

# B-CS shelter for animals barks with new business

by **Ronnie Crocker**  
Battalion Reporter

The Brazos County Animal Shelter, which opened in late January, already has taken in about 1,000 animals, the shelter director said.

The shelter, the only one of its kind within 100 miles, is operated by director Kathy Ricker, her staff and 30 volunteer workers.

Animals which have stayed at the shelter include not only stray dogs and cats but also stray chickens and cows. Of these, many have been returned to their owners and 175 have been adopted, Ricker said.

Whenever Bryan-College Station or Brazos County officials bring in strays, they are charged for impounding the animals for up to three days, she said. After that time, the shelter is responsible for the care of the animals.

But impoundment fees cover only a small part of the \$120,000 budget at the shelter. Most of the remaining funding comes from donations because the shelter is not part of the Humane Society or the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, she said.

About \$3,000 has been donated by private persons to aid the shelter, Ricker said, and several Texas A&M groups, such as a group of second-year veterinary medicine students, also have donated money.

When an animal without an identification tag is brought to the shelter, it is vaccinated and impounded for three days.

After three days, the animal is

evaluated by several veterinarians and shelter workers. If the animal is healthy, it is put up for adoption.

Sometimes an interested person may request to adopt a particular pet. If the type of pet the person wants is available, the person will be interviewed as a prospective owner.

Certain precautions must be taken before the adoption can be completed. For instance, if a person wants a large dog, he or she must have a fence. Also, all

pets must be neutered.

The cost for adoption is \$35 for cats and \$40 for dogs. These prices include a \$25 veterinarian fee for neutering services, rabies shots and a physical checkup.

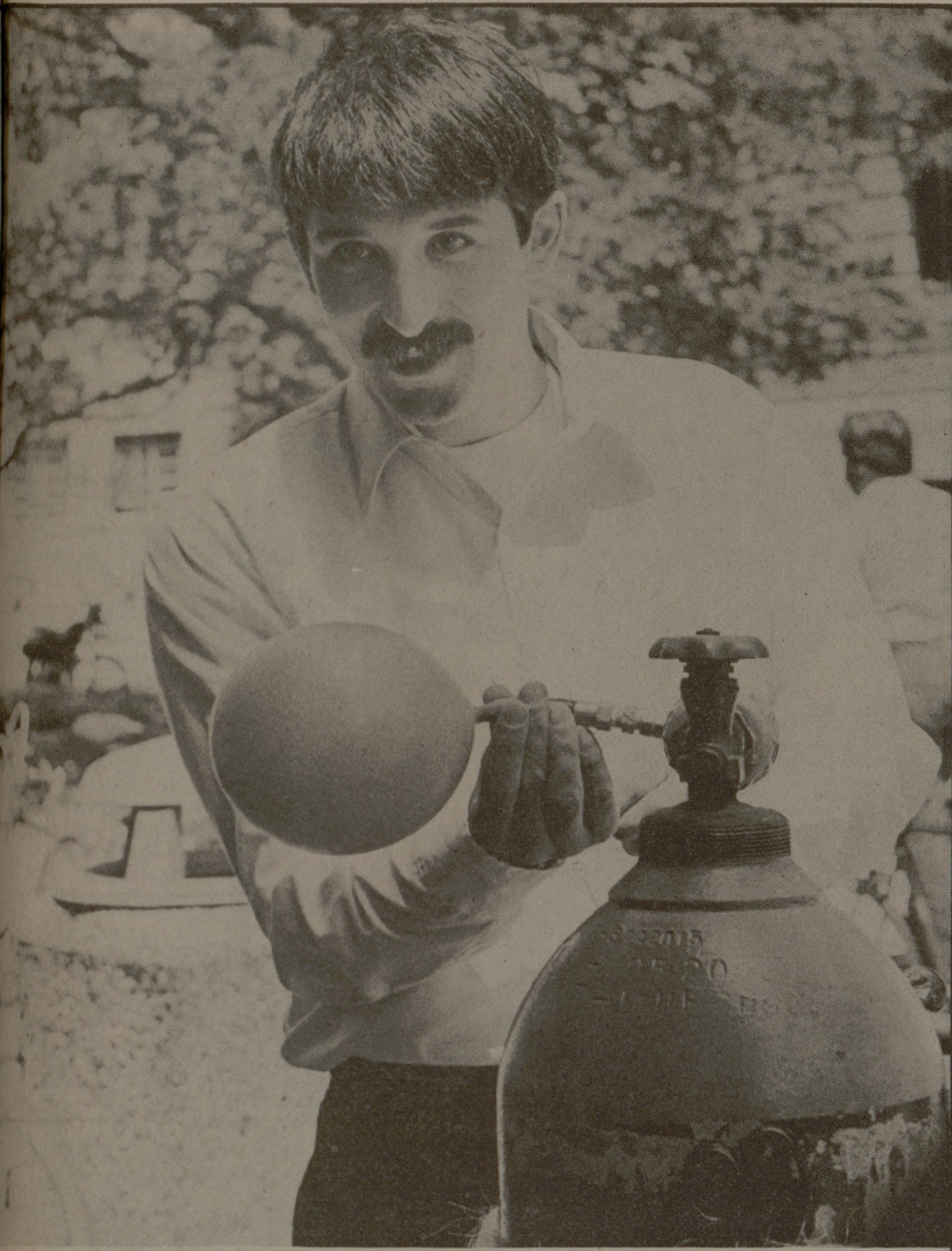
If a new owner discovers the dog or cat is diseased, the pet may be exchanged for another, Ricker said. If a pet is ineligible for adoption because of sickness or other reasons, it is put to sleep by one of the 18 veterinarians who service the shelter.

