

# FURRY



# FRIENDS

### Shelter Location:

3456 Tchulahoma Road  
Memphis, TN 38118  
(901) 362-5310

[www.memphisanimalservices.petfinder.com](http://www.memphisanimalservices.petfinder.com)

### Shelter Hours:

Monday- 10:00 to 3:00  
Tuesday-Friday- 10:00 to 5:00  
Saturday- 10:00 to 3:00  
Sunday- Closed

### Adoption Fees:

Dogs/puppies- \$75  
Cats/kittens- \$70

(includes shots, spay/neuter & micro-chipping)

### Contact:

Kathryn Rhea, *Furry Friends* Editor  
[Kathryn.rhea@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.rhea@gmail.com)

*Furry Friends is written independently and the views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views, policies or actions of Memphis Animal Services or any other person(s) or group(s).*

## NEWS TO KNOW

- There is a Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 10am at City Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. Meetings are open to the public & held the second Tuesday of each month. Minutes from previous meetings can be found under "News" on the [MAS Petfinder website](#).
- Animal Planet spent two days recently in Hernando, MS filming a segment that is part of a pilot series focusing on animal rescues. The DeSoto County Animal Shelter is one of the groups that will be featured. The segment is scheduled to air in the fall.
- Public Services & Neighborhoods Director Ken Moody & Deputy Director Yalanda McFadgon, retired July 10. Keenon McCloy, Director of the Memphis Public Library & Information System, will oversee the division, which handles the Memphis Animal Shelter, on an interim basis, according to a letter sent to the City Council. McCloy was head of Public Services & Neighborhoods before she was moved to the library.
- "Dixie the Drug Dog" featured in the July *Furry Friends* is featured in *The Memphis Flyer*. [Nose for Narcotics](#)
- On July 31, Arkansas became the 46<sup>th</sup> state with felony animal cruelty law & the 38<sup>th</sup> state with felony cockfighting law. Remaining states lacking animal cruelty felony provisions are Idaho, Mississippi, North Dakota & South Dakota. That means in one-tenth of this nation, an animal can be abused, neglected, or left for dead -- with the perpetrator receiving only a mild sentence.
- MAS has a new pet adoption location at the Hollywood Feed store in East Memphis on Poplar and Erin. I am unsure as to when they will be at this location. There does not seem to be a regular schedule for MAS adoption events at this time.
- The Food and Drug Administration announced in June that it has approved the first canine cancer therapy in the US. The new drug, Palladia, manufactured by Pfizer Animal Health Inc., has been approved to treat a type of cancer that accounts for about one in five cases of canine skin tumors.
- In case you missed it, MAS has been negatively publicized in the news recently:  
[July 14: Animal shelter overcrowding incident leads to passionate meeting \(WMC-TV\)](#)  
[July 15: Up To 100 Animals A Day Euthanized At Shelter \(WREG\)](#)  
[July 15: Outrage over animal shelter euthanization numbers \(WMC-TV\)](#)
- The DeSoto Animal Rescue Society has been awarded a \$3,500 grant from the "I Care for Animals" license plate program to be used to expand the spay/neuter program. The program allows Mississippians to pay an extra \$31 for a special license plate, with proceeds going to help homeless, injured & abused animals in humane shelters and rescue programs across the state.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 🐾 August 10: MAS Advisory Board Meeting 10:00  
City Hall- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room
- 🐾 August 20: Collierville Animal Services \$20 Microchip Event  
Collierville Animal Shelter 5:30-7:30
- 🐾 August 29: MAS New Volunteer Orientation  
Memphis Animal Shelter 10-12



## A BUSINESS GIVING BACK

RotoClean Carpet Specialists is a company that not only cleans carpet, tile, upholstery and more but is giving back to the community. They do benefits for animal rescue and have been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show as part of "Oprah's Big Give," for volunteering at and cleaning the entire Memphis Women's Shelter. They also support [K9 Savior Animal Rescue](#) which cares for over 70 dogs from various horrific backgrounds. He is also the Vice-President of "The Gage Foundation," a non-profit fighting animal cruelty. We are thankful for companies such as RotoClean that are not just doing their job but are helping the animals in the community as well. [www.myspace.com/rotoclean](http://www.myspace.com/rotoclean)

## GOOD BYE LITTER BOX HOPEFULLY

I adopted a kitten from the Memphis Shelter in February. I have always heard that you can train a cat to potty in a human toilet & have decided I am going to attempt to teach "Sissy" to use the toilet as well. I started on July 20<sup>th</sup> by moving her litter box from the laundry room to the side of the toilet in our guest bathroom. Then I raised it with magazines each day to eventually get the litter box, the same level as the toilet seat. I then removed her litter box & replaced it with a metal pan that sits inside the toilet with the seat down. I put a little bit of litter in the pan (pictured). I've been progressing slowly on the next step since I'm not home during the day but I try to catch her beginning to use the toilet as much as possible to show her to put her feet on the lid and not in the toilet. Then when she has mastered this, I'll move on to the next step. I'll let you know next month if my days of a litter box are soon to be extinct...fingers crossed!

