



ARFhouse Happenings

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization

FALL 2009
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

Our New Van!

For some time now we've been trying to make a decision about a new vehicle to transport our dogs to the vet and for other errands we must run locally. When we saw the new 2010 Ford Transit Connect, it seemed like the right choice. The "Beast" (our trusty 1996 Suburban) had never failed us; taking 17 dogs to Chicago, 13 puppies to Colorado Springs, and numerous trips to Dallas and Oklahoma for adoption events. He also ran all our local errands, delivering our dogs safely everywhere they needed to go. But we knew he didn't have too many miles left on him, so we turned him in as our "clunker," although it was hard to hear him called that. He was NEVER a clunker.

Our dear friend, **Joyce Dennehy**, again volunteered to help us by sending a \$10,000 check toward the purchase. **The Fischer's** had donated J.P. Morgan stock which netted us \$5,000, so we were well on our way to owning our new van. At 23 mpg, easy to maneuver and lots of room for crates, it's perfect for our needs.



"Lulu" the Van



Joyce's dog "Lulu" wanted to be featured in our newsletter, and we thought it appropriate since we're calling the van "Lulu."



"Dixie" arrived needing surgery on her eyes. As you can see, her eyes are gone. Before she came to us and visited Dr. Brakebill, her previous owner was told that her eyes were open before birth. Thus, she was blind and had tumors on her eyelids that were painful. Please don't feel sorry for her; she's one of the happiest dogs at ARFhouse. Everyone who enters the building stops to give her love. When Sammie stoops down, she stands and puts her paws on her shoulders. Dixie gets around easily in her indoor/outdoor space at the building and loves the big bed in her "room." There's nothing wrong with her tongue. This picture was taken as she was eating a treat.

UPDATE ON ARFHOUSE CHICAGO

Linda Cairo (Linda Widmer before she married Joe), and Gary Head took 29 dogs back to Chicago in July. All 29 of the dogs were adopted within three weeks. ARFhouse Chicago has found homes for more than 150 of our dogs over the past couple of years.

Several of you have asked why we send our dogs so far away. You may remember, my cousin, Crystal, and I took 19 dogs to Chicago in April, traveling in Jody O'Donnell's nice Cadillac Escalade. We met the people at Mutt Hutt, the boarding kennel where some of our dogs reside until they're adopted. The dogs that do not stay at Mutt Hutt are placed into foster homes. Mutt Hutt is a first class facility, offering doggy daycare, boarding, obedience training and grooming.

It isn't the city of Chicago that makes these adoptions take place; it is the work of our friends at our affiliated Chicago shelter, especially Linda and Joe Cairo. Linda is the President of ARFhouse Chicago, but she also has a full-time job as a legal secretary. She spends at least another 40 hours per week screening applicants, holding adoption events, updating information on PetFinder and their website (www.arfhousechicago.org), calling references, taking animals to the vet and walking dogs available for adoption. Joe is supportive in her efforts and helps her with the leg work. Linda is a powerful advocate for our dogs. She has five dogs of her own at home and four of those dogs were adopted from us. She has made at least 15 trips to ARFhouse over the past few years, some of them to bring dogs, and some of them just to come and work here for a few days. With the help of ARFhouse Chicago, our dogs find permanent loving homes and we are able to rescue others. Every dog that leaves our facility is replaced by another we are able to help.

Adoptions are successful through tenacity and hard work. Being located in a rural area, we do not have the resources to showcase our animals that shelters in more urban areas do. We would not entrust our animals to be placed by a random group that we were not confident would place them in the best homes possible. We are confident of the

abilities of Linda and her volunteers at ARFhouse Chicago. She follows up with adopters to make sure the animals are doing well in their new homes, refers adopters to obedience trainers and works with adopters to answer any questions or concerns at any time after the adoption. All ARFhouse dogs are microchipped as well, which means that the dog will always be traced back to them and if for any reason an adoption doesn't work out, the dog has to be returned to ARFhouse. Over the course of the past three years, only five dogs have been returned so they have a very good track record.

