.

Immediately after the passage of the cockfight ban, Oklahoma Gamefowl Breeders Association filed multiple court suits challenging its constitutionality. That issue is expected to be settled by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Supporters of the ban are confident that the new law will be found constitutional as it is almost identical to the state's twenty-two year old dog fighting law. The cockfight law has the same penalties as the dog fighting law.

Many state voters were angered when the new cockfight ban was subjected to another assault in the 2003 session of the Oklahoma Legislature. Cockfight supporters in the Legislature, led by Senator Frank Shurden of Henryetta, almost succeeded in passing legislation to refer the issue back to the voters, asking for lower penalties and seeking to place the question on the ballot of a primary election. Voter turnout at primary elections is usually light and thus the question seeking to lower penalties would have a better chance of passage. Cockfight opponents argued that lower penalties would enable cockfighters to simply pay the fines as part of the cost of doing business, while the possibility of higher penalties would deter the activity. The legislative session closed without passage of Shurden's bill, but he has stated his intention of bringing it back in the next session which will begin in February, 2004.

While the Oklahoma Legislature seriously pondered Shurden's proposal to lower penalties for cockfighting, legislators in Nebraska, Florida, Oregon, New Hampshire and Illinois passed bills to *increase* penalties against cockfighting! The legislators in Illinois passed a bill providing for seizure of real property which is used in activities associated with cockfighting or dog fighting, recognizing that a penalty of that magnitude would significantly reduce participation in cockfighting and other animal fighting ventures.

As of May 14, 2003, a federal ban prohibiting interstate and international shipment of fighting birds became effective.

The website for the Oklahoma Coalition Against Cockfighting <http://www.bancockfighting.org> has more information on this issue.

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transporting animals. The trailer can be seen at [www.fiber-pro.com](http://www.fiber-pro.com). A trailer with eight cages can be purchased for about \$3,300. It would also be useful for transporting dogs to offsite adoption events and to OSU for spay and neuter surgeries at the veterinary school. Contact Anita at 918-336-1685 or [akstepp@wcspca.org](mailto:akstepp@wcspca.org) for more information, if you would like to donate to the program or volunteer to make a trip.



## West Nile Virus and Dogs and Cats

### Q. Can West Nile virus (WNV) cause illness in dogs or cats?

A. Since 1999, there has been one confirmed death of a dog, and of one cat, infected with West Nile virus. It should be understood, however, that the dog was already in poor health, and was immune compromised - and therefore is not representative of dogs in general. Experimentally infected dogs showed no symptoms after infection with WNV. Some infected cats exhibited mild, nonspecific symptoms during the first week after infection-for the most part only showing a slight fever and slight

lethargy.

It is unlikely that most pet owners would notice any unusual symptoms or behavior in cats or dogs that become infected with WNV.

### Q. How can my veterinarian treat my cat or dog if they are/may be infected with WNV?

A. There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. Full recovery from the infection is likely. Treatment would be supportive and consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals infected with a viral agent.

### Q. Does my dog/cat becoming infected pose a risk to the health of my family or other animals?

A. There is no documented evidence of dog or cat-to-person transmission of the West Nile virus. The evidence suggests that dogs do not develop enough virus in their bloodstream to infect more mosquitoes. Cats develop slightly higher levels of the virus in their bloodstream but it is unclear if this would be enough to infect mosquitoes. It is very unlikely that cats would be important in furthering the spread of the virus.

If your animal becomes infected with WNV, this suggests that there are infected mosquitoes in your area. You should take measures to prevent mosquitoes from biting you (use repellent and wear protective clothing.) Veterinarians should take normal infection control precautions when caring for any animal (including birds) suspected to have this or any viral infection.

### Q. How do cats and dogs become infected with West Nile virus?

A. Dogs and cats become infected when bitten by an infected mosquito. There is also evidence that cats can become infected with the virus after eating experimentally infected mice.

## Washington County SPCA Board Members

Bill Griffin —President  
 Lindy Kidd—Vice President  
 Susan Coker— Secretary/Treasurer  
 Mary K. Crain—Correspondence Secretary  
 Diana Adams

Bob Heil  
 Bruce Peabody  
 Kevin Potter  
 Stephen Colaw  
 Randy Bluhm

**Memorials**

**Theodore Beck**

Patricia M. Imler

**Mrs. Ivan Peterson**

Eva B. Railsback  
Golfing Buddies  
George & Laura O'Brien

**Sylvia Loney**

Joy M. Neumann

**Billy Jack Dodd**

Bill Carlton

**Pet Memorials**

Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Hutchison in  
memory of Jet III

Barbara Miller, DVM & Family  
in memory of Duchess Miller

Frank, Dana, Brad & Ryan  
Jordan in memory of Spunky

Ronnie & Debora Wolverton in  
memory of Mallory

**Calendar of Events**

**July 4**

Hot dog sale at Atwood's to  
raise funds

**July 12**

Dog Days of Summer  
Heart of Town Market  
Downtown Bartlesville

**Kitty Trivia. . .**

Don't give a kitty raw egg  
whites. Raw egg whites contain  
an enzyme that breaks down the  
vitamin biotin which is essential  
to cat health.

The average outdoor cat has a live span of about three years compared to the live span of an indoor cat which can be sixteen years or longer!

**Spay & Neuter Assistance Program**

The SPCA would like to ask for donations to help fund our Spay and Neuter Assistance program. This program helps us to provide spays and neuters to the public for \$49. Please help us keep this program available.

Send Donations to :  
WCSPCA

Attn: Spay & Neuter  
Assistance Fund

**Statistics**

	<u>April 2003</u>	<u>May 2003</u>
Surrenders	267	286
Adoptions	73	88
Reclaims	19	14
Euthanasia	131	131

**Letter From The President. . .**

As the new president of the Society, I have things I want to accomplish during my term.

I want to firmly establish the activity of moving excess animals from our shelter to shelters that have a need for more adoptable animals. The activity we've established with Boulder and Fort Collins, Colorado shelters is an outstanding example of what we'd like to build upon. Moving animals is not without expense, however, so we've established a fund called "Save A Life Caravan". Donations to this fund can be made to the WCSPCA. The purchase of a special trailer would aid in this effort plus can be used to transport animals around the area for offsite adoptions and other events. The trailer costs \$ 3,300 and we will seek special funding.

I want to make the trail ride an annual event and make the ride in 2004 even bigger and better than the one we held this year. We need fund raising projects. Any ideas for fund raising from the friends of the Shelter would be greatly appreciated.

Recruiting more volunteers is another project that needs our attention. There is always more to do around the Shelter than the paid staff can do. We operate from donations so hiring more staff is easily said but not easily done with our limited funds. I encourage everyone to consider coming out to help.

It is a real privilege to serve as president of the Society. Having a strong Board support me, an excellent Executive Director in Anita and Shelter Manager in Paula and a great work force makes my job easier.

Sincerely,

**Bill Griffin**

**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](http://www.wcspca.org)**

**Executive Director:**

Anita Stepp

918-336-1685

**E-mail: [akstepp@wcspca.org](mailto:akstepp@wcspca.org)**

**Shelter Manager:**

Paula Blower

**E-mail: [manager@wcspca.org](mailto: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**

**Patricia Blevins**

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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ductible)

**Washington Co. SPCA**

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Bartlesville, OK 74003

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