

## Brazos Animal Shelter

STORY BY JOHN SALERNO • GRAPHIC BY CHAD MALLAM

### ADOPT-A-PET



This Friday, animals will party with humans. Movies, doing each others' hair and playing Nintendo may be missing from this pajama party, but someone may find their new best friend at the Brazos Animals Shelter Pet Pajama Party.

"We make a party event out of it and make a difference," said Ashley Wesp, operations supervisor for the shelter.

The Brazos Animal Shelter runs four big adoption events each year, including the Pet Pajama Party, this year on Friday, July 27 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Although the party began as an outlet for kitten adoptions four years ago, the Pet Pajama Party has become a much bigger annual event that allows for the adoption of many animals.

Three out of four animals are adopted at the shelter — well above the national average of one in four animals — thanks to sponsored events like the Pet Pajama Party. The only requirements to take advantage of the half-price adoptions are pre-approved applications (before 6 Friday, July 27) and pajamas. People hoping to adopt spend an evening in their pajamas interacting with their soon-to-be pets and

prospective pet owners.

The Brazos Animal Shelter in Bryan offers services that allow the potential pet owner to make a careful and sound decision before adopting an animal. But the shelter also provides many other services not related to adoption, such as "microchipping" for permanent identification of pets.

Wesp said the shelter also has "an impound service where the public can

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bring up stray animals and the owner can claim them."

Adoption, however, is the shelter's main service.

"We make our staff knowledgeable of the different breeds and behaviors of the animals," said Mary Haislet, humane education coordinator for the shelter. This is to ensure the organization is efficiently run prior to the animal's adoption.

The shelter deals mostly with cats and dogs of all ages but occasionally one might find rabbits, hamsters, birds, and even goats. Strays are captured by animal control or brought in by the public.

Precautions are taken while the ani-

mals remain at the shelter, waiting for adoption. Even further care is taken once a potential owner expresses interest in an animal.

"Basic vaccinations help us control disease in our building and help for long-term protection of the animal if it's adopted," Wesp said.

"Once someone has come in and picked out an animal they are interested in, an application is filled out that involves checking the landlord [of the potential adopters housing] and the person's history," Wesp said.

Wesp also said that the animal shelter considers "why [the person] wants to adopt the animal. Has the person thought of where [the pet] would stay when the person travels, who will finance the pet and we make sure they are considering the fact that it is a long term commitment." Even the veterinary history of the potential owner's previous pets are examined by the shelter.

Many of these potential owners are not students, but families in Bryan, as well as many others who come from different counties and states. With such a diverse clientele, it is important to promote the shelter. The publicity ranges from weekly newspaper ads, radio spots and television advertisements. They also advertise on an Internet Website with "Pet Finders," that helps out-of-state customers choose a pet and have it sent to that state.

The animals cannot be chosen in advance, but for college students interested in adopting a new pet, the Pet Pajama Party offers a good opportunity to do so.

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## Thursday

Ladies, Lids & Longnecks

75¢ Mixed Drinks } 9-11  
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\$2.50 Chuggers  
ALL NIGHT

Ladies 18 & up FREE 'til 11  
Ladies 21 & up FREE 'til midnight  
Guys with Cowboy Hats FREE 'til 10

## Friday

CHARLIE ROBISON  
LIVE

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00  
\$2.50 Chuggers all night

- Tickets -  
\$8.00/advance \$10.00/door  
Tickets available at Cavenders  
& Hurricane Harry's