

County group buy a tract of land

Humane Society planning shelter

By BEVERLY MANJEOT

A sick dog abandoned by its owner in the rain, a cat injured in a hand-run accident shrieks in pain, a tearful owner decides to put an end to the suffering. The staff of a local animal shelter is taught to handle these kinds of problems and many more.

Every community needs an animal shelter and Brazos County may have one, thanks to the local humane society.

Charollette Woods, treasurer of the Humane Society of Brazos County, said a down payment was made in February on 1.3 acres of land about 4 miles south of College Station on Wellborn Road. Money for the down payment was acquired through bake sales membership fees and contributions. The land, which cost about \$14,000, has a house, nine dog runs and a wooden fence.

"We bought a track of land that needs a lot of improvement before we can use it," Woods said. "So far, the only speculation as to how the city will run the animal shelter, if financing will be our biggest problem."

Some animal shelters operated by humane societies are financially independent, while others have contracts with their city governments.

"If you have your own shelter, you don't have to worry about the city's input," Ruth C. Schaffer, a member of Brazos Valley Kennel Club, said. "However, if we had our own shelter, we would still want the city of Bryan to do something with their inadequate facilities."

A shelter committee, co-shared by Jim and Jean Duffley will consider all financial support issues and building suggestions before making any definite plans for the animal shelter. The committee will also decide how the land can be adequately used.

The American Humane Association has established the guidelines for building an adequate animal shelter and has published them in pamphlet form. The pamphlet suggests that among other things the shelter should have a veterinarian on the premises or one that can be called in an emergency.

Dr. Sam C. Scarmardo, a local veterinarian, explained that because of a city ordinance a nonveterinary group like the animal shelter could not hire a full-time vet.

"It's like building a doctor's office and then hiring a doctor to work there," said Scarmardo. "It's considered unethical."

To help formulate plans for their animal shelter, the Humane Society of Brazos County sent four members to a workshop in Oklahoma earlier this year.

"It was primarily a workshop on shelter operations, procedures and management," said Cheryl DeMeo, a Humane Society member who attended the seminar. "We also learned how to prepare photographs for court concerning animal cruelty cases, saw animal handling demonstrations and talked about items ranging from distributing newsletters to various methods of euthanasia."

When the animal shelter first opens, it probably won't have a spaying or neutering clinic, but will continue to operate in conjunction with local vets and the vet school, DeMeo said.

Scarmardo, who opened his practice only a few years ago, presented the idea to local vets of rotating monthly schedules to help with neutering and emergencies. Woods said. "I don't do any more than any of the other vets in the area," Scarmardo said.

"We all try and help the humane society by offering our services at cost."

"Inertia will be their biggest problem because people will volunteer to help, but no one will get off his rusty-duty to do anything," said Dr. Dorothy T. Roberson, a veterinarian.

Woods agreed that it would be hard to run an animal shelter on a strictly voluntary basis.

Some animal lovers believe the city government should provide some financial support for the animal shelter's maintenance.

Betty L. Schier, vice president of the Brazos County Humane Society said. "In the past, our cities haven't bothered to take a stand. I feel the councilmen need to stand behind us so we could get more public support."

When questioned about Bryan offering some financial aid to the shelter, City Councilman Ples Turner said. "Money for the animal shelter could be put into next year's budget, but I hesitate to comment on what the chances are for this allocation occurring."

"It was the taxpayers who turned down the 1977 bond issue, not the councilmen," he said.

Turner was opposed to allocating any money for the animal shelter, said Woods.

"I was for the animal shelter, but didn't want to give them \$40,000 to \$50,000 to run it," said Turner.

"The Humane Society has done a good job raising money, but I think they need support from at least one of the two cities," said Dr. Kathy Wheeler, president of the Brazos Valley Kennel Club.

"College Station refuses to admit that they even have a stray animal problem, but we know they do by how many calls we get," DeMeo said. "Bryan knows they have a problem, but doesn't feel they could spend the money to build a new pound. Perhaps when our shelter is established they will contract with us."

Because of rising school taxes, taxpayers living in the A&M Consolidated School District aren't willing to give any more money, said Roberson, a resident of the school district.

"I'd like to see government control of the animal shelter because it would be easier for everyone concerned," Charles Honeycutt, of the Bryan animal control unit, said. "We should work hand-in-hand with the humane society because they handle the problems out of our reach."

New electronic system aids visually deprived

Visually handicapped students, faculty and area residents now have access to the Apollo Electronic Visual Aid (EVA) which is maintained at the Texas A&M University library. Located on the fourth floor of the library, the EVA is a system which provides visually handicapped users with the means of reading ordinary printed materials easily and comfortably at great magnification.

Purchase of the system was made possible with proceeds from the 77th National Library Week Book Sale which is sponsored each year by the Friends of the Texas A&M University Library.

Paul Higgins, reference librarian Science and Technology, can be consulted concerning use of the EVA. Her telephone number is 5-1451. In addition, Eldred Pryor, habilitation counselor with the State Commission for the Blind, has offered to explain the system to interested persons. He can be contacted by telephone at 823-7535.

or in person at 1706C East 29th Street in Bryan.

The EVA Model 2B consists of a camera mounted vertically on a post-style stand, and a monitor or closed-circuit TV screen.

In addition to the basic system, there are other attachments which increase the flexibility of the EVA. One is a typewriter attachment which permits the user to view what is being typed. This will be purchased by the Library. Another attachment, not yet available in the library, is one which permits the user to read microfiche.

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