



Foster Families Needed to Support Montgomery County Animal Shelter “No Kill” efforts

CONROE, TX Feb 19, 2009: Although many professionals and volunteers are improving the environment and adoption rates at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter (MCAS), the best stay for an animal at MCAS is a short stay. The sooner an animal can be moved out of the shelter, the better its chances of staying healthy and adapting quickly to a new life. Ideally, the new home is a permanent one, but a temporary foster home will do.

Montgomery County Animal Shelter (“MCAS”) announced “No Kill” for the month of February. This ambitious undertaking is a pilot test for MCAS in its effort to become a No Kill animal shelter. The shelter has become overcrowded and unfortunately does not have the resources to insure that all of the animals are receiving the medical attention that they deserve.

“We are 19 days into our No KILL month and we desperately need the support of our citizens by fostering a pet to keep the animals healthy” states Jackie Gregory, Foster coordinator. Fostering can be a rewarding experience for the family and a life saving event for the animal. “We have achieved our spay/neuter goals so that animals can be adopted out. However, we have been receiving 70-100 stray, abandoned, and unwanted animals per day – so the animals are starting to get sick. If we could have a foster family take the animals post surgery, we could prevent the illnesses,” cites LaJeane Thompson, Shelter Administrator.

This is a citizen issue that unfortunately affects the lives of these poor animals. “If the public took advantage of low cost spay/neuter services and micro-chipping provided by the shelter *and* they put Pet ID tags on their animals, we might not have the

over-population issue we do today.” States Marci Glennon, Marketing volunteer. Each citizen in Montgomery county can help in our struggle to become NO KILL by spay and neutering their own animals and encourage others to do so. MCAS recently opened a spay/neuter clinic open to the public. The Woodlands Dog Park Club <http://www.thewoodlandsdogparkclub.org/> offers spay/neuter vouchers to low-income or disadvantaged homes. “It’s truly a tragedy to see litters of puppies and kittens being dropped off at the front door. We have to find foster families to help care for them” Marci says.

While in foster care your MCAS animal will receive all vaccines and medical needs at no cost. Jackie states “All we ask is that you open your homes and your hearts to these innocent animals. We coordinate several off-site adoption events every weekend and fostered animals are always welcome at these events. The more exposure a foster has to the public the better chance of finding a forever family.”

To be approved to foster shelter animals, a candidate must complete an application evaluating their suitability to care for a pet. Fostering requires time to devote to playing, training, and walking the animal if necessary. A sick or young animal will need more supervision and medical care. A fenced yard is advised for fostering a dog, and foster cats and kittens need to be kept indoors. Foster families must commit to taking the animals to off-site adoption events twice a month. Veterinary care is available through the shelter or Friends of Montgomery County Texas Animal Shelter <http://www.fmctas.org>, the shelter’s non-profit support organization. Lastly, foster families who already have dogs must have them vaccinated against bordetella. MCAS offers this low-cost vaccination.

If you are interested in fostering please contact Jackie Gregory, MCAS Foster Coordinator at <mailto:fosters@mcasvolunteers.org>.

About Montgomery County Animal Shelter

Montgomery County Animal Shelter is located in Conroe, Texas. MCAS maintains a shelter to protect, house, feed, and if necessary, euthanize the stray, injured, abused, or unwanted animals within the county. Adoptions and redemption of stray animals, as well as lost and found pet files are handled through the facility. MCAS finds forever homes and provide temporary shelter for all savable abandoned and unwanted animals while promoting responsible animal care and ownership. More information can be found at <http://montgomerycountypets.com/animal/index.shtml>.