



Humane Happenings

The Official Newsletter of the
RUTHERFORD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
2010

We are still here!!

We have adoptable pets posted on the website. If you need to find a home for a pet, you may contact us to have your pet posted. We also post on petfinders.com and adoptapet.com. Our website facilitated 170 adoptions in 2009!

In addition, we have Adoptable Pets staying with our Foster Parents. If you are interested in adopting a pet or becoming a Foster Parent, just send us a message through our Website.

We have made the decision to use our resources to continue promoting the number one solution to our pet overpopulation problem - and that is spay/neuter. We offer spay/neuter vouchers to low or fixed income families in Rutherford County. We are available to you at our phone number:

828-286-0222

Our mailing address is still:

PO Box 998, Rutherfordton, NC 28139.

Our website (<http://rutherfordcountyhumesociety.org>) is always current, and you can contact us through the Web. You will receive a prompt reply.

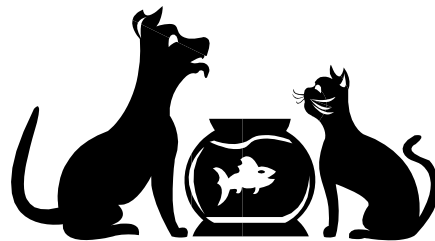
Read our stories of success inside:

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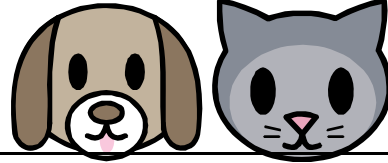
The Morris Caper—page 6



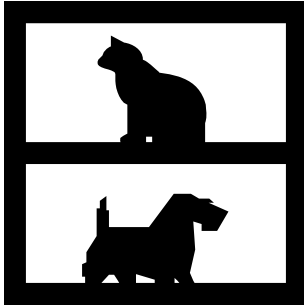
We meet quarterly on the 3rd Tuesdays in the months of January, April, July, and October at the County Annex Building in Rutherfordton. The Board will meet at 6:00 pm and the general membership at 7:00 pm. Members and visitors are welcome!

As always we would welcome your financial support. We appreciate our Humane Society members for your continued faithfulness. You make our work possible!

We Need Your Help!!



Our spay/neuter program has continued to exist because of your donations over the years. We are asking for your renewed support. Thank you for your commitment.



Pet Food for Families in Crisis

The loss of jobs has impacted many pet owners so much they can no longer buy food for their companion pets. The Humane Society provides pet food every month for families in crisis. If you would like to designate gifts for the purchase of pet food, your contribution will go toward this food distribution program.

Our Spay/Neuter Statistics for 2009

Low Income Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Cats Spay/Neutered	188
Dogs Spay/Neutered	205

Total Dogs & Cats Sterilized 393

Stray & Feral Program

Female Cats Spayed	198
Male Cats Neutered	111

Total Cats Sterilized 309

Stray Dogs Caught, Sterilized, & Adopted

Females	6
Males	4

Total Dogs Sterilized 10

Grand Total 712

Our Adoption Statistics for 2009

Dogs

Females	25
Males	24

Total Dogs Adopted 49

Cats

Females	66
Males	55

Total Cats Adopted 121

Total Cats and Dogs Adopted 170

These adoptions were largely facilitated through our website, although some were contracted through word of mouth or other ways. Many of the cats listed under the feral program were also essentially "adopted" by their caregivers as they agreed to feed them rather than take them to Animal Control. These ferals are not listed under our adoption numbers.

MommaDaddy

Joanna Street's brother had seen a person stop his car and put some small animals out on the side of the road, but when he went to look, the animals had gone into hiding.



For almost a week Joanna's family looked, hoping to rescue whatever had been abandoned. Finally they found a cat and three kittens in a nearby barn. All of them were in pitiful condition, very thin with matted eyes and runny noses. The Humane society paid for their initial vet visit and Joanna borrowed a large cage to accommodate the little family while she medicated, fed, and cared for them during their first week of recovery.

The following week they improved every day so Joanna knew it was time to take them back to Rutherford Veterinary Hospital for checkup, shots, and deworming. If they were well enough, she had four homes lined up for them.

Dr. Michelle Toms-Greene was happy to see the cat and kittens looking so well after their course of antibiotics and week of being warm and well fed. They were all easy to handle despite the ordeal they had been through. As she began to examine the momma, she made a discovery that had the whole office laughing. This cat who took care of three kittens during the cold week of abandonment was a young male! He had somehow kept those kittens alive and protected even though he had not been able to nurse them. He had had a powerful nurturing instinct that made him perfectly suited for his new name: MommaDaddy.

