

Local

T-shirt sales to fund animal shelter

By GARY BARKER

Battalion Staff
Animal lovers have a chance this week to help their furry friends by buying a T-shirt.

The Veterinary Services Organization is sponsoring a T-shirt sale today and Thursday in front of Rudder Fountain. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Humane Society of Brazos County to help build the Brazos County Animal Shelter.

The sale coincides with the 8th Annual Animal Control Conference that is under way this week in Rudder Tower. The conference is expected to draw more than 150 animal control administrators and technicians from around the country.

The VSO sold about \$1,500 worth of T-shirts at a sale in early August. Betty Blackburn, president of the Humane Society of

Conference aims to improve competence in animal control

There's much more to animal control than being a dogcatcher, and 150 animal control specialists are on campus discussing just that.

The 8th Annual Animal Control Conference is being held this week in Rudder Tower. The conference, sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine, will run through Friday.

The purpose of the conference is to improve the profes-

sional competence of animal control administrators and technicians.

The conference includes programs and lectures on animal birth control, Texas animal control laws, animal capture techniques, animal sterilization and animal adoption.

Dr. W.J. Kilpatrick, coordinator of continuing education for the College of Veterinary Medicine, said 150 persons

from several states will attend the conference.

Dr. Craig Carter, a VSO member and a veterinary clinical associate with the Texas Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory, said the conference is designed to erase the stigma of the dogcatcher.

"Animal control is much more than just throwing a loop around a dog's neck and putting him into a truck," he said.

Brazos County, said she hopes more shirts will be sold now since more students are on campus and

visitors are attending the animal control conference.

The shirts cost \$6.50 each. VSO

members are selling 28 styles of shirts featuring various animals and slogans. The sale runs from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m.

Blackburn said the Humane Society has over \$15,000 that will be donated to the construction of the animal shelter.

A plot of land at 2200 Finfeather Road was donated by Bryan as the site of the animal shelter. Although the ground has been broken at the site, no date has been set to begin construction.

Both the cities of Bryan and College Station, as well as Brazos County, have agreed to help finance the shelter. College Station has appropriated \$30,000, Bryan has promised to appropriate \$30,000 and the county has donated \$5,000.

The City of Bryan is waiting on a bid from a contractor for the construction of the shelter.

"It's harder to come up with a contractor to work with donated labor and materials," Blackburn said. "There's just a lot of red tape holding it up."

Petition opposes state 'gag' order

United Press International
LUFKIN — An East Texas newspaper and major newspaper chain have petitioned a federal judge to overturn a state court ruling that says the media may be barred from pre-trial civil suit hearings.

"I think the impact is obvious," said Joe Murray, editor and publisher of the Lufkin Daily News, which filed the suit in conjunction with Cox Enterprises Inc. "This would set a big precedent and be one more area that the public simply is kept in the dark about. The judge ruled that the public — which includes the news media — could not walk into public court."

The ruling was made last August by Longview State District Judge Marcus Vasocu on a motion by attorneys for Lufkin's Texas National Bank. A group of bank stockholders had filed a civil suit action over a management dispute with controlling stockholders.

The bank attorneys successfully argued that national banking laws permit the exclusion of the public from a courtroom if sensitive or complicated financial matters are to be discussed. Vasocu also suggested that lawyers not discuss the case

with the news media. Murray contends the judge's suggestion was a gag order.

Cox attorneys pressed for an injunction against Vasocu in a petition to the Texas Supreme Court, but the court refused to hear the plea.

"We're prepared to go to the U.S. Supreme Court to get this thing settled," said Roger Moss, an attorney for the newspaper group. "Neither our side nor the other could find any case in this state where the public had been precluded from civil pre-trial hearings."

"The issue is simply this: Does the public have the right to watch the judicial system in action?"

A hearing on the petition was scheduled for Thursday before U.S. District Judge William Steiger at 9 a.m. in Tyler or Marshall, Moss said.

Vasocu said he could not comment on the case since he was the subject of litigation.

However, in previous statements he said he felt such matters as bank correspondence or audit reports might be misunderstood or misinterpreted if released to the public during a pre-trial hearing.

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Retardation unit moving

The Brazos Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center has announced the move of the Mental Health Outpatient Clinic from 207 Villa Maria to the 707 Complex on Texas Avenue South. The move, which takes effect Monday and Tuesday, will consolidate Mental Health services with the Center Administration and Mental Retardation programs. For more information call the Outpatient Clinic at 693-4357 or 693-HELP.

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