

# Creature



# Comforts

A Newsletter of  
**Clay County  
Animal Shelter**

P.O. Box 274 • 503 N. Carroll St.  
Henrietta, Texas 76365  
(940) 538-6757  
[www.claycritters.petfinder.com](http://www.claycritters.petfinder.com)

## **THERE IS NO "I" IN FOSTER**

Susan Burrus

People always ask "How can you foster dogs? Don't you have a hard time letting go?" The answer is yes, but fostering is not about me, it's all about the animal. There is no "I" in foster.

Like most people, I never thought I could be a foster parent. It was always about how I would feel: I might grow attached, I would feel sad, the dog would miss me... Well, my feelings changed the first time I saw the happiness in the eyes of a new pet owner. I had such a feeling of satisfaction that it totally outweighed any sadness I was feeling.

My first foster was a small, cute, terrier type dog. We found him a home, and I took him over to his potential new owners. I walked up to this beautiful home and when the front door opened there was a little girl and her mother. "My" dog was in my arms, but when he saw the young, blond girl, he about jumped out of my arms to get to her. It was the sweetest moment. He had found him a little girl! They stayed in the living room and didn't give me a second thought.

I left the house with a tear in my eye, but it was a tear of happiness because my foster dog had found his little girl and a family that would provide a wonderful home.

I have been a foster parent ever since and have had many more rewarding and satisfying experiences after I stopped thinking about "me" and took the "I" out of foster.

## **FOSTERING: A NEW LEASH ON LIFE**



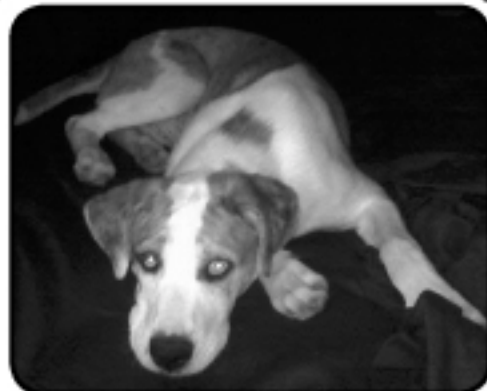
*Sandy with her foster family and her adopter that happy day at PetSmart®*

Sandy, a seven-year-old, medium sized, mixed breed dog, was the Morrow family's first foster dog. She was a stray, and the Shelter had no room. There are no options for a dog like Sandy unless someone steps in to foster. Luckily for her, Manya Morrow had just expressed interest in fostering.

Sandy is a wonderful dog and fit perfectly in the Morrow household (Mike, Manya, Megan age 10, and Morgan, age 9). In fact, when time came to take Sandy to her first adoption event at PetSmart®, the Morrows thought to adopt Sandy themselves. Realizing, though, that this would limit their ability to save other dogs by fostering, they discussed it as a family and decided to take Sandy to the adoption event.

It happened that Susan Balis came to PetSmart® that day to meet another dog she had been approved to adopt. But, Susan fell in love with Sandy. Manya and Morgan had a chance to tell Susan all about Sandy, and Susan told them about the wonderful home Sandy would have with her.

Sandy's life is great, and the Morrows have gone on to foster other dogs, both puppies and older dogs. And no, the dogs aren't all perfect like Sandy, but they are all deserving of a safe and loving home.



*Chevy's fosters, Christina Ashton and Derek Stelting, have taught him manners. He will even "wait" when his food is served.*

# CLAY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER IS LOOKING FOR MORE ACTIVE, ENERGETIC LOCAL PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER AS FOSTER HOMES FOR DOGS AND PUPPIES, CATS AND KITTENS.

If you think you could help save a dog or a cat, applications and more information are available at: (940) 538-6757.



## OUT AND ABOUT GIVES OUR RESIDENTS CLOUT

NETWORKING TO GAIN EXPOSURE FOR OUR ADOPTABLE ANIMALS AND FOR OUR ORGANIZATION

Clay County Animal Shelter shows pets for adoption on KFDX TV.

*Every month Bonnie Miller does a noon news spot with CCAS dogs or cats on KFDX TV 3. Visit our website at [www.claycritters.petfinder.com](http://www.claycritters.petfinder.com) for the monthly schedule and catch Bonnie and Friends at noon.*



**the Lake Arrowhead Dam Tractor Ride and Show**



Local Halloween contests are some of the many events Clay County Animal Shelter volunteers and adoptable animals attended in 2009.

