



## The White County Animal Shelter

We are featuring our White County Animal Shelter in this edition. Contributors include Stephanie Smith, Shelter Manager, and people who volunteer regularly: Monica Palamarchuck, Steve and Angie Goodwin Kuntz, and Tony and Donna Parker.

It's All About the Animals!

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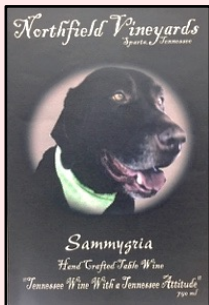
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### Stephanie Smith, White County Animal Shelter Manager

*We get many questions asked at the shelter, so, I would like to take this opportunity to answer some of the most common questions:*

#### **Where is the shelter located?**

The shelter is located at  
5600 Gum Springs Mountain Road  
Sparta, TN 38583

#### **What are the hours of operation?**

The shelter is opened, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, in an effort to get started we ask that you visit between 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, this gives us a chance to take care of any of the dogs with special needs, and get the place looking presentable for you.

#### **What, we have a shelter?**

Yes the county shelter has been in this location since August of 2008. There is also a shelter for the citizens within the city limits of Sparta on Bronson Street.

#### **Why don't you take cats?**

Our current set up and space is not equipped to humanely house our feline friends.

#### **Where do the dogs at the shelter come from?**

The majority of the dogs that come in are strays. When space allows we can take owner surrenders, we do have a fee to surrender your dog to the shelter. The fee is \$50.00 and it covers the cost of the vaccines, dewormer, flea and tick treatment, and the feeding and care of the dog.

#### **Are you a NO KILL Shelter?**

This is a tricky question, we are technically a kill shelter but we have not euthanized a dog in the last seven years due to space.

#### **So what happens to all the dogs that you take in?**

We try to rehome them or we work closely with local and out of state rescue groups?

#### **What's the difference between adoption and a rescue?**

Adoption is when a family or individual takes a dog into their home from the shelter to become part of their family. A rescue or (rescue group) takes 5-35 dogs at a time and they take care of the adoption process.

#### **How do you find rescue groups?**

We have been very fortunate and are grateful for our rescue partners. Several that we work with are local and they take in dogs from all the surrounding shelters. We have a Non-Profit group POPS that helps us with some of our out of state partners, through networking POPS has been able to transport many dogs for the shelter to Northern rescue partners.

#### **Why do you need rescue organizations?**

Over the last seven years the shelter has taken in 500 dogs a year, here is a recap of last year's statistics:

Intake: 533  
Return to Owner: 50  
Adopted: 37  
Rescued: 406  
Euthanized: 6

You are probably doing the math now, thinking these numbers do not add up and you would be correct, the remaining 34 dogs were (and some are still) calling the shelter home.

## What is the procedure to adopt a dog from the shelter?

The first step is to come to the shelter and meet the dogs. We have off leash play areas for you to interact with the dogs. Once you decide on your new best friend, there will be a little paperwork to fill out and paying the \$250.00 adoption fee. We call the vet, we take the dogs to Sparta Veterinary Services, schedule their appointment for spay/neuter, we take them to the doctor and when they are ready to go home with you, you go to the vet and pick up your new best friend.

## Your adoption fee seems high, what does it include?

Full Physical Exam  
Sterilization Surgery  
Pain Injection w/Laser Treatment  
Fecal Test\*\*  
Heartworm Test (6 Months and Older)\*  
Rabies Vaccination (If old enough at time of surgery)  
Therapeutic Ear Cleaning  
Nail Trim  
Take Home Pain Medication

Your new pet received the following the day he/she came into the shelter

DAPPv\*\*\*  
Bordetella (Done at Time of Adoption)  
Dewormer\*\*  
Capstar  
Flea and Tick Prevention  
Heartworm Prevention (5 Months and Younger)  
Microchip (Done at Time of Adoption)

\*We cannot guarantee a negative Heartworm test.

\*\* We cannot guarantee a negative fecal test

\*\*\*Boostered When Necessary

## What if my new best friend does have a positive fecal or heartworm test?

There will be a small additional charge at the vet if your dog has a positive fecal exam, they will sell you the dewormer to take care of the issue. If your new best friend tests positive for Heartworm Disease, we have a group that will pay the cost of treatment at Sparta Veterinary Services.

## We want to adopt a cat, why don't you have any cats or kittens at the shelter?

We do not have the space to humanely house cats at the shelter. We do take care of a feral colony, with the help of animal groups in White County and through donations from private citizens, we are able to trap the cats, get them sterilized, and release them to roam freely about the shelter grounds. This may not be an ideal life for them but we have been able to provide them with food & water and housing through donations. If you are looking to adopt a cat, there are several groups in the area that have cats and kittens available for adoption.

## Monica

I've been volunteering at the WCAS for over five years. Walking the dogs is my passion. Nothing makes me happier than to see how excited a dog gets when he/she is picked for the next walk. These dogs are cooped up in their kennels 24 hours a day. Taking them for a walk, letting them run and play in the play area is sometimes the only exercise they get all week. It's hard work, but so very rewarding. My goal is always to get all the dogs out the day I'm there. Sometimes, when the population is high it's impossible...and it breaks my heart to leave, knowing that not everyone got a walk. If more people would volunteer, even for just a few hours a week, these wonderful dogs would get more opportunity for exercise and socialization. Those of us that walk dogs would be more than happy to train anyone interested. Two of my dogs, Gordon and Lily, were adopted from the shelter. The third (DJ) came from a local private rescue. They're all wonderful dogs that just seem to "know" that you saved their lives. They give you unconditional love, and truly appreciate the fact that they ended up in a loving home. We also have six rescue cats living in our home and everyone gets along great.