MommaDaddy was adopted by the people who owned the barn where the cats were originally discovered. He has become a treasured member of the family. He sits on the man's shoulder to watch TV every night! The Humane Society's Stray and Feral Program covered the cost of surgery and Joanna took responsibility for getting all the cats to the vet for their spay/neuter appointments. She herself adopted the kitten she named Moogle, who rules the roost at Joanna's house and keeps them all laughing at her antics.

There is a lesson for us all in the story of MommaDaddy. This little cat reached beyond his natural inclinations and abilities to somehow become protector and nurturer, even though he himself was not full grown. How I wish we could have seen what he did that week to preserve these kittens he found entrusted to his care. And the lesson for us? Shouldn't we be prepared to protect and nurture the companion animals that have been cast on the wayside and need our intervention to preserve their lives? They are entrusted to our care.

Adopted Kitten

Joanna adopted one of the kittens and named her Moogle. She writes: "Kittens and Christmas trees DO go together! She is being a good baby. Only tried to take off one ornament. She likes to look at the lights."



Catlady - Webmaster

Meet Carol West, the Catlady, our Webmaster. Since Carol got involved with the Humane Society in 2006, she has fostered countless cats and kittens for us.

But there are so many more cats, dogs, and people she has impacted in a positive way through the wonderful website she developed and daily maintains for us. Because she keeps the sight so current and responsive, we have seen a big jump in the number of adoptions to forever homes, not only for our own fosters, but also for many cats and dogs living in Rutherford County whose owners needed to find them new homes. Many of these would have been on their way to the pound were it not for Carol and her website.

Spice

I am a foster parent for some of the animals from the Rutherford County Humane Society. Spice came to me in June, 2009. She is an adult, spayed Doberman mix. I kept her in a temporary pen until she got adjusted to the area and my other dogs. She was very shy, and it took several tries before she came to me. After ten days, Spice got out of the pen and disappeared. I did everything I could think of as listed at:

<http://rutherfordcountyhumesociety.org/LostPets.html> , but Spice remained missing. After four days, not only did she return, but she put herself back in the pen. As she got more socialized, she would come out of the pen to play with my other dogs. But she would put herself



back in the pen when she wanted a break.

At the end of July, my sister, her husband and daughter came to visit. They fell in love with Spice, adopted her, and took her to their home in High Point, NC. I saw Spice in October. She had adjusted well to her new life with new people and three other dogs. She is mostly a "house" dog now. And she is no longer shy. She is a much loved and spoiled dog.

On April 5, my sister wrote:

Spice is doing just great! She is having a ball. She chases the squirrels, runs up and down the yard with the dogs on the other side of the fence and plays continuously with Dixie (the white and brown dog). She gets tons of physical affection and even moans with pleasure when you pet her. She has been good for Wendy (the older yellow Lab), too. When the other two go out to play, Wendy goes as well.

Spice gets walked with the other dogs at least twice a week around the neighborhood, and she sleeps in the bedroom with the other dogs.

She loves to bark at everything and is a good watch dog.

I was brushing Wendy the other day and Spice wanted attention. I started to brush her as well, and at first she backed away, but now she loves to be brushed.

She is such a good dog!!

Carol West
Webmaster and Foster Parent

While the Humane Society has been busy helping families and pets in financial crisis, we ourselves have also suffered the effects of the downturn in our nation's economy. We are no longer receiving the grants we once counted on to help us. We have continued our work, and even increased the number of pets we have helped. But our funds are almost depleted. We really need your help at this time to carry on our work.

Six in One Blow

Violet Rollins had just recently celebrated her one hundredth birthday when her neighbor called the Humane Society with Violet's problem. She and her caregivers had been feeding a stray cat and now there were six kittens, about six weeks old, feral, living under a little outbuilding behind the house. The Momma cat was tame, but the kittens always ran under the building when someone went out to feed them. Violet needed help!



We told the neighbor we would be able to trap the kittens, to spay and vaccinate the mother, and to offer to pay spay/neuter and vaccination costs for the kittens when they were old enough IF she could find adoptive homes for them. Imagine our surprise when the neighbor called the next day to say that Violet and the caregivers had found homes for all the kittens and were waiting for us to come trap. Homes for six kittens in 24 hours!

We instructed the caregivers not to feed the momma and kittens the day before we were planning to trap. Of course, we knew the kittens would have a snack on the side, courtesy of momma. We also told them to have the adopters prepared to pick up their kittens at Rutherford Veterinary Hospital before closing time that day. A flurry of phone calls followed as the adopters had relayed their doubts about finding kittens at the



vet's office. They were sure it would be impossible for us to round up six feral kittens in one day. To us the trapping in 24 hours would be a piece of cake compared to finding homes in 24 hours.

