



ARFhouse

Happenings

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

VOLUME 26 • SPRING 2024

Springing Forward

We hope it's not too early to report that we have had a mild winter; there have been weeks working in freezing temperatures, one in particular in single digits, but our diligence in preparing for such temperatures has worked for us again and all of our dogs have remained safe, warm, and happy. We thank our lucky stars for no ice or snow on the ground (knock on wood – Mother Nature please don't send us a late March ice storm!). We are excited for warmer weather, and hope that it brings more people out and about to visit us at our PETSMART adoption events!

Home Sweet Home

We were hopeful that with the New Year, adoptions would pick up; this has not been the case. In March of previous years, we were sitting at double-digit adoptions. Last year was a slow year, and we are off to a slow start. We have only six adoptions so far. It seems the forecast for adoptions all across the southern part of the country is bleak. Overpopulation coupled with the fact that people just aren't adopting right now are making it difficult for us to place dogs into forever homes. Adoptions spiked in 2020; Covid was good for one thing and one thing only: people were stuck inside and wanted a dog! It's 2024 and it seems the only calls we get are those who want us to take their dog, or they've found a stray.

ARFhouse Dogs Head North

Over the last year, we have been fortunate enough to work with different groups – both local and out-of-state – to transport some of our dogs up north. Northern states don't face the same struggles with overpopulation as we do here in the south. So far, we have been able to send three adult dogs, and thirty puppies on transport; all of whom have been adopted and are now living their best lives in loving homes. We are submitting new dogs every week and hope to get many more on transport this year.

Remember Us in September!

As always, North Texas Giving Day will be in the month of September. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we hope this year is even BIGGER than ever! We do not have the exact date yet, but wanted to remind you to keep it in the back of your mind. We understand some of you make your yearly donations during this fundraiser since Communities Foundation of Texas offers incentives for giving with matching funds, prizes, etc., to make your dollar go further. As soon as they set the date, we will notify everyone on our different social media platforms, and include a save the date reminder in our next newsletter.



FEATURED PET — RHODES



This big boy has been through so much. Rhodes came to us when a rescue out of East Texas reached out in need of help. Rhodes was found wandering out in the country; emaciated and with one of the worst cases of mange we've ever seen. Their rescue is very small and doesn't have the proper resources for a medical case. We couldn't say no, and we're glad we didn't; Rhodes is one of the sweetest, most gentle creatures that has ever walked through the gate. It's not been an easy road for our gentle giant; in addition to mange, he has gone through treatment for any intestinal parasite you can imagine, as well as heartworms. Today, we are proud to say that Rhodes is finally healthy enough to find his forever home! Rhodes is an older gentleman, but we feel that dogs are like a fine wine, they only get better with age. If you are interested in adopting Rhodes, give us a call or visit our website to fill out the adoption application.

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.

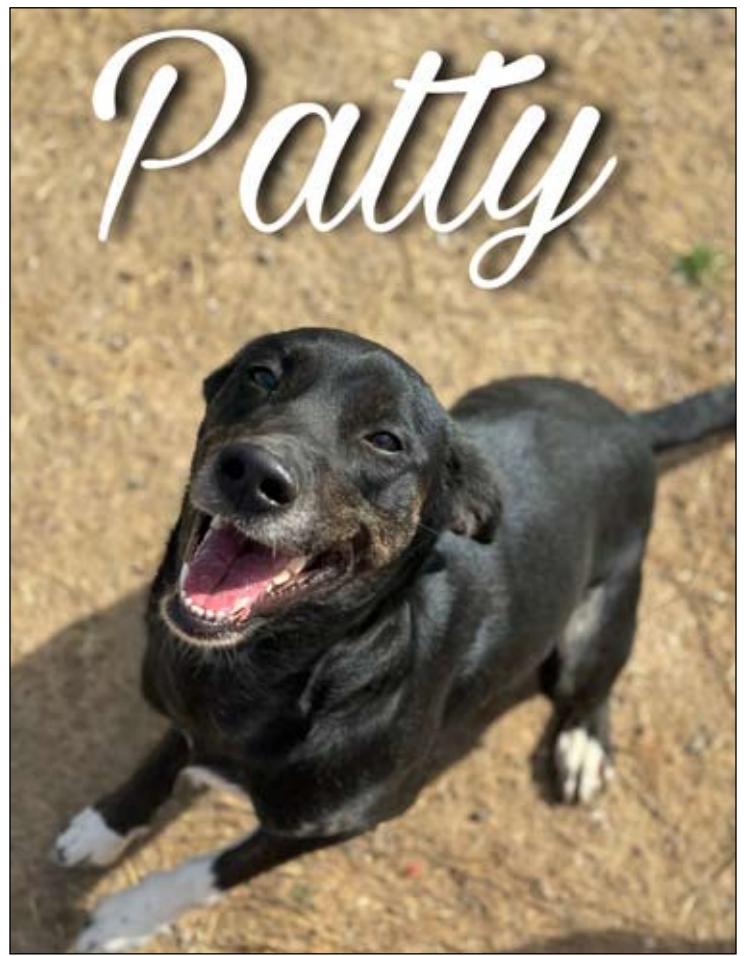
Our Be a Pal Program allows you to virtually "adopt" one of our dogs with a monthly donation of \$20. You'll receive quarterly pictures and letters from your Pal, sent straight to your mailbox.

