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VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!



A Newsletter for Kootenai Humane Society Volunteers

April 2008

Where's your calendar contest entry?

The 2009 KHS Pet Photo Calendar Contest is on. Yet, as of April 7, I have only received two entries. Come on you pet lovers. Where's your pride in ownership? Many of you have told me about your pet(s). Now's the time to back that bragging up with a photo. Please join us. And go to our web site to see your competition.

This fun event will be a fundraiser for KHS in two ways. First, all entries must be accompanied with a \$10 entry fee, a 8x10 or 9x12 print of the entry, a compact disc with the digital photo downloaded in the highest resolution as either a .jpg or a .tif, and a paragraph of 75 words or less of why that pet is important in your life. That first \$10 is the start to a great fundraising effort. Once registered, the entrant is posted on our web site. Supporters go on the web site and pledge additional dollars as votes for their favorite photo. The top vote getter gets the cover of the calendar. The next 12 money raisers will be named "Pets of the Month" and placed throughout the calendar. The remaining photos—let's call them "honorable mentions"--may be used in the calendar to enhance its graphics.

This calendar will also help raise funds through its sale in late 2008 and early 2009. The price will be determined at a later date, and primarily depend on quantities printed and advance orders. Now is the time to get out your favorite pet photos and submit your entry. The contest will run through mid-September, 2008. The first two entries have been posted.

Dog walkers take note!

The dog walkers are wonderful. I appreciate everything they do. But, the shelter closes at 6 p.m. and shelter staff must perform a host of duties to make the dogs comfortable for the night before they call it a day. This must be accomplished with all the dogs present. Staff has been there since 8 that morning. They need to go home, too, and they can't clock out without doing the necessary lockup chores. **Therefore, all the dogs must be returned to their kennels by 5:45 p.m.**

I know some dog walkers have experience and cut a few corners in order to make maximum use of their time and to benefit as many dogs as possible. But, PLEASE, you know the rules and your example serves as tacit permission for others to copy you. Remember, one dog at a time. No dog off the leash unless in the right area. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a dog-walking adult. Etc. Etc. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Paperwork requires diligence.

I've reminded you about recording volunteer hours **every time** you volunteer. Diligence on your part will be our key to success. Reviewing your volunteer time sheets this month, reminded me of how important it is to **be accurate, timely and complete**. You must complete your sheet by the last day of the month. You must include both your first and last name (in order to get credit for your hours). You must record your hours EVERY time you help. So if you are at a volunteer event, check later to ensure the hours completed outside the shelter make it to the page. Recording your hours is part of the responsibility you accepted as a KHS volunteer. Thanks

Foster families needed

We NEED foster families for animals brought to the shelter, but not good shelter residents (for a lot of reasons). Those animals run the gamut from kittens and puppies to animals with special medical needs. Animals in a foster care situation could stay with your family from a couple of weeks to a couple of months. KHS provides food/medical supplies (if needed)--you provide a safe environment and all the love. There's a foster care application on the KHS web site or you can pick it up at the front desk at the shelter. We currently have about a dozen families and we need dozens more. Please consider opening your home and your heart to a foster situation

Log on and help KHS get cash

As you know spay and neutering is a very important part of the work of KHS. It won't happen to the degree we need it to without additional funds. We contact organizations and businesses around the world who entertain such requests for dollars and support. Go to <http://www.myhometownhelper.com/ViewProject.aspx?tell=2&id=42266> and show your support for a grant we have requested from the company that makes Hamburger (and Tuna) Helper. I have made a request for \$15,000 to support our SPOT Program, a low cost spay and neuter program for our area's low income residents. With your help and by going to this web site you can show your support and prove to the company that we have the support and commitment of our community to have an effective and low cost spay/neuter program. Our project is now posted on My Hometown Helper.com. And it is entitled "Collaborative funding for low-income spay/neuter program Hayden". Please visit this site at and write a small letter of support. You can see the justification at the site. Won't you help and go there and show your support?

Dog trainers needed

As you know, KHS has signed contracts with Rathdrum and Coeur d'Alene to take in their strays. That will mean a lot of new dogs at the shelter and new dog behavior problems. We will need to work very hard to make those dogs adoptable and fast. To accomplish that need volunteers to help us temperament test and train our animals. Monica of the K-9 Zone, who offers dog training problem-solving sessions at KHS, has agreed to lead a dog trainer class to help our dog walkers be consistent and informed in their efforts. If you are interested, let me know via e-mail and we will start a list of class candidates. I expect the first dog trainers' class to be held in June. Thanks!

Your duties include...

Making sure we have your latest address, e-mail address and phone number. Add your latest info on to your monthly time sheet. Visiting our website; www.kootenaihumansociety.com frequently for information and events. Checking your e-mail to look for news and opportunities. Reading the bulletin boards at the Shelter and the Thrift Store. Ask if we need help for events. Spreading the word! If your volunteer peers are getting e-mail and you're not. Let us know! Share volunteer news with your peers.

Master plan to move forward

The Coeur d'Alene City Council approved moving forward with KHS and Kootenai County to develop plans for a new dog park/shelter. Watch the paper! Show your support when the time comes. Get informed! Stay informed and be involved. With your help we could build a new shelter and dog park!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

KHS Outreach/Adoption 1st/3rd Saturday each month Petco (Two per event)

AJ's Tails and Trails dog Walk/Run, May 18, Centennial Trail (Dozens –need core group to serve on committee to help organize)

Hogs for Dogs June 28

Transport Volunteers (taking animals to rescue groups/shelters)—ongoing.



If you have suggestions for this newsletter or to help make KHS a better place to volunteer please contact me. You can also find hard copies at the Shelter and Thrift Store.

For more information on volunteer opportunities:

Contact Michael Regan at 208-818-4535 or e-mail volunteers@kootenaihumansociety.com