We telephoned from the car when we had parked in Violet's yard and one caregiver came out and got a carrier from us. They were able to coax the momma up the ramp and into the screened porch with no trouble and soon they signaled us that she was safely in the carrier. Then we went to work setting up our special trap about two feet away from the outbuilding. Violet with her walker and the other ladies joined us at the top of the ramp. We were a safe distance away from the kittens. We tightly held the string attached to the door of the trap to hold it open. We didn't have long to wait before the kittens were venturing out, circling the trap, and then entering as they found a little food trail leading them in. The critical time comes when all but two, and then one, are in the trap eating and you have to restrain yourself from dropping the door. There was a little bit of in and out activity, but finally number six crowded herself into the trap and we had them. I wish you could have seen the high fives and celebrating on Violet's ramp. We were all so elated we had to go in and sit on Violet's porch and take pictures and talk about how Violet and her caregivers were "The Cat Catchers" — and indeed they were the heroes of the day.

Violet calls to tell us how well Momma Kitty is doing, and she has pictures of the kittens in their new homes to share with us. We need to have more volunteers like these ladies who can find homes for six kittens in one day.

Megan Givens, East High student, helped us catch a mother dog and three puppies in Cliffside and then sponsored a carwash to raise \$160 for the RCHS and presented us with the check. Thank you, Megan!



Daniel's Extra Mile - The Morris Caper



Daniel Morelock contacted us offering to foster kittens back in March 2009. We soon realized Daniel has the special touch that enables him to tame feral kittens. His secret is a quiet, gentle approach, patience, persistence, and an indefinable sixth sense about felines. Daniel has tamed and adopted out 29 kittens/cats all together. He has transported his kittens to their new homes as far away as Charlotte, Spartanburg, and Asheville, and he has received prospective adopters into his own home. He drives kittens for their vet visits from his home near Hickory to Rutherford Veterinary Hospital. (He volunteers for Cat's Cradle in Morganton and PetSmart in Hickory as well.) We consider ourselves blessed indeed that he found us on our website and gave us that initial contact: *"Do you need anyone to foster kittens?"*

Recently Daniel came through a real kitten crisis with flying colors. Morris had begun his life as a feral kitten in Forest City. Long after his three litter mates were adopted out, Morris was still not ready. But as always seems to be the case, Daniel's method was irresistible and Morris finally succumbed to being a "follow you around, jump in your lap, sleep with you" kind of kitten. When Morris was put on the website, he was chosen by a boy in Union Mills. That Saturday Daniel met them in Marion on his way to Asheville and transferred Morris to his new family.

The boy who had chosen Morris held him all the way home to Union Mills, but he put him down on the ground before taking him inside. Morris was in a strange place and his immediate reaction was to run - which he did - into the woods! Morris was not about to be caught by

strange people! When the family contacted the Humane Society, we right away called Daniel in Asheville, and he drove over to Union Mills. When he got home late Saturday night, Daniel was very disheartened. The woods were thick and seemingly endless. He had little hope of ever finding Morris, but we encouraged him that a kitten would "go to ground" and remain hiding rather than travel a great distance.

Daniel wrote, *"I'm so upset that little Morris is out there all by himself. I feel I let him down. Like you said, they trust us and it doesn't feel very good when we fail. I was thinking on the way back that to foster kittens/cats you have to have a bit of a masochistic streak in you somewhere - how else can you explain going through the sadness every time one of your charges gets adopted?"*

On Sunday afternoon late, which would have been Morris' feeding time, Daniel went back to Union Mills and once again ventured into the dense woods. His heart must have been in his throat when he caught a glimpse of Morris - poised to run. Daniel knew instinctively what to do. He laid himself down in the thick brush, spoke softly to Morris, and waited.

Morris came.

Daniel took him home since the family was not there. He once again emailed: *"Morris is none the worse for the wear, but I have poison ivy, two ticks, and a spider bite."*

Four days later Daniel returned Morris to his adoptive home where he has happily settled in just as Daniel predicted he would.

★ Thank you to our friends ★
★ at Liberty Press for your ★
★ generous printing ★
★ assistance to the Humane ★
★ Society over the years. ★

Rutherford County Humane Society

P.O. Box 998
Rutherfordton, N.C. 28139
Phone 828-286-0222

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL: NEW

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Supporting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple	\$20.00
Patron:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple	\$45.00
Sponsor:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$50.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple	\$100.00
Advocate:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$125.00 and above

The Rutherford County Humane Society is a non-profit, private corporation chartered under the laws of North Carolina and having Federal Internal Revenue 501(c)(3) tax deductible status.

Please complete this form and enclose it with your membership contribution. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in using your personal envelope and postage so that we might apply these expenses for an animal in need.