FOLLOW.

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



Selah and Clyde came to us after a longtime friend and supporter of ARFhouse contacted us about two dogs she found abandoned near her property in Oklahoma. She's sassy, he's sweet. Both playful and loving dogs, Selah and Clyde have been fully vetted and they are currently available for adoption.



These cuties were found like so many before them, dumped out in the country to fend for themselves. Lucky for them, they ran across a kind stranger who brought them straight to ARF. Patty and Patricia are the happiest, silliest girls on the planet;

they are currently waiting on their forever family to scoop them up. Patty and Patricia love one another, but are not what we would consider a bonded pair; we don't believe they need to be adopted to the same family.

Gigi's Story

A neighbor called about a Bulldog who appeared to have been dumped just down the road from us; she was acting aggressively to the people who were trying to catch her so they asked if we could help. Of course we would help. Two of our employees headed out to assess just how aggressive this Bulldog was; Bulldogs by nature are not aggressors, but you never know. When we arrived, we saw a chunky little bully taking a nap out in the sun and thought "great, this will be easy peasy." When we approached, she lunged forward and we barely got out of the way in time. It started looking like it was NOT going to be easy peasy, so we headed back to get a crate and the catch pole. We hate having to use a pole to catch a dog (especially a Bulldog), but in the interest of safety, sometimes it's necessary. Luckily, she was motivated by food so we were able to lure her to the back of the crate by leaving a trail; closed it up, put her in the van and headed back to ARF.

Bulldogs are very sensitive dogs; they can't be outside for too long, so we put her in one of our climate-controlled buildings where she would be comfortable. We weren't sure what we were supposed to do with an aggressive dog; this poses a risk to our staff as well as any visitors that come on the property. But, for the time being, she was safe. The following day, Cassie – who takes care of the building 4 days a week – sent us a picture of herself sitting on the ground with Gigi. To say we were shocked would be an understatement. Since we were now able to handle her, we took her to our vet to have her scanned for a chip, and checked out. No chip, of course, but she was as healthy as can be.

We reached out to a highly reputable Bulldog rescue located in Dallas; they are foster-based and equipped to handle this special breed. They agreed to take Gigi and place her into one of their foster homes; then, we hit a speed bump. The very same day they agreed to accept Gigi into their rescue, she turned on us; started lunging again and acted aggressively through the fence. Knowing very well we couldn't send her to another rescue after witnessing this behavior, we let them know the circumstances, and decided we would keep her at our facility.

Gigi is a special dog; very sweet, loving, affectionate, loves treats! But she does have a trigger, we just don't know what that is. We have two employees who care for the building where Gigi lives daily, and she adores them; poses no threat to their safety and is as happy as a Bulldog could be in rescue. We imagine her "issues" are what



led to her being dumped; but no matter, we do what we always do, take care of our dogs. We imagine Gigi will be with us for the long haul, unless there is some Bulldog whisperer out there looking for a project. Until we find that person, Gigi will stay in our care and receive the proper medical and emotional attention she needs. In the meantime, if you would like to sponsor Gigi, you can set up a recurring donation (weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.) through our website. Your donations will go directly towards food, supplements, treats, and medical care for her special needs. For those unaware, Bulldogs are one of the highest maintenance breeds there are, but we are up to the task!



What can we say about Paul Bunyan? A LOT! But we'll try to keep it short.

Paul Bunyan was roaming around near ARFhouse one day when a neighbor picked him up and brought him to us. Paul Bunyan is the rowdiest, goofiest, most rambunctious dog we have ever known. With some patience and understanding, we believe Paul will make a wonderful family member. This big boy is available for adoption and ready for his perfect person to stop by.





