

Shelby County Humane Society

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Message from the Executive Director: Barb Zekausky

Hi Everyone,

Last month I started a series of articles to tell you how Shelby County Humane Society hopes to work within its own walls to help Shelby County become a No Kill community. To do so, a series of programs and services will be put in place to lower birthrates, keep animals with their responsible caregivers, improve rates of redemption, keep animals healthy, well-socialized, and—above all things—alive while in the shelter's care, while vastly increasing adoptions. These programs are collectively called the "No Kill Equation". The No Kill Equation is the only model that has created a No Kill community anywhere and consequently the model that must be followed if a county is sincere in its desire to replicate No Kill success.

First we need to define No-kill. This doesn't mean that no animals die in our shelters. It is the philosophy of true no-kill shelters that it is a community where all healthy and treatable animals, including feral cats, are saved.

So let's define healthy. Healthy is any weaned dog or cat that shows no signs of behavioral or temperamental defect that would pose a health or safety risk that would make it not suitable to be placed as a pet. Another criterion is that there is no sign of disease or congenital condition that would adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

Next we have to define treatable. A treatable animal is not healthy but could become healthy with reasonable effort. There are four factors that determine if an animal is treatable and we rely upon our shelter vet to make these determinations. 1. Diagnosis, 2. Prognosis, 3. Painful rehabilitation or suffering and 4. Length of rehabilitation.

Finally we need to define Feral Cat. A cat is feral if it is under-socialized or not socialized to people.

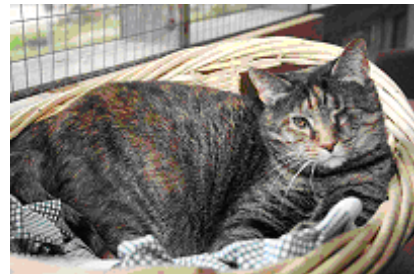
We know that vicious dogs can't be placed in the community and these dogs are killed. However, that does not include, scared, shy, frightened, or under socialized dogs.

So that is our definition of no kill. Next month I will talk about accountability. Have a great month.

Another Happy Ending...

Jackie's Story

By Lisa Lynch



One cold morning as an SCHS employee arrived at the shelter she noticed a pet carrier sitting on the porch. She knew immediately that she was going to find an abandoned pet. She hurriedly brought the carrier in out of the cold, and looked inside. She could see two large adult cats stuffed into the tiny carrier. When the door opened out walked a beautiful cat with long tabby/white fur and big green eyes. A smile came upon the employee's face for she knew that this beautiful and friendly girl would be a quick adoption. Beautiful longhaired cats are always placed quickly. The smile would soon fade and her heart would fill with sadness as the second cat timidly stepped from the carrier. Jackie was a shorthaired tortoise shell with one eye. The eye that remained was smaller than normal and she appeared to have possible vision problems. It was going to be hard to find a home for Jackie because of her disability.

As suspected Jackie's longhaired friend was soon adopted but Jackie would remain at the shelter. She was placed in an open cat room but this was too much for Jackie. She was very intimidated by all the other cats zipping around her and this created too much stress. Jackie was placed in a small back office and given, as much personal attention as possible but unfortunately that was limited due to the need of so many animals. Jackie was friendly, loving and she deserved and needed her own home.

As people came to the shelter looking for a feline companion Jackie was always shown, but never adopted. People would see her and make comments like "Oh that is so sad, but she is not what I'm looking for" or "Oh my, I don't think I could stand to look at that every day!" (continued on next page).

Jackie' Story continued.....

These comments were not only heart breaking for Jackie but also to the SCHS employees. How could people not see what a wonderful and loving cat they were missing out on?

Jackie had been with us for 18 months when her picture and a brief bio were run in our local paper. Our faith in humanity was soon restored as many phone calls came into the shelter with concern for Jackie. One particular phone call stood out and seemed destined to be just right for Jackie. A very kind woman called about Jackie and told us that she had other pets that she had rescued, but her husband had said that there were to be no more brought home. She told us that she no longer looked at the pet ads in the paper because they broke her heart and she knew she could do no more. She said that her husband had read Jackie's story and then threw the paper in garbage. It obviously tugged at his heartstrings because he pulled the paper out of the garbage and told his wife to read it. She called and said, "I have to have this cat! My husband had tears in his eyes when he told me about Jackie and she has to come live with us!" When the wife came to the shelter to meet Jackie it was very obvious this was meant to be. "Jackie is beautiful and so sweet and loving...how could no one want her?!" Jackie was adopted by this fantastic family and all the reports have been wonderful.

Jackie has taken up residence in the master bedroom and bath. She quickly became the husband's cat. and makes sure he is up on time and shares his morning paper with him. Jackie is very loved and is returning it a thousand fold. "She is wonderful, fun, and so sweet. We are so happy that she is a member of our family".

We are thrilled at SHCS to meet such wonderful people and we could not be happier for Jackie. It was a long time coming but Jackie finally got the wonderful and loving home she so deserved. Thanks to all who showed care and concern for Jackie and a special thanks to the wonderful people who took her home.

Special Adoptable Pets



Howie came to us as a very young and sickly kitten. The damage to his eye was too far gone and we were unable to save his sight in one eye. Howie continues to have sinus issues as well. He is such a sweet youngster and deserves to feel good and have a home that will accept him as he, is without restrictions.



