



PAW PRINTS

Finney County Humane Society

November 2004

P. O. Box 2031 • Garden City, KS 67846 • 620-275-5651



Posing with Woody the day of his transport to Ohio are Mark Morell, Marlene Helmick, and Glenda Hopkins

WOODY ARRIVES

by Jim Arwine

The message read: "Woody arrived about 11:15 this morning. He is the sweetest horse I ever met. First he finished his brunch and some hay and then he went for a run in the pasture with everyone."

The arrival of the computer e-mail, from Diane Murphy of Voice for Horses Network to Finney County Humane Society board member Mark Morell, about a month ago, marked the start of a new life for a quarter horse named Woody who was rescued from a neglected environment last year by the Humane Society. Morell spearheaded the effort to find a home for the horse, who will now live out his life in a large pasture near Holland, Ohio.

In late August Woody was transported to Voice for Horses, which has a national network for the rescue and placement of neglected or abused horses. He can't be ridden by an adult because of a leg problem. So, after some physical correction to his hooves,

he was evaluated to see if he could become a therapy horse for inner city children. He wasn't chosen for the program. However, Murphy said, "We have found Woody a home with a very nice family and their children. He has 25 acres to run on and three new friends". She said he is very comfortable with his new home and loves to lay down in the pasture.

Things are looking up for Woody now, but life wasn't always so rosy for him.

In May 2003, an anonymous caller alerted the Humane Society to a possible animal abuse situation in Garden City. FCHS President Glenda Hopkins, along with a veterinarian and a Finney County Sheriff's deputy went to a West Maple Street residence where they found a starving horse, riddled with skin sores and spots where hair had fallen out. Standing next to a fence, he looked like a big bag of bones.

WOODY—continued pg 3

FCHS Receives Educational Grant

A Finney County Humane Society educational program that helps local educators teach children life skills received a \$1,000 financial boost from a local foundation, October 14.

The donation from the Western Kansas Community Foundation is earmarked to help fund a FCHS mission "to help promote the extension of humane education" in the community by supplying a specialized newsletter, called Kind News, to all public schools in Finney county. The newsletter facilitates good reading habits, while it teaches children kindness and respect for all life, said the humane society's education program director.

Nancy Garhart said the grant was obtain after FCHS board member Kent Garhart drafted a proposal to the local foundation outlining the merits of the in-school project. The new funds will help the humane society in it's goal to give this fun, teaching tool to several grade levels during this school year and next. Currently about a 1,000 third graders in 31 classes receive the publication. Plans call for the newsletter to be in all fifth grade classes starting in January 2005.

Kind News has been published since 1983 by the National Humane Society, developers of the educational program used by the FCHS. She said the newsletter is read by more than a million children in classrooms nation wide. It covers many National Education Standards and requires little or no preparation time for teachers.

GRANT—continued pg 3

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Glenda Hopkins

We will soon be losing a valuable volunteer, member foster care giver and true friend, Patty Sundstrom. Her husband, Alex, has been transferred to a new job in Texas. She will be sorely missed, but we wish them well.

Our organization also lost Sue Spikes. Sue cared deeply about all animals, especially horses. When her father passed away, she named the FCHS as the organization to receive his memorial. Upon Sue's death, several memorials also came to us.

Giving in her memory were: Carol and Edward Cramer, \$50; 360 Market Group LLC, \$35; Donna Towns, \$25; Mike Petitjean, \$25; Jack White, \$25; Max and Neva Patterson, Wade and Glenda Patterson, Jack and Cindy Patterson, and Steve and Nikki Myers, \$25.

Memorials made to the FCHS are a caring way to help our organization have the funds to continue our work. Let your family and loved ones know in advance, if you wish to have your memorial made to the FCHS or remember our organization in your Will.

And please, don't forget to make advance plans for your pets in the event something happens to you. Many cherished pets have ended up in the shelter when owners have died or been placed in a nursing home. Don't automatically assume that your friends or relatives will rush to care for your furry companion when you aren't able to.

Also, tax season is just around the corner. When you start thinking of last minute deductions for tax year 2004, please remember us. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so your contribution is fully tax deductible. If you wish, you can specify what you want your donation to be used for: education, spay/neuter, foster care, adoption, medications and vet care for sick or injured animals. Paying your 2005 membership dues early can also count as a deduction.

The FCHS is frequently transferring dogs to rescue facilities or groups here in Kansas and Colorado. The most traveled places are to Denver, Wichita and Kansas City. Volunteer drivers or assistant drivers are needed to help transport large and small numbers of dogs weekly. Volunteers

receive compensation for vehicle fuel and individual meals during their travels. If you would be willing to help, please contact Glenda Hopkins with your e-mail address or phone number. Contact Glenda at ghopkins2@cox.net or telephone 620-276-3102.



VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Nancy Garhart

The FCHS board conducted extra sessions in recent months to set program goals for the years 2005 and 2006.

