



Bob and Bobby Beals of Bryan admire one of the animals in the shelter at its one-year anniversary in January.

Shelter can provide temporary home for stray, unwanted pets

By LINDA SANTINOCETO
Reporter

The Brazos Animal Shelter is the only facility for stray or unwanted animals in about 100 miles, says Kathy Ricker, director of the Brazos Animal Shelter.

The shelter, with about 40 cages, a bathing room, a euthanasia room, and a corral, can accommodate dogs and cats as well as goats, cows, horses and birds.

If students want to adopt a pet they just need to come and pick it out, says Ricker.

"September is a busy time," she says. "There are about three to four adoptions a day."

There are, however, a few qualifications the students must meet.

"We are very strict with our adoption policy, because we want the animals to have the best home," she says.

First, students must sign an adoption form agreeing to the following:

- To be vaccinated for rabies and neutered.

- To provide the animal with affection, food, shelter and medical attention.

- Not to sell, trade or give away the animal.

- To return the pet if they can no longer keep it.

No co-adoptions are permitted.

"The pet is often left out in the cold when roommates split-up," Ricker says. In addition, to make prospective owners aware of the responsibilities of having a pet, they are asked questions such as whether they have a fence or if they are allowed to have pets where they live, she says.

"Some people just get a whim and decide they want a pet without even thinking of caring for it," Ricker says.

After the paper work, students can pick out their pet. But they might not get that pet. All pets have a three day waiting period to see if their owner claims them. After the

three days the animals are evaluated for adoption.

"Our staff tests the animals for friendliness, to see if they will make a good house pet," Ricker says. Then, one of the 20 volunteer veterinarians examines the animal.

The adoption fees are \$40 for dogs and \$35 for cats. In addition, there is a \$12 charge for a rabies shot and a city tag. For this fee, the student receives a pet and a coupon for a free visit to a veterinarian.

If animals don't meet the adoption requirements or become sick while at the shelter they are put to sleep, Ricker says.

"Euthanasia is done as humanely as possible," Ricker says. "The animal is held in a staff-member's arms while injected and it is asleep before the needle is removed."

Ricker says some people bring their pets to the shelter because they are moving or can no longer care for them. In these cases, a surrender fee between \$5 and \$20 is asked, for

food and care of the animal.

"We can't guarantee the animal will not be put to sleep but the staff does everything possible to find it a home," she says.

If animals have tags when they come to the shelter, it is easier for the staff to find the owner.

"The staff will call the owner or leave notes at the owner's home," Ricker says. It costs \$15 to get your animal out of the shelter.

The shelter, which is funded by Bryan, College Station and Brazos County has an annual budget of \$150,000, Ricker says. The shelter's major fund raiser is a newspaper recycling program. Each ton of newspapers donated brings the shelter \$35, Ricker says.

"We wouldn't be able to have such good facilities if it wasn't for all the generous community people who volunteer their time and money to help the shelter," she says.

Local parks provide a place for play, relaxation

By JAN WUTHRICH
Reporter

Bryan and College Station are expanding and improving their park systems.

College Station is building 10 neighborhood parks as part of its recent work on development and improvement, says recreation superintendent Marci Rodgers.

Brothers Pond Park is one of the newer neighborhood parks found in Southwood Valley off Rio Grande. It includes a cinder track and concrete jogging trail/exercise trail, a playground, four backstops, a basketball half court, one acre pond, fishing pier, gazebo and park trails.

Oaks Park, off Harvey Road, is central to several College Station apartment complexes. It also includes a jogging trail as well as a lighted multi-use court, a main deck and bridge, shelter and restrooms, conversation pits and two party areas.

Anderson Park on Anderson Street is close to the Texas A&M campus. Two basketball courts, five youth soccer fields, a playground, restrooms, storage and parking are available there.

Two of College Station's 27 parks have swimming pools for public use — Bee Creek Park and Thomas Park, which has a dome above the pool for year-round swimming. Another public pool is under construction at the Southwood Athletic Park. It should be completed sometime in September, Rodgers says.

Southwood Athletic Park is a recent development. It is a Little League complex which also has tennis courts and lighted soccer fields. It is at Rock Prairie Road and Rio Grande.

College Station's largest and most frequently used park is Central Park at 1000 Krenek Tap Road. It is the headquarters for the College Station Parks and Recreation Department. Facilities in the 47-acre park include

three adult soccer fields, soccer restrooms and shelter building, four lighted adult softball fields, softball concessions, two lighted tennis courts, a playground and open play areas, a one-acre pond, fishing piers, a stage, 10 picnic units, nature trails and parking.

Rodgers says softball, played in three different seasons, is the favorite sport at Central Park. Basketball teams play in January, soccer in the fall and spring, flag football in the fall and volleyball in late October to early December. She says December is usually the dead month at Central Park, but in December 1984 the Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor choirs, plays, and a nativity scene.

The busiest times for College Station parks are, of course, the spring and summer and on holidays. Parents Weekend is a big attraction at the parks, too, Rodgers says. Central and Bee Creek parks are the most heavily used parks. Parks with pavilions also are popular. The Central Park pavilion has a huge barbecue pit and a kitchen.

Anyone who wishes to rent park facilities or equipment must do so at the Parks and Recreation Office, 1000 Krenek Tap Road, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Alcohol is allowed in the parks but cannot be sold there.

Some College Station park land has been donated, and some is designated by developers as required by city ordinance, but most are purchased by the city with money from bond issues.

Bryan parks have lagged behind College Station's in the past, but with the aid of oil and gas royalties, bond issues, matching state funds, and donations by charitable trusts, Bryan is polishing its park facilities.

The Astin Recreational Area at South College Avenue and West Roundtree Drive is an example of Bryan's park improvements. It in-

cludes restrooms, boardwalk, pavilion, jogging track, barbecue pit and fireplace, gazebo, pier and a lake overlook. It is adjacent to the Bryan Municipal Golf Course and the Bryan Municipal Lake complex.

Williamson Park also is adjacent to the golf course. A tennis court, basketball court, shelters, lighting, tables, barbecue grills and a parking lot are being added.

One of the largest of Bryan's 21 parks, Henderson Park, is getting a Little League concession building, restrooms, group shelter, play equipment and lighting. The 21-acre park is at 1629 Mockingbird St.

Bryan Independent School District, in conjunction with the city, is building the Bryan Aquatic Center at Bryan High School. It will be available for students during school hours and should be completed by mid-fall of 1984. The schedule for the public will be announced.

Bryan High School won't be stopping there. Travis Park, at 501 W. Carson St., where the Vikings play their baseball games, will be getting a face-lift as well. Parking, lighting, soccer and Little League fields will be added as part of a general renovation.

A new athletic park will be developed on about 100 acres near the East Bypass and Texas Avenue. Plans include four softball fields, four Little League fields, two baseball fields, seven soccer fields, six tennis courts, basketball courts, pavilions, fishing ponds and other facilities such as tables and restrooms.

The Bryan City Council also has directed its attention to developing the Bryan Utilities Lake, which provides water for the Dansby Power Plant north of the city, as a possible site for a major lake park.



A day in the park

Upper picture: The Brazos County Arboretum provides a picnic pavilion. Center: The fishing is good in several area parks. Lower: Feeding the ducks is better than studying.

