



DAWGS n Texas

DALHART ANIMAL WELLNESS GROUP AND SANCTUARY

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DAWGS is 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

Dear Dawgs Family,

Ten years ago, this month, the Dalhart Animal Wellness Group and Sanctuary (DAWGSnTEXAS) was born. One fateful day, long ago, my fourth grade reading class saw an article in the local newspaper regarding animals for adoption at the Dalhart Animal Control. Four nine year old girls came to my desk and asked me, "What happens to the dogs if they don't find a home? It was one of those moments where you hesitate and think, do I tell them the truth, try to change the subject or just lie to them...I opted for the truth. I told them that they would be put to sleep if they didn't find homes and encouraged them to tell their friends and family to adopt. Then they asked, "Why do the dogs have to die and is there something we can do about it? After discussing this with my husband, we both agreed to help the kids take action, noting "how many animals could there be?" It would be such a great project to teach children about compassion, love and empathy for animals while saving lots of animals...we had no idea what we were getting into or how many homeless animals there were.

The shelter was officially started, April 1, 2003 and we have faced so many man-made and nature-made obstacles in our endeavors to save the lives of the animals in our care. We were forced to move and rebuild during a blizzard while safely moving 800 animals during the storm. This was a result of the eviction from our city so they could build a rail spur, which they determined after we moved, couldn't even be done through that property. Only because of YOU have we persevered through the many challenges we have faced. We work tirelessly adopting dogs and cats into their forever homes and moving animals to other no kill facilities. We are again #9, in the nation, for adoptions through our mobile adoptions at PETCO, adopting 1,276 dogs and cats in 2012. As of today we have now rescued over 8,000 dogs and cats and adopted 7,035 into their forever homes. The students who started the shelter, have all grown up and moved away to pursue careers or school—while sharing their love and compassion for animals.



We started 2013 with renewed hope for the future and for making a difference in the panhandle of Texas. Thanks to your help so many lives have been saved and forever changed. A visitor to our shelter recently shared her thoughts. She said what made the difference in DAWGS from so many others was we do not discriminate against any breed and take in all that we can save. She stated that in so many shelters there are animals no one can spend time with because they are either aggressive toward people or other animals, but at our shelter they all try to coexist and are patiently waiting for their special day.

TEDDY

Teddy was one of those waiting for someone special to find him. He had come to us from a kill shelter in Texhoma, OK and we had him for almost a year. He was a beautiful golden mix and was so friendly with everyone. During one of our mobile adoptions in Amarillo, a very nice woman was looking for a special dog to help at the hospital with children and to go with her to the Veterans' Home...there was something about Teddy that caught her eye. She adopted him, took him home, and today he is an excellent therapy dog. He loves to visit people and will softly lay his head on any welcoming lap to offer unconditional love for a gentle pat on the head.



SHAKER



Shaker is a little schnauzer that was picked up by animal control and was placed in the quarantine section at the Amarillo Animal Control. He was so sick, so skinny and so scared. One of our volunteers had gone to the shelter to pick up an unclaimed adopted dog and saw what a pitiful little creature he was. We took him immediately to the veterinarian and the vet determined he had diabetes and was going blind—probably caused by the diabetes. Thankfully, we were able to treat him and within a few days he was doing so much better. After several weeks of treatment, Shaker was ready for adoption. A young Science teacher came to adoptions and was looking for someone special to be part of his family and to be a classroom companion. He immediately spotted Shaker and knew he was the one. Today, Shaker is in a great family and has found his forever home plus his extended family of students. Thanks to your help and support, the miracle of his recovery and happiness was made possible.

MARY ANN

We have wonderful volunteers that make the difference each day with their love for the animals and their desire to help. Our senior volunteer is Mary Ann (81) and she has helped us from the very beginning. She faithfully would come out, every Sunday, to bring treats to the animals and give them a love. Mary Ann has a great love for collies and has rescued so many over the past ten years. Mary Ann's latest rescue, Abby recently passed away and Mary Ann was so devastated. A stray cat, Mr. Mac, who had been wandering the neighborhood for months, decided he needed to be inside to keep Mary Ann company ... to which she quickly agreed. They are both so happy now.





SOPHIA

Our youngest volunteer is Sophia (5), who went on her first rescue when she was two days old. A dog had been found in a large field, with our tags, and Sophia and her Mom and Dad stopped on the way home from the hospital to pick her up. Today Sophia loves to go on rescues, especially if it is puppies. There was a little Chihuahua that was running loose close to the main highway and we were trying to catch it but nothing was working! Sophia had watched everything from her car seat and as we were contemplating our next move she offered up, "I'm ready to help, I used my hand sanitizer so I won't give her any germs..." Having tried everything else, we let Sophia coax her into a corner and then we were able to safely catch her. Sophia then wiped her hands, put them on her hips and stated, "I told you Mommy I could do it, she could trust me...I am a good rescuer!" Sophia just loves dogs and cats!

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

We have lots of AMAZING volunteers but we especially want to thank Debbi, the Sams, Mo, Jay & Cassie, Heather, Karen, and Sandy for tirelessly giving up their Saturdays and lots of Sundays to help with our mobile adoptions.

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

We had no idea if the shelter would even last a month when it was started by the students who questioned why animals had to die—but ten years later, the wonder of saving and finding homes for the thousands and thousands of homeless animals lives on. Whether you have been with us from the beginning or just recently joined our journey, your help and support make the difference. We struggle every day to survive and it is your life-giving contributions that allow us the opportunity to save lives. As you know we receive no local, state or federal aid and all of our donations go directly to the care of the animals. (We have no administrative costs as these are all volunteered). **Thank you for being part of the journey, part of our lives and part of the success of caring for animals and finding them homes. PLEASE help us continue this journey by making a donation today.**

Love,

Mark and Diane and everyone from DAWGS

p.s. See the "Inspirational Broadway Barkers" article featuring DAWGSnTexas in Broadway Barks at (<http://broadwaybarks.wordpress.com/2013/05/02/inspirational-broadway-barkers-dawgs-n-texas/>.)

Keep your eyes on our website (www.dawgsntexas.org)...Our Ten Year Anniversary page is coming soon.