*Wags and Purrs*

"No matter how little money  
and how few possessions  
you own, having a dog  
makes you rich."  
~Louis Sabin

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- **P**urchase customized license plates that benefit animals
- **A**dvocate for animals by writing to newspapers and legislative representatives
- **W**elfare legislation support for animals
- **S**ocial Media networking animals needing rescue or help
- **S**pay & Neuter your pets
- **A**dopt from shelters or rescues
- **V**olunteer with organizations that help animals
- **E**ducate kids to care for animals gently and responsibly
- **D**onate financially to organizations that help animals

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## Angie and Steve

Over several years we have been blessed with the love, fun, challenges and joy of rescuing three dogs from White County Animal Shelter (WCAS). Simon, a lab pit mix was rescued in 2014 after staying for about 6 months. He is a spirited dog with a tremendous "affection" for squirrels. Ike, a brindle pit, came "home" as a foster after 2 years at the shelter. We fell in love with him and failed as foster parents and he now has his permanent home with us in 2017. He is just nothing but a teddy bear and loves attention. Perry, a black lab pit mix spent about a year at WCAS. He was scared of everything but has improved so much since coming home 2019. He is just a big goof ball, stills growls at Dad but then wants to sit in his lap. He loves attention and wants to be touched all the time. Perry has come through ACL surgery and is doing great. All of the fur kids run free on about 7 fenced acres and are permitted to do what dogs do, enjoy life.

We truly enjoy assisting the shelter with volunteer opportunities whenever we can. In 2019 we transported 136 dogs in multiple trips to NY to be adopted at a rescue group. All of these dogs have found their forever home and enjoy their new families and the sofa in many cases. What a reward for both the dogs and all the humans involved in making these stories a success. We participate in the annual one day spring cleanup of weeding, planting, mulching and beautifying the grounds. We occasionally walk dogs or bring a dog home for a few days to allow them to "be free" and run on our property. There are always projects or daily needs we try to assist with as much as possible. Repairing whatever is needed, building and installing wash sink and cabinets, working on the van, whatever comes up.

If you want some dog therapy and unconditional love, there is a huge need for volunteers at the WCAS.

## Donna and Tony

Five years ago after a meeting at the courthouse, I went for my first volunteer day at White County Animal Shelter. When I came home I cried. Tony, my husband, said "You're not going to be able to do this, are you"? I honestly replied that I didn't know if I could or not, but I knew it would help the dogs. I started realizing that yes, you can go and help and at the same time understand that you can't take them all home. White County's animal shelter is like a well-run orphanage with staff who love and are dedicated to the animals. It's easy to sense that the dogs know they are being taken care of and they seem to understand that volunteers will be there to help them but will leave at the end of the day. That was five years ago. It didn't take long for Tony to start helping. We now both go for a fairly full day once a week in addition to other more sporadic duties. While there we walk dogs, play with them, help with small chores, and Stephanie the manager lets us feed the dogs (of course we become the heroes for the day). Because we live in the vicinity of the shelter, we're also able to go check on things when needed. We also serve as a source of help when dogs are being transported to rescue or transported back and forth to the vet. We have done a limited amount of driving for transports, too. Our newest activity is taking a dog to Happy Trails Brewery on Sunday afternoons. The owners of the brewery are animal lovers and advertise who we're bringing. It has been a great way to promote interest in the shelter and it has been a lot of fun.

The dogs know our vehicles so every time we go we're met with excitement. Just walking and playing with the dogs while at the shelter is physically demanding, though, and not for the faint of heart. Most of the dogs are big, strong, and haven't been out for a walk in a few days. We always come home very tired and very dirty. While we are there, we walk the dogs, but the main goal is to spend quality time with them. Yes, they need exercise, but the time spent just paying attention to and playing with individual dogs is just as important. We don't try to train the dogs, we just love them and give them a break from shelter life. There are still some instances that make you choke up, but the rewards far outweigh the sadness you might feel. And some of the choking up is when you say good-bye to one of your favorites because they're leaving on rescue or have been directly adopted. One of our favorites from the shelter needed help after two torn ACLs. We helped her through the surgeries and then we joined the ranks of foster failures. Hershey has been a good addition to our other four animal family.

If White County didn't have the quality shelter that it does, I could not have lasted as a volunteer. The level of quality is directly attributable to Stephanie Smith, the manager, no one else. She has two jobs but only one that is paid. She manages the shelter and then starts her other job as rescuer (all volunteer time). Now, when friends and acquaintances use that cliché "Oh I could never volunteer at the shelter because I'd have to take them all home", I just think, because of your excuse (sorry but that's what it is), you're the one missing out.

Your subscription to our Newsletter is appreciated and communicates to us that you care about animals and want to help.

**Thank you for Loving the Animals!** 

**Please Contact Us** on our **Facebook** page or **Website**:

<http://www.friendsofwhitecountyanimals.com>