One of these goals is to expand humane society education programs in the schools of Garden City and Holcomb. This year the society started the Kind News program in third grade classes and has plans to expand into others. (See related story in this issue). The program is already having an impact. Recently, the FCHS received a large hand-made thank you card from Mrs. Penka's third grade class at the Saint Dominic School. The students said they learned a lot about animal safety from the Kind News bulletins and an accompanying video.

Other goals are to establish a Speakers Bureau, double the number of Kansas-licensed foster homes, translate humane society informational materials into Spanish, and adopt a follow up program on adopted animals. In order to achieve these goals we need to expand our membership to at least 100.

Please start making plans for your pet's winter protection. Make sure they have a warm dry place to be day and night. City and County animal control officers will be on the look out for animals that are outdoors without protection. Remember, animals feel pain just like we do.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING INK CARTRIDGES. Since May of this year, we have received \$310 for this recycled trash. We can recycle all cartridges except Epson. Call me at 275-6363 if you have questions about this project.

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PAW PRINTS is published quarterly by the Finney County Humane Society, P.O. Box 2031, Garden City, KS 67846. (620) 275-5651. It supports the mission of the society to educate the community in the prevention of cruelty to animals, and to relieve suffering among animals.

When confronted by county officials, with a charge of animal cruelty pending, the owner gave up the horse. Hopkins said at the time that the horse was in such poor physical condition that she wondered “if he could walk the short distance from his pen to the trailer”.

Eventually, local courts awarded the homeless horse to the Humane Society. As the new owner, the FCHS secured professional boarding for the horse. First he was cared for by Bob and Lucy Cooley, and in more recent months by Scott Selee. The society began picking up the \$100 a month tab for his feed and care. Over the coming months, he began to put on weight, his bones no longer stood out. His wounds healed and his hair returned. The blue-eyed quarter horse was on the mend.

Months went by and the horse, named Woody by the society because he liked to eat wood, was almost forgotten because of other more urgent business by the Humane Society. Eventually, Morell decided it was time to make it his mission to find a permanent home for Woody.

Morell used his home computer to research rescue facilities for horses. He found several, one was

here in Kansas. He was looking for a place where Woody would have a purpose in life, he didn't want him to be “just a pasture ornament”.

Initially, Voice for Horses was acting as a broker trying to help Morell sort out the pros and cons of different rescue facilities. But eventually, they took a personal interest in Woody and offered to accept him into their organization. The society's board of directors supported Morell's choice to turn ownership of Woody over to them.

Morell secured the services of a national horse transportation service called All-Ways Horsing Around to ferry Woody to his new home. The society paid \$380 of the transportation bill, with Voice for Horses paying an equal share.

After several days of delay because of weather and truck mechanical problems, a shiny horse trailer was pulled into the yard of the Selee family, Saturday morning, August 21st. Excitement built. Woody was the star of the moment. Society members and other well-wishers had their pictures taken with Woody, before it was announced that it was time to load him. A cheer went up when he willingly stepped into the horse trailer. He was finally beginning his new journey.

The teaching tool has several editions that cover learning skill levels for grades kindergarten through high school. There is even a Spanish translations edition.

Garhart said the FCHS initially targeted the third grade to encourage children to read at an early age. Additional grades are being added as funds are made available.

Because funds are limited, she invites FCHS members and citizens to sponsor efforts to get the Kind News program and newsletter into specific classrooms that the humane society can not yet afford to reach. If interested, please call 272-5651 for more information.

Auction Slated

The Finney County Humane Society will be holding an auction/dance/membership drive February 12, 2005 at the Elks Lodge. The fund-raiser will feature silent and live auction items, some of which will be original art items by local artists. Other auction items donated by individuals and businesses may include furniture, a used car, and home-made crafts such as stained glass and quilts. The list is still growing.

Larry Johnston will be the auctioneer.

The Valentine night dance, at 905 Kansas Plaza, will feature DJ Steve Brown with Super Hits 96. He can play any type of music. Attendees will be able to pay a small cash donation to get him to play their special selection of music.

There will be a cash bar, and tickets to the fund-raiser will be offered in advance.

Anyone wishing to donate items to be auctioned off to benefit the Humane Society may contact Kay Gillespie at (620) 276-6537.



Woody when he was rescued

Don't forget to save your used inkjet and laser cartridges!

ATTENTION

FINNEY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Renew your membership

We are in the process of updating our membership files and mailing labels. Please remember to renew your membership in our worthy organization.

Membership dues provide a large part of our operating and projects revenue. Not only does it help pay for fuel and maintenance for the Hound Hauler and medicine for sick animals, it also pays for printing and mailing of your Paw Prints newsletter.

PLEASE clip the coupon below and renew your membership **NOW**.

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_____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ Business/Corporation \$100

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Fi. Co. Humane Society

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To prevent cruelty to
animals, to relieve
suffering among
animals, and to
promote the
extension of
humane education