

Thursday, May 3, 1990

'Be Kind to Animals Week' brings discounts

Shelter encourages pet adoption

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

Becoming the proud parent of a new pet costs \$15 less than usual this month at the Brazos Animal Shelter. The shelter is participating in the Purina Pet Parent Program, a national program that donated money to animal shelters across the nation to reduce pet adoption costs.

The program is helping cut costs during Be Kind To Animals Week, Sunday to May 12, and the entire month of May.

With the discount, adoption fees are \$25 for cats and \$30 for dogs at the local animal shelter.

Patty Arreola, humane educator at the Brazos Animal Shelter, said the discount will continue throughout May or until funds are depleted.

During this time of year there are many homeless animals, and with this program it is hoped these animals can find a home, Arreola said.

"This is the time of the year when all of the dogs and cats start having their puppies and kittens," Arreola said. "Many well-intentioned people find out they can't find homes for their puppies and kittens."

She said these people often bring the animals to the shelter as a last resort.

"This time of year we get boxes and boxes of unwanted puppies and kittens that people bring in, or

maybe people find them dumped somewhere," Arreola said.

It is important people know what they are getting themselves into before they adopt a pet, she said.

"The joys of pet ownership are endless, but they also are a lot of work — they take a lot of time and money," she said.

One of the messages of the adoption program, she said, is that a pet is a life-long commitment and people need to think before adopting one.

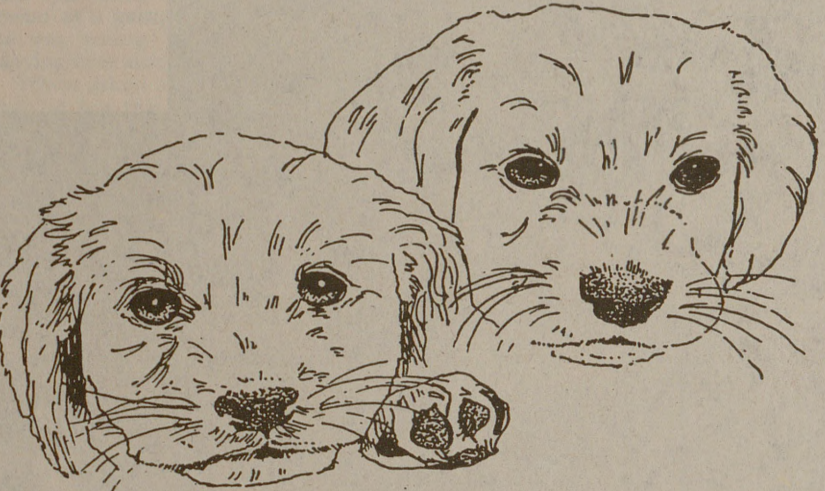
This is the third year the shelter is participating in the Pet Parent Program.

Arreola said the response has been tremendous each year. During the program last year the number of adoptions almost doubled.

All pets adopted from the shelter have been started on their shots, Arreola said.

With the adoption fee, "parents" can get discounts on many veterinary services for their new pet.

The discounts are coupons that can be taken to local veterinarians. They include a free rabies shot, an office visit to the vet, a county tag, a distemper shot, worming and spaying or neutering discounts.



Program cares for aging animals

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

It sounds good enough for retired folks, but this geriatric center is just for animals.

The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine is designing a program called the Surviving Companion Animal Program, where care will be provided to aging animals whose owners are no longer able to look after them.

The animals will be cared for on a day-to-day basis with a resident veterinarian who will see them everyday," said Dr. Edwin W. Ellet, direc-

tor of the Companion Animal Geriatric Center.

The program's purpose is to provide information about the aging process of companion animals to veterinarians and students, Ellet said.

The animals will be observed to establish information intended to benefit all older animals.

Observations will target geriatric and genetic disorders, responses to accepted therapies and influences of nutrition, he said.

Ellet stressed that absolutely no experimentation will be conducted on the animals. He also said animals will not be kept in cages but in a clean, spacious environment.

The facility, which is planned to undergo construction this summer, is designed to hold 60 animals at one time.

If the program proves a success, the facility will be expanded to house more animals, he said.

"Primarily dogs and cats are the companion animals we accept, but we will accept others if they are eligible," Ellet said.

Information about the program can be obtained by calling Ellet at 845-5051.

Police issue crime alert

The end of the year is a time the Texas A&M University community experiences an increase in personal item thefts.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar and officer Betty LeMay with the Texas A&M University Crime Police Crime Prevention Unit sent memos to deans, directors and department heads warning of theft increase.

Purses, wallets, backpacks and books are examples of items that are being taken.

The memo says the opportunity is provided to thieves when students or faculty members leave valued items unattended or unsecured. Awareness to the problem is the first step in reducing theft.

An unlocked office is an open invitation to thieves. The crime prevention specialists recommend equipment and computers be properly secured and personal items locked in a drawer or kept out of sight.

Suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the University Police.

Suspicious activity includes (but is not limited to) someone randomly checking doorknobs for unlocked offices or labs, a stranger asking personal or operational-type questions or someone carrying equipment away to their personal vehicle.

'Gambler's House' earns recognition

Players win best production

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's Aggie Players won best production award for its English version of "Gambler's House" at the 15th Annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival in El Paso.

"Gambler's House" was written by dramatist Antonio Mira de Amescua in 1616.

The Aggie Players had the only festival entry from the United States and the only entry performed in English.

This was one of the first times A&M or any American theater group had participated in the festival.

Jennifer Tyler, associate director of "Gambler's House," said the play's first-time translation from English to Spanish posed a difficulty with the play's presentation.

"Gambler's House," known in Spanish as "La Casa del Tahir," was translated to English specifically for the Aggie Players by Vern Williamsen, a retired professor from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Williamsen, who received an award for discovering the play, came to A&M and worked with the script and cast.

He later came back for the run of the show.

Mary Ellen Brennan, who played the role of the mother, said Williamsen was a great help.

"He changed some of the idioms that did not work to make the script sound more natural," she said. "He said it was a neat synthesis for him to have the old script, the new script and the actors all together."

Tyler said the verses of Spanish Golden Age theater pieces, such as "Gambler's House," are similar to Shakespeare.

"Our actors, directors, and technicians know Shakespeare, but in 'Gambler's House' it was hard to find

contemporary themes, yet keep it in that era," she said.

Jeff Dench, a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was a guest artist in "Gambler's House."

He played the role of Marcelo, the gambler's father, and won the best actor award in the festival's profes-

"The language of "Gambler's House" was difficult and you had to be articulate. And Dench, being renowned in British verse, helped."

— Mary Ellen Brennan, Actress

sional category.

Dench has performed previously with the Aggie Players in its production of "King Lear."

Brennan said Dench's knowledge of British verse helped her performance.

"The language of "Gambler's House" was difficult and you had to be articulate," she said. "And Dench, being renowned in British verse, helped."

Other awards the Aggie Players received at the festival included recognition for Jimmy Humphries' set design and best supporting actor for David Roberto. Roberto played Rogue, the gambler's know-it-all sidekick.

The Siglo de Oro festival was originally organized as part of the bicentennial festivities in 1976.

The festival attracts theater groups from South America, Spain, Mexico and the United States to Chamizal National Memorial Park in El Paso.

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