Ricker said animals turned in

with tags are not vaccinated and attempts are made to locate their owners. Tagged pets also are kept longer before being put up for adoption.

Ricker urges all pet owners to obtain tags for their pets so it might be easier to return lost pets if they are found.

Tags for pets belonging to Bryan residents are available at the shelter now and those for College Station residents will be arriving in a couple of weeks, she said.



Lift off at the library staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Librarian Michael Nyerges fills balloons Monday and gives them away to students to help kick-off National Library Week. Nyerges is chairman of the National Library Week committee for Sterling C. Evans Library.

## College Station schools to shift students in fall

by **Christine Mallon**  
Battalion Reporter

The College Station Independent School District's Board of Education decided Monday night to integrate the students from A&M Consolidated Junior High with students from Oakwood Middle School beginning next fall.

Oakwood presently has fifth- and sixth-graders, but next year fifth-graders will be moved back to elementary schools, leaving the middle school with about 60 students in sixth grade.

CSISD Superintendent H.R. Burnett said the total size of grades seven and eight attending the junior high will increase about 120 for the 1983-84 school year. He said that a portion of the seventh-graders at the junior high must utilize the part of the Oakwood Building being vacated by the fifth grade. Burnett said the number of seventh-grade students at Oakwood and the movement of teachers from building to building will be minimized.

He said the movement of sixth-grade students to the junior high will be restricted to band and choir as it has been in the past since Oakwood doesn't have facilities for these classes. Board member Charles Giammona said he doesn't think sending students from both schools is a good idea.

"Although we're dealing with

the same teachers and same schedules, each of the schools represent totally different philosophies," Giammona said. "Those seventh- and eighth-graders are acting like 18-year-olds, and it won't work."

Bill Wasson, a member of the board, initiated a debate about whether Holik Street, which separates the junior high from

the middle school, should be closed because of heavy traffic.

The board will make a proposal next week to the College Station City Council to close the street.

Board president Bruce Robeck appointed a committee to develop a long-range plan for the education of gifted and talented students in the school district.

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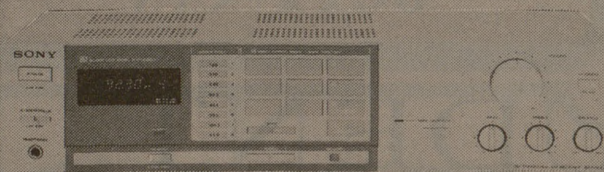
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