ARFhouse Texas (that's us) currently has 305 dogs on-site and nine employees to care for the dogs, plus maintenance of the property. Our time must be devoted to the animals, and we're grateful to have this wonderful resource to find the best homes for our dogs. ARFhouse Chicago could easily confine the animals they accept to those

locally. There certainly is no lack of needy animals in the Chicagoland area. However, they believe very strongly in helping rural areas. The trips to Texas are hard work, especially when there are 30 additional dogs who are taken in at once, but the rewards are tremendous. We receive frequent updates on the animals in their adopted homes and appreciate the hard work that goes into placing our animals. Our relationship with this group is invaluable.



Linda Cairo and Gary Head



BEFORE



AFTER

"Bugs" was obviously a stray. His hair was so long and matted, he could barely walk. We thought he was a poodle; but it turns out he's mostly bichon. He's such a happy dog since he got a haircut.



ADOPTIONS



“Hey, my name is ‘Charlie.’ I was originally a Texan, but I sure like it better here in Chicago with my handsome daddy and beautiful mama, Jeff & Penelope. They adore me!”

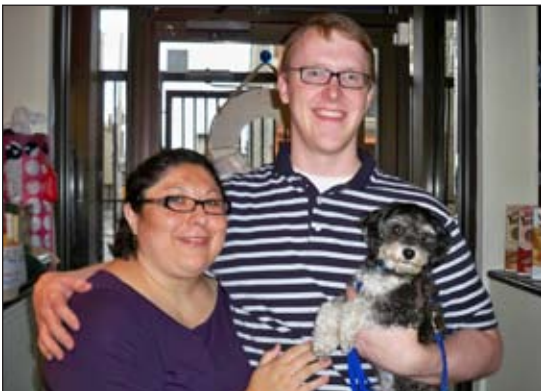


“Dakota” found a home with a mom and two boys. She was one of our mini-Aussie’s. We called them “the bob’s” because their tails were bobbed. Dakota’s new guardian is Lisa.



“Here is one of the many pics of our new addition. We love ‘Skeeter’ so much. He has really brightened our home. Of course he is running things now and keeping everyone in line.”

From: Hasani
Skeeter’s new “daddy”



“Kobi’s” parents, Laura & Darrin, love him and he loves his new home in Chicago.



“Topol” was a Texas dog. Now that he has beautiful Nadine, he doesn’t want to come back to Texas.

