



ARFhouse

Happenings



A non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization

VOLUME 26 • SUMMER 2024

Spring has come and gone and, with the changing seasons, our priorities shift. So many people ask us how the dogs handle the bitter cold of Texas in February, but we worry more about the dogs during June, July and August. The dogs like the cold; but we do see some of them struggle during the heat of summer, especially our older dogs. Most of our seniors – especially those who have a hard time with extreme weather conditions – are kept in climate-controlled buildings. For the dogs who live outdoors, each has their very own shade canopy, as well as large trees that offer natural shade. Waters are changed every day, and topped off in the evening by the employees who live on site, so that all dogs have clean, cool water to drink at all times.

With the warmer temperatures, come all the bugs. You know what we're talking about. Fleas, ticks, the dreaded mosquito. Each dog is given a monthly heartworm, flea and tick prevention pill. If you don't know, heartworms are transmitted through mosquitoes. Heartworm prevention is a must, especially in the South where mosquitoes take over during the summer. If you would like to contribute to help with the cost of our monthly prevention, you can set up a recurring donation through our website. \$20 a month will cover the cost of heartworm, flea, and tick prevention for one dog.

**We are pleased to report
... all dogs remain safe
and happy.**



FEATURED PET — See page 2

We would like to thank all of you who checked on us during storm season. It can be a scary time with thunderstorms, lightning, and heavy WIND!

We have been fortunate, over the years that we have never been hit by a tornado (knock on wood); however, a severe thunderstorm with wind gusts of 50 MPH or more can be terrifying when you are caring for so many live animals, and the property that houses them. The employees who live on site remain diligent in watching the weather, patrolling the property during storms to make sure the dogs are safe, giving out sedatives to the dogs who suffer from storm anxiety; the list of things our employees do for the dogs is endless. We are pleased to report, there has been no damage to the property, and all dogs remain safe and happy.

NEWCOMERS

The term “dumped” is sort of an ugly word, no matter how you use it. However, it seems appropriate to use when someone “dumps” a dog (or two) at our facility, because that is precisely what they are doing; dumping dogs like they would their trash.

These two were dumped outside our adoption center; we do not know how long they had been sitting in the wire kennel, but they were excited to see us when we arrived to work in the morning. When we say we are over capacity, we mean it, so taking in two adult dogs really puts us in a bind, especially when we aren't expecting them.

We had to make several moves to open up a space for two young, active dogs, but we did it. Meet the newest members of the ARFhouse family: Thelma & Louise. Thelma & Louise have been spayed, vaccinated, tested for heartworms and treated for intestinal worms. They are currently available for adoption and you can expect to be seeing them at our upcoming PETSMART adoption events.

The happy faces in the “after rescue” pictures above give some idea of what these dogs feel after being rescued from being dumped (bottom picture).



FEATURED PET —

We had a person reach out to us about a pregnant dog who had wandered onto their property and given birth to 12 puppies beneath their home. Sadly, 3 puppies did not make it, likely due to extreme heat. I don't think anyone is ever prepared in that situation so they called ARF.

Dealing with a momma dog and her puppies can be tricky, especially when the puppies are just two days old. We knew they could not be kept in an outdoor area, it's just too hot for such young pups; so we made a quiet place for both mom and puppies in our Hope House; a climate controlled building with two separate indoor kennels, perfect for a nursing mother.



Upon arrival, momma (now Casper) was none too thrilled with our presence around her puppies; she acted aggressively, but we are used to protective mothers so we gave

her space to gain trust so that we would be able to handle her and the babies. It's been a slow process, gaining her trust, but every day we make progress and we believe her behavior is driven by fear and protection, not aggression.


We hope to be able to transport the puppies to our partner rescue in Colorado; but with overcrowding across the country, that's no guarantee. For the time being, Casper and her puppies are safe and cool, with full bellies. We are pleased to report all puppies that were brought to us are thriving and this will be Casper's last litter.



ADOPTIONS

If you keep up with other rescue groups, you already know adoptions are basically non-existent. It seems no one is adopting dogs right now. We face a real problem in this country, but more especially here in the South. Overpopulation is overwhelming us due to the simple fact, so many people do not have their dogs spayed or neutered. The calls to take strays will always overwhelm us; but it seems 80% of the calls we are getting right

now, are people wanting to surrender their pets. This is a discouraging realization, but we continue to put in the work to get our dogs placed in loving, forever homes. We have had just 6 adoptions this year, where typically we would have 30-40 by this time.