*I'm roughly using this strategy,*

[\*How to Toilet-Train Your Cat\*](#), but there are many examples on the Internet if you are interested in eliminating your litter box!



## REDUCE EUTHANASIA

In order to successfully reduce euthanasia numbers, there has to be a combination of programs in place.

Simply "adopting your way" to a lower euthanasia number won't cut it because there are just not enough homes to make a huge impact. One of the key components is to reduce the number of unwanted animals with aggressive spay/neuter. Yet there must be affordable/free programs so people don't have to surrender their pets. Do your part & pass along the word! Here are some low cost spay/neuter options: *Click on the links for info*

- [Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services](#)
- [PetVax](#)
- [Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County- Participating Veterinary Clinics](#)
- [MS SPAN](#) spay/neuter clinic is scheduled for August 22 & 23 at the [Desoto County Animal Shelter](#).
- MS "No Litterings" Spay Clinics:  
Tupelo: 662-871-2420      Byhalia: 662-252-6196

## DINING WITH DOGS

The Tennessee law, which took effect July 1, allows dogs in outdoor seating areas with the restaurant's permission in counties with populations over 100,000, with a few smaller counties included.

Here are few rules to remember:

- A dog may not pass through a restaurant to get to the outdoor area.
- The restaurant owner can refuse service if the dog owners cannot control their dog or the dog is behaving in a threatening manner.
- Staff must wash their hands after touching or petting a dog.
- Dogs are not allowed to lick the plates, utensils or anything else involving food service operation.
- Dogs must remain on leash and be under control.
- Dogs are not allowed on chairs, tables or other furnishings.
- If a dog uses the bathroom within the patio area, the area must immediately be cleaned using a kit the restaurant maintains with products to make the area sanitary.
- A sign with the rules must be posted in sight of employees and patrons.
- Call a restaurant ahead of time before you bring your dog to make sure pets are allowed on the patio.



*Source: [Commercial Appeal: For those who want to dine out with their dogs, new law offers patio option](#)*



## PLANES JUST FOR YOUR PETS

I've never flown with my pets but I'm sure it would be pretty nerve-racking. I recently heard on the news about a new pet airline and wondered what that entailed so I visited their website. Pet Airways is the first airline exclusively dedicated to pets. They boast, "Where pets fly in the main cabin and not in cargo." A trained pet attendant monitors your pet and makes sure they have plenty of fresh, cool air at all times. Currently they fly to New York (NJ, CT & Philadelphia), Washington DC/Baltimore area, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles. So if you are one of the people who have a horror story about taking their pets on a flight then this may be just the answer for you. What will they think of next?

For more information: [www.petairways.com](http://www.petairways.com)

## PAW PRINTS AUCTION GALA

Benefiting the Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County

Saturday, August 22, 2009

6:30 -- 11:00 p.m.

Temple Israel at 1376 East Massey Road



Featuring the 75th Anniversary Buddy Dog Auction

Tickets: \$125 each or \$1,000 for a table of 10

Contact: 901.937.3911 or online at [www.memphishumane.org](http://www.memphishumane.org)

## NEW SHELTER UPDATE

The Memphis City Council appropriated funds July 7 for a new animal shelter. The \$7.1 million bid for the proposed 33,000-square-foot shelter came in much lower than the original estimate, which put the price tag at about \$10 million. Construction of the facility, near Appling Road and Interstate 240, should begin in 90 days and take about two years to complete. The new shelter will replace the existing 40-year-old facility, which city officials have described as "rotten to the core."

On the [Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects](http://www.askewnixonfergusonarchitects.com) website, the Memphis Animal Shelter is a project they have listed as "Works in Progress." It states, "The design for this up to date, user friendly Animal Services shelter/veterinary clinic will facilitate offering healthy animals for adoption and teaching the Memphis community about preventing strays and caring for pets." Pictured on their website are images of the side elevation as well as the floor plans to the new shelter. Drawings of the new shelter are available for the public to view at City Hall. If interested, call Elizabeth Thompson at 576-6345.



## SPAY NEUTER GRANT

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture announced July 28 the 2009 recipients of the animal spay/neuter grants at the Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services in Memphis. The grants support low cost spay/neuter programs in Tennessee and are funded through Animal Friendly license plate sales. Mid-South Spay & Neuter Services (formerly the Animal Protection Association) received a grant of \$1,700, which is the only 2009 grant recipient in Shelby County. For more information on their services, visit [www.spaymemphis.com](http://www.spaymemphis.com).