Canyon Creek Pet Hospital Made The Following “In Memory” Donations

“Rocky”
Paul & Jackie Woodrick

“Spicy”
Steve & Penny Ticknor

“Ribby”
Chris & Darah Stephens

“Annie”
Roger & Jean Shellenberger

“Ace”
Joyce Griffis

“Duetschess”
Dr. & Mrs. Don Fincher

“Big Foot”
Diane Webb

“Reese”
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ross

“Patches” & “Lover Boy”
Garlin Taylor Family

“Snowball”
Trenell Walker

“Cap Dryden”
Bert & Lana Garcia

“Costel”
Carmen Camarena

“Maggie”
Chrissy Hughes

“Gretchen”
Vi McWater

“Sam”
Phyllis Pocza

“Lady”
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Hance

“Schatzie”
Lori Goodpastor

“Sugarbear”
Rich & Lou Knox

“Leila”
Richard & Michelle Norris

“Tigger”
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Allen

“Harley”
Mr. & Mrs. Don Manuel

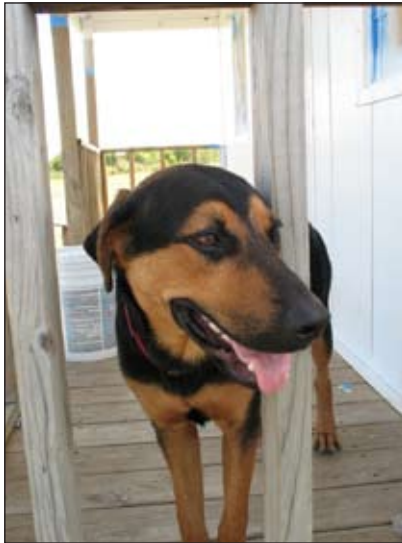
APPEAL

The depressed state of our economy has resulted in more dogs being abandoned than ever before. All animal charities are facing the same dilemma: less donations, but more animals in need. Our mission is to be advocates for the homeless, taking them into our sanctuary when they have no other place to go; especially when they arrive at our gate unannounced. We urge people to make every effort to keep their pets, even when they must move to another city. We are compelled to rescue the ones who are left to fend for themselves. Please give what you can so that we may keep helping the helpless.

The following is an example of the many e-mails and requests we receive each day from people who find strays:

"Hi there,

My name is Kristi and I am in town (from TN) for a few days visiting my Mom in Grand Prairie. We were driving down the street near 20 and I noticed a Shepherd mix balled up on the side of the road near an abandoned building. We stopped and I slowly walked over to her and she instantly started to potty out of fear. It broke my heart. She was shivering, but didn't move. I sat with her and talked to her for a while without touching her. I decided to go get her some food and come back. I did and she was still in the exact spot balled up. She got up when I put the food near her and gladly ate. She is pretty thin, but appears healthy. I went back and got some more food and brought it back to her in the same spot. I slowly started petting her and she was very unsure, but finally just relaxed and closed her eyes. I gently scooped her up and brought her to my Mom's.



"Lilly"

I am desperate to possibly find a No Kill rescue for her to get a second chance. I know it's not much, but I would also donate \$50 towards her care. The problem is I have my three large dogs staying at my Mom's for the week, so she is in the garage. I just know with her being timid, she won't have a chance to blossom at the city shelter and will be euthanized. My Mom was OK with her coming for the night, but wanted me to find a place for her asap. I know you have many pets in need, but I thought I would check with you. I can send a pic as soon as possible too."

We accepted "Lilly," and she's already warming up to us. She's not a shepherd; she's a hound, and she loves to howl at us when we're handing out the food.

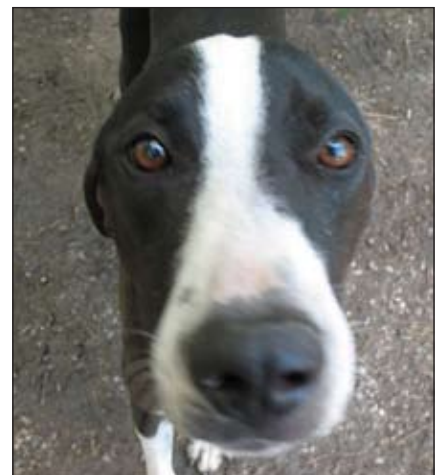
WISH LIST

Our old dogs and those on regular meds must have canned food daily. The need has grown so much, ARFhouse sources cannot supply enough. Therefore, if you wish to give us product, please make that gift canned food (the solid is best for meds). Niemann Publications in downtown Sherman is kind enough to allow friends to drop off product at their location.

Thanks

TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP OUR DOGS

Louis & Fay Elrod
Tom Thumb Distribution Center
IESI
Sherman Wal-Mart
Texas Manufacturing in
Whitesboro
Danny & Dr. John Brakebill
Stacey & Dr. Clay Morris
Brakebill Veterinary Clinic Staff
Niemann Publications
Linda Cairo
Trinity United Methodist Church
in Denison, Texas



"My name's 'Boomer.' I was left at the creek near ARFhouse (bottom of the hill), along with my two brothers. Do you think adoption is out of the question for me?"

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

If you would like to see our newsletter in color, go to the homepage of our website and click on the little page in the left corner.