On a happy note, here are a few VERY happy dogs who found their homes this quarter. 



Our best boy Andy hit the jackpot with Stacy and Stephen Campbell!



Our coyote imposter, Yodi found her perfect forever home with Lori and Robert Row.



Our special boy, Chili-Dog found the perfect home with Dana Burke. He now has 3, four-legged siblings, a pool to swim in, and he gets to go to work with mom everyday!



Dear Friends,

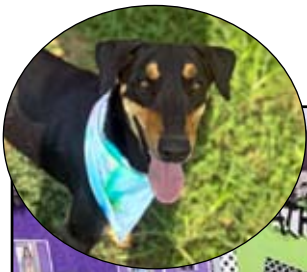
As many of you know, when I inherited a portion of my grandfather's acreage from my parents' estate, I wanted to "make a difference" in the lives of abandoned and abused animals; primarily dogs. This has been a wonderful "journey" for me and I'm gratified to have had the opportunity to make certain that hundreds of dogs found homes or remained here at ARFhouse for life. ARFhouse became a 501(c)3 in 1992 and, as they say, "the rest is history". This mission has been both heartbreaking and/or heartwarming. We've witnessed the worst in humans and the best.

This missive is to assure you, our supporters, that

ARFhouse will endure and, I anticipate, will thrive when I am gone. I should NOT be the "face" of ARFhouse. I don't plan to leave in the near future, but we have two staff members who have been with us for more than 20 years. I don't anticipate that they will leave when I'm gone. They have assumed responsibility for the operation. I still do the bookkeeping and some animal chores; also, a few housekeeping tasks. But Roxanne South and Jenna Glover are now the "heart" of the operation. Our payroll is the biggest expense (and challenge) we have. But caring for the 320+ dogs on site takes "a village".

Martha

Thank You Neblett Knights!



We had the privilege of visiting Neblett Elementary School in Sherman, to pick up donations raised by the Student Council and Art Club. Mrs. Sasser, the Art Teacher at Neblett, reached out to tell us about a project she started for the kids: making bandanas for our adoptable dogs!

They sent us home with a van full of food, treats, toys, leashes, and bandanas of course! This sweet gesture helps us find homes for our dogs by giving them just that little extra pizzazz at adoption events and online. Our boy Eugene (top left) looks pawisitively dashing, wouldn't you say? Thank you to Mrs. Sasser, Mrs. Burns, and the Neblett Knights!

MARTHA'S KITTY CORNER

In early June a gentleman and his granddaughter arrived at the Adoption Center with two tiny Siamese kittens. He explained that someone had left 4 of them in a cage in their yard. Two of them found homes with one of his friends. But he had nowhere to place the remaining two little girls and was going on vacation the following day. Our Hope House had no current "residents", so that's where we put them. It has heat & cool air and is perfect for baby animals. We took these two to Dr. Morris (our vet) and he said they were a couple of weeks older than they looked. Malnutrition from being separated from mother too early. They're thriving in their little house. I am their caregiver, cleaning their litter box 2 x's a day, and giving them their dry food, plus a little can split between the two in the evening. They are so affectionate I can barely get the door shut when I leave them. We will have all medical needs performed and are confident each will find their place with cat lovers. Anyone out there?





We are gearing up for our BIG DAY, North Texas Giving Day! North Texas Giving Day has become our largest fundraiser of the year, and this year, the big day is Thursday, September 19th, 2024. For those who aren't familiar with NTXGD, in short, it is exactly how it sounds: a DAY OF GIVING! Communities Foundation of Texas hosts an 18-hour online giving event designed to empower every person to give back to their community by supporting nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform. We have seen big success with this event and are hopeful this year will be a great one!

With each year, we set a new goal. We will typically set a goal that's higher than the previous year; however, the last 2-3 years have not been kind to nonprofits. While we remain hopeful, we must also be realistic about our current economic climate. This year, our goal is \$60,000. We are shaking up this year's campaign in hopes it will spark the giving, and perhaps gain more exposure for our cause.

