

State and Local

Animal shelter helps pets find owners by using tag numbers

By Jamie Russell
Reporter

A small, blond cocker spaniel is picked up by an animal control officer on the Texas A&M campus. The dog is bewildered but finds refuge at the Brazos Animal Shelter where the workers try to make out the numbers on its 1986 North Carolina tag, 99-?

The third number looks mostly like a seven, so the workers decide to call North Carolina with the dog's description — no luck.

As one of the workers hangs up another line rings. It is a local woman who has lost her dog — a cocker spaniel with North Carolina tags.

For the workers at the shelter, this is their reward — seeing a pet returned to its home. But rewards don't always come so easily and locating owners can be quite difficult if the pets don't have Brazos County tags.

Brazos County pet-license tags are available at local veterinarian offices and the shelter. They ensure pets extended impoundment and emergency veterinary care if needed.

Patty Arreola, humane educator for Brazos Animal Shelter, said they have no way of identifying pets without tags.

Strays are kept a minimum of only three days unless they have tags, and then they are put in a category of animals to be put to sleep, she said.

If the animal has county tags, an all-out effort by the shelter to contact the owners is implemented, which sometimes lasts for months. A certified letter is the last resort before an animal is put to sleep.

More than 8,000 animals per year are received by the shelter for one reason or another, Arreola said.

The animals arrive at the shelter

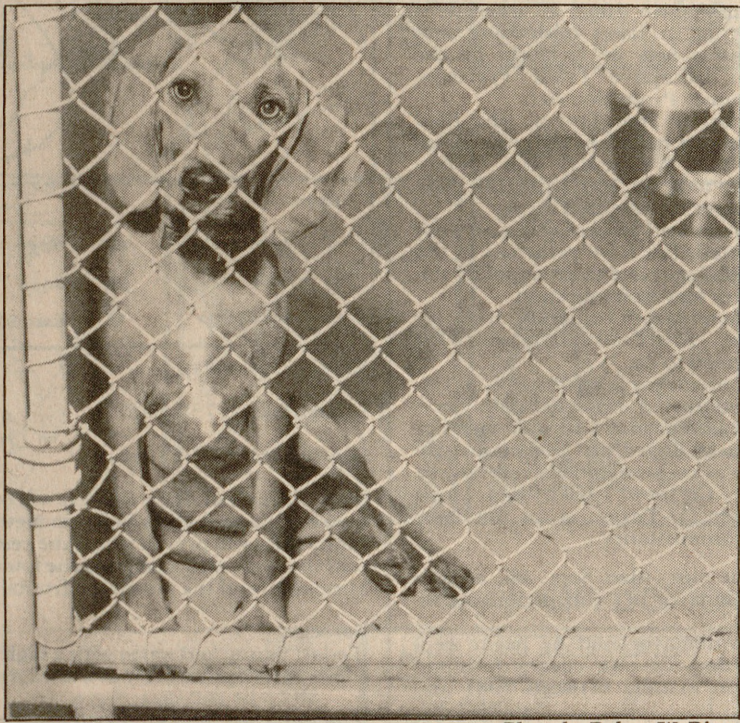


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

A red-bone hound casts a forlorn look at passers-by in the Brazos Animal Shelter's kennel area.

in several ways, she said. Many animals are brought in by Bryan-College Station animal-control officers.

Others are brought in by concerned citizens who find strays roaming their neighborhood or in their yards and still others are brought in by families who cannot keep the animals.

Monnie Bond, kennel supervisor, said educating the public is the main objective.

Shelter workers teach about spaying and neutering, tagging, leash laws and procedures for finding missing pets, Bond said.

Arreola said they also have set up formal education programs. There is an animal-care program set up for elementary-school children, kindergartners and sixth-graders. Special classroom presentations for civic groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and

other local groups also have been established, she said.

"We try to make ourselves available," Arreola said.

Informative brochures and kits also can be found at the shelter, which is at 2207 Finfeather Road.

Only about 23 percent of the animals at the shelter are adopted or claimed by their owners, Bond said. More than 6,000 animals are euthanized by the shelter every year.

To help keep more animals alive, the shelter encourages adoption.

Applications are reviewed by an adoption committee that will not place a pet in a new home until it is convinced the applicant will provide a permanent and responsible home, Bond said.

The adoption fee is \$45 for a dog and \$40 for a cat. This includes a \$25 veterinarian fee that covers a coupon for a free examination and rabies vaccination, a \$5 license fee, and shelter fees. A discount for neutering and spaying also is offered by participating vets.

The spring and summer are usually good times to adopt because about 1,000 animals are impounded a month then, compared to roughly 600 in an average month, Bond said.

This overwhelming number is due to the breeding season and the fact that the community is more transient then and tends to leave animals behind, Bond said.

Unclaimed strays are evaluated daily on the basis of health, age, socialization and adoptability to determine which ones will be euthanized first after the mandatory three-day period, said Kathy Ricker, executive director of the center.

Breeds in greater demand and healthy, well-behaved dogs usually will be kept longer than three days, Ricker said.

Professor: Businesses from U.S. must learn new methods abroad

By Elisa Hutchins
Staff Writer

American businesses making the move into Japan need to learn a whole new way of conducting business, an assistant professor of finance at A&M said Wednesday night.

About 50 people watched "The Colonel Goes to Japan," a film that described the success of the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain in Japan, and heard comments from Lawrence C. Wolken, administrative director of the Center for International Business Studies and a visiting professor from the University of International Business and Economics in Peking.

"American business operates in a very narrow scope and we don't know too much about the rest of the world," he said. "We think that our way is the only way to operate."

He said the barriers to business in Japan are the language and social customs that are routinely overlooked by Americans.

The film backed Wolken's statements. Kentucky Fried Chicken began operating in Japan in 1972 and has 342 stores. The chain opens an average of 50 new stores a year and does \$200 million in yearly business with the help of Japanese personnel.

Employees come to work at Japanese KFC for their entire careers, compared to Americans who change jobs frequently and work at food places while in school or until they find a better job.

Menu adaptations are smoked chicken as well as fish and chips. Marketing personnel have

adapted display windows at storefronts with plastic replicas of the food because Japanese like to see what the food will look like.

Before any new KFC store opens in Japan the manager personally greets all the shop owners on the block as part of a 300-year-old public relations custom. A Shinto priest blesses the store at the grand opening.

Wolken said the chain did so well because they adapted their stores and their way of doing business. Church's Fried Chicken, a San Antonio-based firm, opened stores in Japan before KFC, but are not doing as well.

"Japanese businesses are more concerned than the United States with the quality of a product," he said. "They are also the most polite and unassuming people in the world. They will not be as aggressive as Americans in doing business because they want to preserve group harmony."

He also said college graduates who go to work at companies such as Toyota in top management positions spend up to six months in each area of the firm. They go from the assembly-line to the marketing department. They also meet the people who are affected by their management decisions.

Tetsu Sasaki, a 25-year-old ocean engineering major from Osaka, Japan, said he agreed with Wolken.

"Americans need to come down from their ivory tower and change their ways, or they won't survive in international business," Sasaki said.

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