Our Deepest Appreciation

The "Gathering of Old Dogs"

Lynn Surls and his wife, Kathy, held the annual "Gathering of Old Dogs" on July 18 to celebrate Lynn's birthday. As usual, Lynn asked his friends to bring a sealed envelope with a check for ARFhouse. We were all feted to spirits and a wonderful catered dinner. Lynn's friends donated \$3,845, and Lynn and Kathy doubled that amount, bringing the total to \$11,535. We had planned to replace our original kennels, but at Lynn's suggestion (the lightbulb went on in my head) we're making needed repairs to those areas, and building a whole new set of 10 new kennels to house dogs going into our adoption program. Lynn and Kathy are long-time supporters of our work, and have given generously over the years. We can't thank them enough for their work to help our dogs.

J.P. Morgan Chase Stock

Bruce & Paula Fischer, dear friends and supporters for many years, gave us stock which we recently sold for almost \$5,000. These monies were combined with the \$10,000 Joyce donated and put toward the purchase of our little van.

The Cabin

Our cabin is a comfortable abode for visitors; supporters and volunteers alike. The roof is metal, and we had noticed it was rusting in a few spots. With the pitch of the roof, we were afraid to climb up on it. Gene Hill (friend of Lynn and Kathy) was a painter for many years and volunteered to come and supervise some "younger guys" who would do the climbing. Lynn Surls paid the young men to climb on the roof, put a sealer down and paint it. They've sealed the sides and it will be painted when the skies clear. It looks great. And no leaks, thanks to Lynn, Gene and the two men who were fearless enough to make the climb.

New Shade Canopies

The Virginia & Robert Hobbs Charitable Trust has made a gift of \$4,000 to build 10 more of the shade canopies. These not only shade areas without adequate trees; they protect the food from rain and shelter the dogs when they don't want to go in their dog houses.



BEFORE



AFTER

"The ladies at ARFhouse have named me 'Becka.' I was left behind by my guardian. I thought she loved me, but I guess not. This isn't the real me. Take a look at my picture after Jennene at J's Pet Motel groomed me. I'm gorgeous!"



"I'm 'Radar.' Even though I'm highly 'adoptable,' I wanted to stay at ARFhouse, so I made myself indispensable by cutting the grass on the new mowing machine. Pretty crafty, huh?"

Brakebill Veterinary Hospital Made The Following “In Memory” Donations

“MaMoosh”
Charla Dodson

“Wally Bob”
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Miller

“Fluffy”
Larry Cain

“Molly”
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Godwin

“Stormy”
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Conner

“Tie Tie”
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Moore

“Buddy”
Laura Mastandrea

“Speckles”
Mr. & Mrs. Benny Myers

“Lucy”
Danny & Sandy Smith

“Rambo”
Marion Whittington

“Maynard”
Kenneth Graham

“Rico”
Mr. & Mrs. Butch Todd

“Harley Bear”
Shirley Mitroff

“Callie”
Mr. & Mrs. John Kirk

“Boudreaux”
Dr. & Mrs. Andy Morales & family

“Tanya”
Kammie MCoy

“Ginger”
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Cole

“Ashley”
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Pugh

“Jill”
John West & Nell Evans

“Boo Hoo”
Nancy Brooks

“Butch”
Linda Robertson

“Heidi”
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nash

“R. J.”
Erica Thompson

“Baby”
Cesar Mata

“Lindsey”
Karen Lawson

“Shadow”
Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Keelan

“Jojo”
David Vaugh & Shelley Pylant

“Cocoa”
Clyde Mooneyham

“Whispers”
Phil & Alice Yennie

“Sugar”
The Culy’s

“Sassy”
Lynda Syfert

“Danny Boy”
Ann Knoles

“Foxy”
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moore

“Maxine”
Margery Anderson & Family

“Gizzy”
Barbara McMullen

“Cisco”
Carolyn Frierson

“Waldo”
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Brinkley

“Nermal”
Mr. & Mrs. Thom Roedel

“Princess”
Dixie Maupin

“Spuds”
Susan Cassidy

“Selina”
Retha Watson

“Bob”
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Majors

“Buddy”
Judy Dyson

“Tippy”
Tom Lohr

“Buffy”
Johnnie Cobb

“Leia”
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fudge

“Reddy”
Mr. & Mrs. John Cambis

“Annie”
Jennifer England

Special Thanks

W.D. Welch, Attorney at Law in Whitesboro, TX, for helping us with acreage gift to ARFhouse from Hovers.