You can contribute to the fund by purchasing the Animal Friendly license plate for an annual fee of \$56.50 - \$15.38 of the \$35.00 additional fee is allocated to the Animal Population Control Endowment Fund.

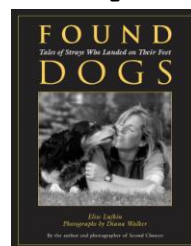
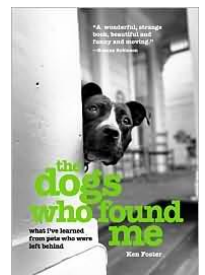
For more information about the Animal Friendly grants and to view other 2009 grant recipients, visit [Animal Friendly Tag Spay and Neuter Grants](http://www.animalfriendly.org)

## RESCUE READS

People who don't visit animal shelters on a regular basis or aren't involved in rescue may not exactly understand why someone devotes their time to helping homeless pets. These are two books that tell the stories of how lives are transformed by homeless pets.

### • **The Dogs Who Found Me: What I've Learned from Pets Who Were Left Behind** by Ken Foster

Reluctant dog rescuer Ken Foster finds himself adopting various stray dogs, from a beagle abandoned in a dog run to a pit bull at a truck stop. The dogs offer a grounding counterpoint to his own misfortunes in New York City after 9/11, in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, and during his heart attack.



### • **Found Dogs: Tales Of Strays Who Landed On Their Feet** by Elise Lufkin

Found Dogs is a moving tribute to the power of love between people and dogs--how that love has transformed dogs who were lost, and the people who were lucky enough to find them.

## ALWAYS REMEMBERED

My excitement quickly turned into sadness, like everyone else's when we heard of the untimely death of the baby elephant at the Memphis Zoo. Deepest condolences go to everyone involved. I wanted to include a heart-felt thank you note from the Elephant Manager of the Memphis Zoo.

*To my family, my friends, my co-workers, my community, and all of the wonderful guests that visit our zoo:*

*I write this with the deepest appreciation for all of your thoughts, prayers, and kind words over the last few days. This experience has been incredibly hard on all of us.*

*Asali is an elephant that no one can help but fall in love with. She is kind, gentle, curious, and all of those things that make up a good friend. This past week, I learned something new about her. I learned that she can be a dedicated mother and love her calf as though nothing else in the world mattered. From the moment that baby came from her womb and lay on the soft sand, she cared for it with all of her heart. She caressed it, she held it, and she kept it out of harm's way. The experience that I shared with her that night was one that will be with me for the rest of my life. Together, we welcomed a baby elephant into the world- Her baby elephant. That time together was magical. I will never feel a connection with another animal like that ever again. We stood there in that empty exhibit watching over a clumsy, confused newborn elephant. The trust that she showed in me was unimaginable. Had I not been there, I would never have believed it. For what seemed like hours, we showed that helpless calf what love was. More importantly, Asali showed me that she was a loving mother and the care of this calf was her number one mission. I could never be more proud of her than I was that summer night.*

*The tragic events that followed will never be forgotten. It has been difficult to get past what happened. We went from complete elation to total devastation in a matter of days. All of your cards, emails, and well wishing have been helpful. Only time can heal these wounds.*

*The critics and animal rights groups have and will make their voice heard. People who use a tragedy like this to push their agenda will always exist. I promise you that if they had witnessed the events of that night, they would be silent.*

*Looking back at all of this and how we got here, a couple of things come to mind.*

*Your support and encouragement to our zoo and our elephant program has been paramount to its success. Regardless of this outcome, we have made vast improvements to our facility and have made the lives of our elephants better. Breeding is important and allowing these three adult elephants to experience a calf is the most enriching thing we could do.*

*The experience of motherhood is something special. Asali demonstrated that she could be the loving, caring, concerned mother that we all could learn from. Not allowing her to experience this again would be a mistake.*



*I love Asali. No matter what happened that morning or what may have caused that horrific accident, I still love her. She showed me something when she cared for that baby that I will never forget and I hope that none of you will ever forget.*

*Please take the time to pray for Asali as she goes through this healing process. She needs us more now than she ever has.*

*Andrew Smith  
Elephant Manager, Memphis Zoo*

For more information check out the [Memphis Zoo: Elephant Blog](#)





## DEDICATION AT ADOPTION EVENTS

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and shelter staff that make adoption events possible. The rewards of seeing a pet go to a new loving home, instead of returning to the shelter where their fate is uncertain, is priceless. These are just a few highlights of the MAS volunteers & staff from recent adoption events. To view more memorable moments, visit [MAS Volunteer Photo Gallery](#)