A big part of what made previous year's such a huge success were matching funds. Last year, we secured matching pledges totaling \$45,000. Throughout the month of September, we were able to raise over \$74,000 with dollar-for-dollar pledges. With matching funds, your donation goes further in helping the dogs of ARFhouse. Matching funds are also a great way to encourage

giving; who doesn't love knowing your gift will be doubled? If you are interested in pledging a match, please reach out to us via the phone number or email address below. All donations go directly towards the care of our dogs and saving more lives of those abandoned and abused in North Texas. We need YOU!

Important Dates:

September 1, 2024:

"Early Giving" begins. You will be able to schedule your gift through our campaign site starting on this date.

September 19, 2024:

The BIG day! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and posts leading up to the big day. For our new followers, NTXGD is a day filled with fun facts about ARF, pictures, success stories, and updates throughout the day to let you know our progress.

For any questions or to pledge a matching donation, please contact Jenna Glover at (972) 658-0389, or via email at:

jennaLglover@gmail.com

Appeal

We try to keep our communications lighthearted; in a business that can be so depressing at times, we like to touch on reality, while maintaining a positive outlook. The fact is, we are in crisis. I don't mean we are at risk of closing the doors; our reality is that all rescues are currently in crisis. We need your monetary support more than ever, and that is why we appeal to you, our faithful supporters.

With over 300 dogs to care for, payroll is our primary expense. But naturally, being a facility spread out over 20+ acres, with two kennel buildings, an adoption center, housing for four employees, utility vehicles, two vans, thousands of feet of chain link fencing, and a 2400 square foot barn, our maintenance costs are exorbitant.

Last, but not least, feed and veterinary expenses for these dogs. We shared in our last newsletter that, for the first time in years, we have had to purchase our own food. This is attributed to the crisis we talked about. Resources are drying up, but the animals need to be fed.

We ask that if you have anything to spare, no matter the amount, please consider giving it to the 300+ abandoned and abused dogs of North Texas who call ARFhouse home. With your help, we can continue to be their bridge to a new life.

We thank you, the dogs thank you.

GIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE!

Scan this image with any smartphone camera to be taken directly to our giving site. Here, you can make a donation to the dogs using a credit or debit card.



Brakebill Veterinary Hospital "In Memory" Donations

"Frank"
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Fine

"Molly"
Kristin Gresiak

"Sadie"
Jason Cole

"Baby Girl"
Rhonda Hill

"Max"
Mr. & Mrs. John Hart

"Smokey"
Sandra Barnes

"Magoo"
Theo & Kathy Branch

"Daffodil"
Kellie Williams

"Quincy"
Carolee Cooper

"Annie"
Martin family

"Zeus"
Amy Neal

"Jubal"
Richardson family

"Hercules" & Sadie
Stephens family

"Jazz"
Ricky & Cathy Holt

"Angel"
Margaret & Russell Coates

"Beatrice"
Mr. & Mrs. Troy LaRoche

"Puss Puss"
Sean Smith & Madilyn
Roberts

"Haley"
Keith & Gail Gower

"Dolly"
Regina & Gary Roberts

"Phoebe"
The Shurbet family

"Tess"
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Matthews

"Jaxon"
Morgan Jones

"Tillie"
Lanetta Nix

"Sophia"
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Blakey

"Paisley"
Jane Kelley

"Piper"
The Turner family

"Yago"
The Diaz family

"Felix"
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Giarraputo

"Marlee"
Jacey Lett

"Annie"
Jackie Lanci

"Sausage"
The Scott family

"Sasha"
Brauch family

"Pretty"
Charles & Lisa Whaley

"Rose"
Donie family

"Sadie"
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Paith

"Peaches"
Sandra Brown

"Molly"
James Toland

"Kyle"
The Nix family

"Bennie" & "Hattie"
Lisa Mitchell

"Bojo"
Bruce James

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

DONATE.

We have many ways you can donate, both in cash and in kind. Visit our website to make a credit card donation. Mail us a check to the physical address on the back of your newsletter. Have items to donate? Drop them off at our Adoption Center located near Sadler (which has a Sherman address).

VOLUNTEER.

We always need dog-lovers to help at our Petsmart adoption events. Visit our website to fill out our volunteer form.

SPONSOR.

Our Be a Pal Program allows you to virtually "adopt" one of our dogs with a monthly donation of \$20. You'll receive quarterly pictures and letters from your Pal, sent straight to your mailbox.

FOLLOW.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and share us with your friends.