North Texas Golfcars, North Hwy 1417 (almost in Pottsboro) in Denison, TX. Thanks to them, our “senior” golfcars are maintained.

“Kelsie” was found on a rural road, curled up, just waiting to be rescued. She has a bad case of mange, but her hair loss isn’t severe yet. We’re getting her treated and she’ll be as fluffy as “Delbert” in a month.



Donations In Memory of Beloved Pets

Thank you to those of you who thought of ARFhouse and our animals in your time of sorrow.

“Fae” & “Allie”
by: Jane Crout

“Toni”
Ron & Terry Cullen

“Gina Caudell”
Grandpa & Grandma
(Savina & Toivo Kyrola)

“Osama”
beloved pet of Dave Payton & Carol Davis
by: Debbie Duncan

“Gina”
“Our Gina was such a sweetheart”
Kathy & Stacy Caudell

“Barney”
Gary Jameson

“Murphy”
Rocky & Alma Thomas

“Eddie”
“The little black kitty who adopted me”
Brenda Brandt

“Elvis” & “Lucky”
Steven & Latressa Melton

“Rocky”
“The sweetest puppy ever”
Kathy & Kelly Brockman

“Dog”
Rose Yorio

“Buddy”
“The Harris family’s special guy”
by: Sam & Honey Castro

“Christy” Brown & “Burbon” Brown
Jessica Brown’s beloved dogs
by: grandparents/guardians:
Ronnie (Buggs) & Sandra Brown

“Henry”
beloved dachshund of Danny & John
Brakebill
by: Ann & Wally Black

“Waldo”
beloved dog of Betsie & Stan Brinkley
by: Ann & Wally Black

“Booger”
Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Gibbs

“Ratzie”
“my beloved cat”
Esther Goodson

“Sandy”
“my daughter, Deirdre Davis’ dog”
by: Comfort Keller

“Henry”
beloved dachshund of Danny & John
Brakebill
by: Sarah Stevens

“Cap”
Lana & Bert Garcia’s beloved pet
by: Sarah Stevens

“Boudreaux”
Dr. Andy Morales & family’s doggie
by: Sarah Stevens

“Sugar”
Beloved dog of Morton & Peachy Rudberg
by: Lynn & Kathy Surls



In Memory of Animal Lovers

Henry Bourke
by: Chevron Texaco Retirement Assn.

In Honor of Pets and Those Humans Who Love Them

“Charles”
To “welcome our new adopted cat”
John & Barbara March

“Eddie”
“the little black kitty who adopted me”
by: Brenda Brandt

“Smokey”
Jack & Frieda’s cat
by: Troy Jaco & Emilie Collins

“Cindy Chisum”
“in honor of my daughter’s birthday”
by: Martha Chisum

As you can see, “Delbert” is no longer a work in progress. His coat is long and silky. We never thought it would grow back, but he’s beautiful now.



BEFORE



AFTER

Animal Refuge Foundation
3377 Spalding Rd.
Sherman, TX 75092

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #10
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: \$ _____



Mission Statement

Animal Refuge Foundation (ARFhouse) is a care-for-life, no-kill sanctuary in a rural setting and is home to 340+ dogs. Dedicated to improving the lives of animals through rescue and rehabilitation, spay/neuter and placing animals into homes with loving guardians, ARFhouse also assists animals whose owners are unable to pay for the sterilization of their animals, particularly elderly people who are on fixed incomes. The Foundation will also provide financial assistance for any stray animal found who requires emergency medical attention. One of our major goals is to relieve suffering and to provide contentment and happiness to any dog who crosses our threshold.

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