All of our adoptions are special; to see our dogs coming from some of the worst conditions imaginable, to watching them ride off to live with their perfect, forever families is priceless. The thing that makes these adoptions a little more special is that not one, but TWO of our dogs were adopted by family, ARFhouse family. For years, Deb Blakeney and George Hoppe have been supporters, volunteers, and friends who turned into family. Deb is our Adoption Coordinator. Those of you who have adopted from us know her well and likely keep in touch. When Deb and George made the decision to add another member to their family, they were torn; so many great dogs, who to choose? So, they took two! Mr. Smith and Kyra (pictured far left and far right) waited a very long time for their forever home, this played a big part in deciding who to adopt. Deb and George are what we in the rescue biz call “Preferred Adopters”, always and forever approved! We are thankful to say that two of our special dogs who needed a chance are now living in the lap of luxury and haven’t looked back since. We are thrilled that they stayed in the ARFhouse family.



Sugar (pictured on the right) found a family every bit as sweet as she is with Rhonda and Brian McClung, and new brother, Max. Updates from mom are glowing and she has made the most perfect addition to the McClung crew.



Our sweet little pocket Bully, Gina found her PERFECT home with Racheal Collins. Finding the perfect placement for Bully breeds can be quite difficult, so we were thrilled when Racheal called specifically about adopting Gina.

Ponies and Kitties and More!!!



When our neighbor moved, a feral cat colony he had fed for several years was left. As you know, we receive some dry food from several sources. (Unfortunately, there’s never enough dry dog food in those donations. But cat food is in abundance.) So we began “driving up the hill” daily to the property to feed the cats. We’ve been able to trap several of them and have them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. The vet clips an ear so we’ll know when we trap one that’s already vetted. There are 3 left to spay/neuter, and we will succeed eventually, hopefully before more kittens arrive.

Pictured are a few of the feral cats we feed daily. Our rescue Pony, “Shadow” is interested in what they’re doing and hopes they’ll share.

Appeal



Cost of living goes up, adoptions go down. It’s expensive to care for a dog properly, and we sympathize with that. While adoption fees are just a drop in the bucket of such a large operation, those fees help to offset the cost of vetting for our dogs.

This is a troubling realization as our phone rings off the hook with people who’ve found a stray; had someone dump a momma and puppies on their property; noticed a dog tied to a tree they’d like to help.

The need for rescue groups is endless. In a perfect world, we would be out of a job; but we don’t see that happening in our lifetime. In the meantime, we continue to do the work as best we can for those who come to us in need. In order to carry out our mission to rescue, we need your help. With the rising cost of supplies, veterinary expenses, payroll and matching taxes, the need is greater now than it ever has been. With the cost of living going up with no end in sight, people have less to donate. The first “cut back” people make is charity.

You may have read in our Christmas newsletter that for the first time in many years, we are having to purchase our own dog food. Food banks have capped what they are able to give; charitable giving has ceased within some major dog food companies; the demand is greater than the supply. We are not the only group suffering; however, we are one of the largest. We have over 300 dogs who call ARFhouse home; daily, we are feeding – on average – 400 lbs. of dry dog food, plus (approximately) 150 cans to our senior population, and those with special needs or who are taking medication. If you happen to know what the cost of dog food is these days, you can imagine how high our food bill is.

We come to you to ask that if you have anything to give, please consider making a donation to the dogs of ARFhouse. If you ever feel that your donation is “not enough”, we assure you that every dollar counts, and goes directly towards the care for the ARFhouse “pack”. No donation is too small.

