

# Animal shelter provides area services

By DIANA HENSKE  
Reporter

The Brazos Animal Shelter, now in its second year, provides an animal lost and found service, a pet adoption program, and animal control for the Bryan-College Station area.

"The bottom line is how can we help people help these animals," says Lynne McCulloch, operations manager for the Brazos Animal Shelter.

The Brazos Animal Shelter is a non-profit organization funded primarily through Bryan, College Station and Brazos County governments.

"If there's something very special and unique about this shelter, it's the fact that it's literally a shelter that a community built after many, many years of need," says McCulloch.

The shelter also receives help from the Brazos Valley SPCA and the Brazos Valley Humane Society.

"They have both been extremely supportive to this shelter in terms of donating time, materials, money, and helping us with special projects," McCulloch says. "It's a real community effort."

About 12 to 25 veterinarians take an active part in the operation of the shelter. The veterinarian of the day comes in and vaccinates all incoming animals, evaluates any sick or injured animals, and euthanizes animals.

"We are probably unique in the United States in not only the amount of veterinary support that we have, but the scope of services," she says.

The veterinarians also support the shelter by honoring the neuter coupons given to anyone who adopts an animal. They may be redeemed for a gross physical exam, a rabies shot, and neutering.

"They all honor these coupons," McCulloch says. "That's why we're able to offer such a tremendous health package to our adopting families."

The staff at the shelter varies from paid full-and part-time workers to volunteers.

"We have a gentleman who works part-time for us through the Senior Texans Employment Program," says McCulloch. Albert Wilson is a deaf-mute who wanted to work with animals.

"I think that says a lot. We're very fortunate to have him working with us," says McCulloch.

Patty Arreola, a part-time employee, uses the Texas curriculum requirements for kindergarten



Photo by RONNIE CROCKER

Monnie Bond, kennel supervisor of the Brazos Animal Shelter inspects a dog kept in the kennel. The shelter has provided a home for 7,900 animals.

through sixth grade to create activities for learning animal care. For example, a curriculum requirement for third-grade science is to obtain science information from varied sources. The students collect news clippings about pets and people and write a story about how the person might feel about the pet.

"The goal is to educate everybody about being kind to animals and respecting them," says Arreola. "Younger kids' values are just forming and we want to expose them to some ideas that they may have never been exposed to."

Arreola makes teacher packets of learning activities, gives tours of the shelter, and is working on expanding the program through scouting, teacher workshops, and veterinarian visits.

McCulloch stresses the importance of coming to the shelter regularly to look for a lost pet.

"Anytime someone is missing their animal, they need to come down and see if their animal is here," she says. There is a lost and found book the pet can be registered in, but it shouldn't be relied on completely.

If an animal is brought in with

tags, the staff works diligently on tracking the tags to find the owner.

"We've called all over the country tracking tags," says McCulloch.

If someone finds an animal and is reluctant to bring it to the shelter, the information is taken down for the lost and found book, the person is advised on care and is encouraged to run a classified advertisement in local newspapers.

When animals are brought in as strays, they are held for a minimum of three days to allow time for the owner to claim them. Then they are available for adoption.

"We adopt out family pets, period," says McCulloch. "We do not adopt out guard dogs, watch dogs, junk yard dogs, or barn cats," says McCulloch.

"We want homes where they're going to be babied and be part of the family. Any animal that we have, whether it's two days old or two years old has already been dumped or trashed once in its life or we wouldn't have it."

Anyone wishing to adopt an animal must fill out an application which asks questions concerning previous and present pets, knowledge of pet-needs, and the animal's future

home. If the applicant rents, the approval of the management must be secured.

The applicant must also agree to have the pet neutered.

"Most pets don't come from shelters anyway, they come from the next-door neighbor whose dog wasn't spayed and had a litter," says McCulloch. "We don't want a hand in that."

When it becomes impossible to keep an animal any longer, it is given a quick painless death by injection.

"We can't keep them forever because we're constantly getting new ones in the front door that also need an equal opportunity to be claimed or adopted," says McCulloch. "For many of these animals, the love and respect that they've been given here is probably some of the only love and respect they've ever known in their lives."

"The last gift of love that we have to give them is the dignity and the gentle handling and the respect that they deserve."

The shelter is small enough to be flexible with the amount of time an animal is held. Occasionally an animal is held up to a month or six weeks.

"We don't have the luxury to do that routinely," says McCulloch. "The average can be anywhere from 5-7 days."

The shelter is paid by the government for the first three holding days.

"The ideal would be not to have to euthanize at all, but then everyone would have to have their dog or cat neutered," she says.

The shelter is the animal licensing authority for Bryan-College Station, and all pets should be licensed. To get a license, the owner must bring proof that the dog or cat is currently vaccinated by a vet licensed to practice in Texas. The cost of the license is \$5.

The shelter is the animal licensing authority for Bryan-College Station, and all pets should be licensed. To get a license, the owner must bring proof that the dog or cat is currently vaccinated by a vet licensed to practice in Texas. The cost of the license is \$5.

"If an animal comes in here with a city license on, and it's been injured, we'll even secure emergency medical care for it," says McCulloch. "It's the best \$5 health insurance policy I know of for an animal," says McCulloch.

Parkway Medical Clinic

**20% Discount**  
to A&M Students & Faculty

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon.-Sat.  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

Parkway Shopping Center-next to Kroger's & TG&Y 693-0202

**Pizza Inn**

**Who needs COUPONS?**  
**We don't at PIZZA INN.**

FREE DELIVERY  
BUFFET  
MON. THRU FRI.  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
SUN, TUES. AND WED. NIGHT  
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

413 So. Texas Ave. 846-6164

**Sale-a-brate Your Accomplishment**

**50% off All Loose Diamonds**  
**Until March 21**

Layaway Plans Available

Mon.-Fri. 9:00-5:30  
Sat 9-5

Visa, MasterCard, American Express  
415 University (Parking In Rear) 846-5816

**SAVE .60**

**DANVER'S**  
President's  
**ALL AMERICAN MEAL!**

**Best 'N' Biggest Burger**

**Golden Brown French Fries & 16 OZ DRINK**

**ONLY \$2.24**

RESTAURANT

**SAVE .60**

**GI**

**General Meeting**

Monday Feb. 18  
7 pm 407 Rudder

MSC Hospitality Presents

# A Night In The South

The 1985  
Miss Texas A&M  
University Scholarship  
Pageant

February 23rd 7:00  
Rudder Auditorium

students \$4.00  
non-students \$7.00

performance by the  
Singing Cadets

Mistress of Ceremonies  
Sheri Ryman