**HOWL-o-ween Candi**



**Pioneer Reunion**

**Successful adoption events at Sutherlands County Fair, Sullivan Toyota, PetCo® & PetSmart®**



Annual events we attend with manned booths are

**the Charlie Peach Festival**



**the Henrietta Christmas Parade** where volunteers walk dogs dressed in lights and Santa suits!

## 🐾 DOGGONE!!! 🐾

**PLEASE ID your pets:** Across this country, about 9,000,000 (that is NINE MILLION) pets, just like yours, find themselves homeless each year. Almost 10,000 (that is TEN THOUSAND) a DAY lose their lives because they have no place to call home. We need to create more happy endings! Keep identification on your pet at ALL TIMES !!!! EVEN WHILE BATHING! A rabies tag, a name tag or a microchip will all work toward that end. If you have lost your pet call your city pound immediately, **CHECK THERE YOURSELF REPEATEDLY**, call all the veterinarians in your area, and put up fliers. Little "July," shown below, was found fat and flea free, but miles from any home after the Fourth of July fireworks (which may have frightened her and caused her to run and get lost). With no identification on her, there was no way to return her to her rightful owners. And, judging by her loving character someone is missing her. She 'answers' happily when spoken to, but just can't pronounce things well enough to get back home.



If you are seeking a new pet, search shelters, breed rescue groups, animal pounds and Humane Societies, and if you look on line you can find Clay County Animal Shelter and view our animals at [www.claycritters.petfinder.com](http://www.claycritters.petfinder.com). Our no-kill shelter is always full. The animals we take in only leave us when they are adopted. Because of the time and effort it takes to adopt out animals to just the right homes, there is always a waiting list of animals needing to enter the Shelter. We don't turn away any resident of Clay County, but can't immediately take all in either. CCAS keeps a holding list, posts the waiting animals on our web site for public viewing and possible adoption prior to entering the Shelter, and takes the animals in order as soon as there is space. And we help place many animals from outside Clay County.



With so many cats in need of a family of their own, our goal can only be a safe, happy home for every one. With the help of PetSmart® Charities, which generously provides adoption center space for

our Shelter cats, we have increased our kitty adoptions because of the added exposure to the public, and the tireless efforts of our volunteers and the PetSmart® staff at the Wichita Falls store!

Because of this collaboration Blackie, a sweet, 12 year old cat who was no longer wanted, now has a loving family and a forever place for her old age.

## FELINE FOCUS



Doni, a PetSmart® volunteer, is shown here with a very thin kitty recently found on a country road, miles from any house. Hunger and thirst drove the 3 month old kitty to allow capture. Kitty's life from now on can only get better. She will be dewormed, vaccinated and spayed, leukemia and FIV tested and when she has gained a little weight, she will be put up for adoption. Many cats that are abandoned like her don't get that chance, but we keep trying.

## OUR CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL:

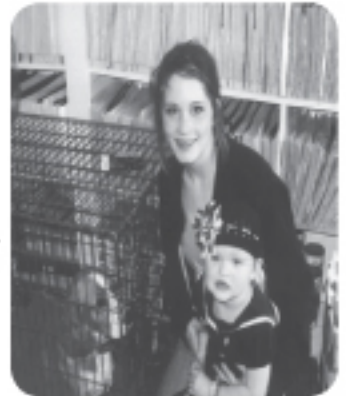
RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF SMALL GIFTS AND SMALL GIVERS!



It all adds up. Ten dollars from one person and twenty-five from another, and with that money added to your donation too, we heat the kennels, buy dish soap and scrubbies, rubber gloves and dog dishes, water hoses and cat litter, office supplies and trash bags, pooper-scoopers and paper towels, collars and leashes, bleach and laundry soap, and we pay the taxes and the electric bill.

Keeping the Shelter dogs and cats housed in a clean and healthy environment is not a simple proposition. No gift is too small to help, and no giver is too small either.

Taylor Haynie brought a huge box of dog treats and supplies, and little Kate Moore had a birthday party where all the gifts were for the SHELTER ANIMALS instead of for her! Generosity like that is hard to match!



Thank you, generous donors. And thank you all who are teaching your children to care about animals and to be generous givers



Two more of our youngest donors, Charlie and Joseph Maddux, split their money between the local library and our shelter, netting the Shelter \$1.43. That is one fewer roll of paper towels we will have to buy!

-And to those of you who give regular bleach, cat litter and trash bag donations: THANKS! We rely on you!

Please continue to support our labor of love. *Creature Comforts* is an annual publication of Clay County Animal Shelter, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Tax ID #75-2894450.

**Visit us on the web at [www.claycritters.petfinder.com](http://www.claycritters.petfinder.com)**

OFFICERS: Annie McClintock, President • Steve McDonald, Vice President • Polly McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer

***Please make checks payable to:***

**Clay County Animal Shelter • Post Office Box 274 • Henrietta Texas 76365**

Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send additional acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

*No acknowledgement is needed.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***For whatever you are able to give towards helping the animals,  
WE THANK YOU!***

*To all who give Christmas donations, memorials, and honorariums: if you will include a card for your honoree, we will mail it with our gratitude. If the letter is stamped and addressed to the honoree, that is even more of a gift for the shelter animals.*