In Memory of Animal Lovers

Waymon McMackin
by: his beloved wife, Sharon

Charlie Ross
by: Hal & Payge Kenyon

Mariam Cope
by: Margie & Tim Morris

Scott Simmons
"He loved his pet, 'Sam' "
by: Stan, Sherry & Summer
Simmons

Billy Jones
by: Cherry, Michael, Hayden,
Masyn & Popper

Scott Simmons
by: Pamela Parks

"Mrs. B"
by: Cheryl Belew, Tisa Brian,
Sheri Gartner & Becky Young

Donald Edward Bundschuh
by: Donald, Judy & Kirk Wortham

"In memory of Mrs. B. Thanks
for all the love. We will miss you
and look forward to seeing you
again."

With Love,
Cheryl Belew, Tisa Brian, Sheri
Gartner and Becky Young

In Honor of Animal Lovers

Jane Wilson
by: Paul Wunderlick

Margie McCain
by: Alexandra Hurst

In Memory of Beloved Pets

"Forrest" ...beloved family
golden & ARFhouse veteran
adopted by Margie & John
McCain

Donation by: Will McCain
Will said: "Forrest grew up
to be the McCain lead foster
dog. Forrest has helped
many ARFhouse fosters
learn how to be a regular
dog and have fun so that
they too could have a home
some day."

"Frankie"
"forever in our hearts"
by: Andy Williams

"Hank"
by: Margie & Tim Morris

"Connor"
Pam Pyle's beloved dog
by: Roger Platizky

"Silver Belle"
Pam Pyle's beloved dog
by: Roger Platizky

"Buzz"
by: Linda Omohundro

"Banjo"
beloved pet of Michelle Shirley
&
Raleigh Guenther
by: Nancy & Randy Shirley

"Dolly"
Joyce & Cal Wilkerson's dog
by: Ashley & Steve

"LuLu"
Marc, Deena & Sarah Platizky's
dog
by: Roger Platizky & family

"Bo"
Gary & Marianna Perkins &
Haley's dog
by: Kathy Camp

"Charlie"
Geronimo & Nicole Rodriguez'
pet
by: Marlin & Charlotte Cobb

ARFhouse is more than a dog sanctuary. I'm sure I've included a picture of our mammoth donkeys in the past...but this will be of interest to our new supporters. Fiona is the dark donkey and her "daughter" is the lighter colored one. They each weigh approximately 1600 lbs. Fiona was in a terrible place with no feed and little water, living in a small pen. The owner agreed to let us have her. We didn't realize she had been bred, and a month later Pippa was born. We had a 3-side barn built for them and they took up residence in a large pasture with our two senior shetland ponies (who already had a shelter). They have a wonderful life here at ARFhouse and keep to themselves. I wouldn't say they are friendly; but they tolerate us humans since we always have a treat or feed for them to supplement the grass. They're smart and fascinating animals.



As many of you know, we provide housing for several employees. Everyone has always used the same mailbox, but for convenience's sake, we decided to put a box at the Adoption Center. Our facility has not moved, ARFhouse mail will now be delivered to the Adoption Center, and packages will be delivered here too since there's a covered porch. Of course, we can still receive mail at the old address; but it will be more convenient for everyone if ARFhouse mail arrives at the new mailbox. The address is:

3505 Spalding Rd. • Sherman, TX 75092

Animal Refuge Foundation
3377 Spalding Rd.
Sherman, TX 75092

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SADLER, TX 76264

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We appreciate your continued support of ARFhouse.

Be an ARFhouse Supporter!

ARFhouse needs and welcomes your donation in any denomination. Every dollar counts and is used for day-to-day operations, care of our animals, and assistance to animals in the community. Your donation is tax deductible. Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope to ARFhouse, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount: \$ _____

ARFhouse DIRECTORS

Danny Brakebill
Martha Hovers
Stacie Stuart
Jenna Glover
Secretary
Roxanne South



ARFhouse Non-Profit Organization on Facebook

ARFhouse's newsletter is published by the Animal Refuge Foundation, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092. Phone (903) 564-7056. Martha Hovers, Editor.



Mission Statement

ARFhouse is dedicated to improving the lives of animals through rescue and rehabilitation, spay/neuter and placing into homes with loving guardians.

3377 Spalding Rd. ♦ Sherman, TX 75092

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