Brakebill Veterinary Hospital "In Memory" Donations

"Little Diva"
Darryl Terracina

"Chuy"
The Hornback family

"Brandy"
The Todd family

"Duke"
Jennifer Mathews

"Rocky"
Robert & Leandra Williams

"Phil"
Jason Swayne & Cheyanne Arnold

"Sabrina"
Mr. & Mrs. David Shaffer

"Rufus"
Justin McBride

"Tuffy"
The Cox family

"Mr. Boots"
Zoe Fraley

"Pugsley"
Elizabeth Pearse

"Sam"
Melanie Lansford

"Cherto"
Raquel Vargas

"Pepsi"
Veronica Baxley

"Roxy"
The Sevilla family

"Angel"
The Shepherd family

"BooBoo"
Mary Nix

"Trigger"
Judie Ridge & family

"Niper"
The Grissom family

"Justice"
The Tindell family

"Lucy"
Larry & Beverly Brock

"Scout"
The Boothe family

"Miranda"
Ron Engelke & family

"Zephyr"
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Horne

"Fergus"
Sheila Owens

"Jasmine"
Cody Johnson

"Gracie"
Charlotte Patterson

"Lady"
Velloti family

"Bella"
Paul Graham

"Tucker"
Eric & Stephanie Bankston

"Frankie"
Mr. Mrs. Paul Wood

"Milo"
Shane Landers

"Bitsy"
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Logston

"Mikey"
Linda Moseley

"Flash"
Daren & Jamie Morris & family

"Gypsy"
Randy Moore

"Honey"
Dan Stout

"Max"
Dee Reynolds

"India"
Andrea Migura

"Sierra"
Jennifer Lanci

"Bella"
Teresa Early

"Cheyenne"
Bassham family

"Betty White"
Cynthia Beck

"Momma D"
Karyn Filtner

"Case"
Che Renteria

"Miss Kitty"
Mollie Robinson

"Perky"
Brad Sutton

"Zoe"
Jenifer Politi

"Elsa"
Randy Moore

"Chloe"
Mr. & Mrs. Steve White

"Bruiser"
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cox

"Susie Q"
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stamm

"Willie"
Kathy Sprayberry

"Chiquita"
Don Shipley

"Bean"
Zoe Fraley

"Lexi"
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Earnhart

"Fritz"
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Pappas

"Fisher"
Dawn Hickey & Christian Rennels

"Wally"
Jason Webb & Andrea Migura

"Tilla"
Barbara & Blaine Legere

"Little Bit"
Julie McBride

"Bentley"
Twalla Grant

"Kodiak"
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Odom

"Rocky"
Carl Glenn

"Max"
Kathy Sessa

"Princess"
Tammy Francis

"Garfield"
Bill & Vicki Horne

"Tootie Head"
The Egres family

"Abby"
The Brock family

"Wilbur"
The Hall family

"Bella"
The Stone's

"Roxy"
Debra Hickey

"Maggie"
Bob & Sandra Carey

"Lucy"
Sonja Huff

"Dog Dog"
Johnny Palya

"Lulu"
Sabrina Evans

"Ginger"
Keri & William Steele

In Memory of Animal Lovers

Waymon McMackin
by: his wife, Sharon McMackin

Roy Drake
by: Ronald Anderson
Elaine & John Loy
PPAI
Rebecca English

"An amazing woman....My Mom"
by: Kathy & Stacy Caudell

Savina Kyrola
by: Cynthia Chisolm

Kay Brown
by: Pamela McGraw

Scott Simmons
by: Robert & Kita Hemphins

Scott Simmons
by: Pamela Parks

Charlie Ross
by: Payge & Hal Kenyon

In Honor of Animal Lovers

Gerda Huffman
for her birthday
by her son: Andy Williams

Jack & Lisa Harwood
by: Chris & Tamara Miller

Sam Douglas &
Trey Spradlin
by: Robert Douglas

In Honor of Beloved Pets
"Lewis, "Chewy", "Tipsy" & "Bingo"
by: Mary Kurzy

In Memory of Beloved Pets

Sweet "Abbey"
beloved Aussie of David, Meg &
Maggie Clendenin
by: Beverly Nelson

"Cricket"
by: Margie & Tim Morris

"Scrappy"
Nan Hoover's beloved pet
by: Kathy Camp

"Jenny"
"sweet lowrider corgi"
belonging to David, Meg &
Maggie
by: Beverly Nelson

"Chong"
fur baby of Ben & Bri Chitwood
by: Nancy & Randy Shirley

"Dream"
by: Nancy Norwood

"Lady"
by: Freida Phillips

"Our rescued farm dogs"
"Jasmine", "Daisy Mae" &
"Punkin"
by: Terry & Retha Beals

"Nellie"
by: Midell Ayer

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.



If we have overlooked an "in memory" or "in honor" gift, please accept our apology and contact us and we'll make certain it's listed in the next newsletter. martha@arfhhouse.org



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
Sally O'Brien
Martha Hovers
Stacie Stuart
Jenna Glover
Secretary
Roxanne South



ARFhouse Non-Profit Organization on Facebook

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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
Phone (903) 564-7056
Website address: www.arfhouse.org
Email: martha@arfhouse.org