Toby, is an Australian shepherd mix that has been in our program for three years. He is a very pretty dog that loves to play with toys. He loves to fetch. Toby needs a job to do. He is very intelligent and trainable. He needs room to run and an experienced dog person to play with him or work him. He gets along well with other dogs but will chase cats. He is no longer house broken due to living outside for so long but he is a quick learner and would train fairly easily. Once bonded with his new owner he will make a loyal friend.

Wish List

Bleach
Paper Towels
Laundry & Dishwashing Detergent
Q-tips/Cotton Balls
Rubbing Alcohol
Dog and cat beds
Canned cat and dog food
Cat and dog treats
Comforters/blankets/sheets/bath rugs
Towels

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October is Adopt A Shelter Dog Month



Darla is a wonderful little girl looking for her forever lap! She came from a kill shelter where she was in a cage scared and huddled in the corner. It takes her a little while to warm up, but once she does she gives you her total love and devotion. Darla likes to snuggle under the blankets with you at bedtime. She is approximately 1-2 years old and weighs around 10lbs. She has the most beautiful green eyes that look up at you and say love me. She is best suited for someone with older children (she probably would prefer an older couple with no kids) and no other lap dogs since she feels she should be the center of your attention.



This poor old girl was relinquished by her owners. She has lived her life in an outdoor kennel. **Kyra** is 9 years old. She is full of spunk and still likes to play. Kyra would love to be an indoor dog. She gets along with other animals.

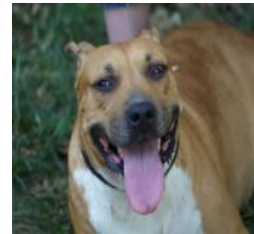


Gracie was rescued from our local animal shelter. She loves people and loves to get attention. Gracie is outgoing and loves to lay in your lap. She is crate trained. We think that she is a Boston-Beagle mix. She has a Beagle bark however her personality is Boston Terrier. We estimated her to be 1-2 years of age. She is about 20-25 lbs.

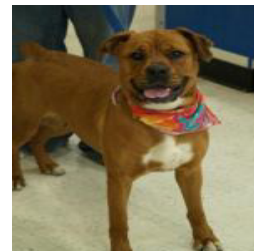
October is Adopt A Shelter Dog Month



Hit on the road and left for dead. **Babydog** was lucky that someone spotted her lying on the side of the road. She had severe injuries and a concussion. It took months of rehab for Babydog to get better. She is now very healthy and happy. She is estimated to be 9 -10 years old. She loves cats and other dogs. She has been around children and appears to do great. She is housebroken and well mannered.



Momma has been at our shelter for way too long. She came in two years ago with 8 puppies. She was a wonderful mother and very trusting of humans with her babies. She is estimated to be 3-4 years old. She is very friendly and loves people. She listens well and gets along with cats and dogs. She is crate trained.



Cici is estimated to be 3 years old. Cici had been kept in a small cage her entire life. Fortunately for her and her brother, they were relinquished by their owner. She is enjoying playing in a fenced back yard with the other dogs. Cici is crate trained. For a dog who has been kept outdoors, she has adjusted nicely to being inside and getting attention. Cici will bark for attention, but will quiet down. She is a wonderful girl looking for a fresh start.

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October's Featured Adoptable Cats



Nina wants everyone to know that she is not fat, she is just extra, extra fluffy and that just means there is more of her to love! This sweet girl has everything you could want in a furry friend. She loves to play and is an extra sweet lap cat. Nina came to us as a youngster but has been over looked many times because she is black. Nina has all the special qualities that anyone could want in a family companion. Don't let old superstitions keep you from adopting one of the sweetest cats you could ever meet.



Ghost is an extremely handsome big boy. He is very vocal and loves attention. Ghost is a very loving and gentle companion cat but gets nervous with lots of chaos. He would be a wonderful addition in a quieter home. When he is not being brushed, petted, or sharing in a conversation he likes to spend his time lounging.

Spread the Word:

Every Tuesday, Dr Teresa Gregory runs a low cost spay and neuter clinic at the Shelby County Humane Society. Rabies shots and Vaccines are also available at a reduced cost.

These services are for everyone - not just residents of Shelby County. Please call **633-4033** to set up your appointment.

Your Garbage can help our Animals

Please bring any of the following to the shelter or Big Time Bingo (Thursday & Sunday nights).

- * Aluminum cans
 - * Aluminum can pull tabs
 - * Empty printer ink cartridges
 - * Newspaper
 - * Cell phones
-

Looking for that special someone.....?

There are many wonderful companions awaiting adoptions. All of our animals are spayed/neutered, micro chipped, up to date on vaccines and have been treated for fleas. Cats have been tested for feline leukemia. Dogs have been heartworm tested.

While many of our animals are listed on Petfinder: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/KY07.html> - there are some that may have not been listed yet. If you can not find what you are looking for, please call us and we can help you.

The shelter is open to the public for adoptions on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 1 - 5 PM. If these times are not convenient, please contact Lisa Lynch, Shelter Manager or Melissa Wright, Assistant Director @ **633-4033** and they can help facilitate a meeting time.

All our dogs, reptiles, birds, rodents and rabbits are in foster care, so in order to set up a 'date', it is best to contact the foster parent listed on petfinder or call Melissa Wright to facilitate a meeting.

Adoption Numbers:

Melissa Wright: **633-4033**; 220-6212

Lisa Lynch: **633-4033**; 220-2014

Check out our new website:

www.shelbycohumanesociety.com