



## Newsletter Summer 2013

“Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.”

*-John Muir, American Naturalist, founder of The Sierra Club*

### What's New?

Happy summer, everyone! While we have not produced an official newsletter in a while, many of you have been keeping up with the Prattville Autauga Humane Society's activities via Facebook. We have over 2,200 “likes” and that number is growing daily. Our Facebook page is the place to see photographs of adopted animals, a calendar of upcoming events, notifications of lost animals in the area, pictures of staff and volunteers helping our animals, and information regarding adoptable dogs and cats. We encourage you to visit and like our page!

PAHS is now offering a Black Dog Adoption Special. Unfortunately, black dogs and puppies spend more time waiting for a new home than their lighter-colored counterparts. According to the ASPCA, Black Dog Syndrome (BDS) is a reality in the shelter industry; black dogs often contend with myths that they are ordinary and plain, aggressive, and even disappear in the dark lighting of shelter kennels. As a result black dogs have a low adoption rate. We at PAHS want to challenge these misconceptions. We



want our black dogs to find loving, lasting homes. You can adopt a black puppy or adult dog for \$50.00. These dogs are just as furry, friendly, loyal as any other dog and deserve

your attention and love. Please stop by the shelter and see who is waiting for you!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Prattville Autauga Humane Society will offer **extended hours on Fridays only** during the months of July and August. On Fridays, we will stay open from

11am until 6pm. We hope this will offer families an extra couple of hours to come to the shelter and consider adopting an animal.

**Thursday, July 11, 7pm: Volunteer Orientation Meeting at the Prattville Public Library, 254 Doster St.** If you are interested in hearing about volunteer opportunities with the shelter—both off-site and on-site—then you will not want to miss this informative session. Our volunteer coordinator, Jenny Whisenhunt, Shelter Manager Claudia Rigsby, and Board of Directors member Ann Smith will be on hand to talk about specific volunteer needs of the shelter. We will have shelter t-shirts available for \$10 and can answer many of your questions. This meeting is open to everyone!

**Saturday, September 21, 9am-1pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hot Roddin' for Hounds Car Show.** This was a very successful fundraiser for PAHS last year and we hope to repeat the wonderful energy and fun this event generated last year. Stay tuned for more details!

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month: Prattville Petsmart Puppy Adoptions, 11am-3pm.** We typically bring 4-7 2-3 month old puppies who are up for adoption; this offers folks a convenient location to come by and see these little guys! In addition, if you adopt a puppy or a cat (always available in the Cat Adoption Center), you receive a large booklet of coupons for various pet supplies courtesy of Petsmart.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each Month: Magic on Main, Downtown Prattville, 5:30pm-8:30pm.** Every third Thursday, PAHS staff brings 3-4 adult dogs who are up for adoption and walk them around downtown Prattville for people to see and pet. This environment provides a perfect opportunity to experience how these adult dogs

behave outside and interact with other dogs and people. We are typically set up right in front of A Touch of New York, the lovely women's boutique located at 135 E. Main Street. Come and see us!

### PAHS VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The volunteers who devote countless hours to Prattville Autauga Humane Society are one of our most important assets and do a remarkable job helping to take care of the animals, keeping the shelter clean and tidy, taking pictures of the animals to place on adoption websites, and socializing dogs and cats. This month we want to profile Kate Colley, the PAHS Volunteer of the Month!

Kate Colley has been a fixture at the shelter for the last fourteen months. Though currently living in Montgomery, she decided to volunteer with us because



her daughter adopted a dog from PAHS, and she wanted to be of service to our shelter. Kate volunteers each Wednesday and Saturday morning and her tasks are not easy ones! She cleans the cat room, scoops litter boxes, provides clean food/water bowls for the cats, sweeps and mops the lobby, the stray room, and the cat room. When asked

what she loves about volunteering she says, "I like getting to play and love on the cats, but not take them home. I want to help in any way I can because I just love animals so much." The above photograph shows Kate holding Snowball, the longest cat resident at the shelter. Kate is always smiling, and she frequently brings flowers from her garden to brighten up the lobby. In fact, just last week she brought cupcakes for the shelter staff. When she is not volunteering at the shelter, she is home tending to her three cats—Ruby, Sambo, and Joey—and her two dogs, Cruella and Rosie. Kate, we thank you for all that you do for PAHS and our shelter animals!

### SHELTER HAPPENINGS

Our "No Room For Rover" building project is still in full swing. We have received some sizeable donations from the community and from individual patrons as we try and reach our goal of \$150,000. The Isle O'Bama Parrothead Club of Montgomery donated \$600 just last month. One

of our largest gifts came from Mr. Gene Hall of the Autauga County Fair association. At PAHS's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bark in the Park fundraiser, he presented the shelter with a \$5,000 check. The photo depicts PAHS Board president

Sheree Ward and vice-president Alice Floyd accepting this generous contribution. If you would like to donate you can do so in person at the shelter, via mail (mail to PAHS, P.O. Box 680697, Prattville, AL 36068), or online through PayPal on our website: <http://www.ataugahumanesociety.com>. Please specify that the donation is for "No Room for Rover."



Speaking of Bark in the Park, PAHS held our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bark in the Park on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Cooters Pond Park in Prattville. It was our most successful one yet, as we raised \$6,000 for our "No Room for Rover" building campaign. Over thirty local vendors and sponsors turned out to make this a great day for shelter animals! You can see all of the sponsors and vendors on our 2013 PAHS t-shirt; these can be purchased at the shelter for \$10.00.

While monetary gifts are always welcome, PAHS accepts supply donations, as well. You can take a look at our Wish List on our website, but our more urgent supply needs include: wet/dry kitten food, cat litter, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, paper towels, bleach, and Fabuloso (an all-purpose cleaner). Collecting supplies is a great activity for kids and teenagers. Just before summer break, some children in the Prattville Elementary After-School program collected items for the shelter animals as part of a service project. We love when kids help us out as it teaches personal and community responsibility.

### FOSTER AMBASSADORS

PAHS is currently accepting applications for Foster Ambassadors. Fosters are important to every non-profit shelter organization. Fostering an adult dog, a mother cat and kittens, and puppies is a rewarding experience. Applicants will need to contact our Shelter Manager, Claudia Rigsby, at 334-358-2882. An interview process and home visit will be required.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Dogs Left In Cars

After a busy day, I decided to relax and surf the World Wide Web. This time of year, incidents of children left in cars is a common headline. I was shocked when one of the first items to catch my eye was a child dying after having been left in a car for about six hours. It seems the adult in charge of the child had forgotten he was in the car. I am not sure how one forgets about having a child in the car, but it apparently happens more frequently than I realized. According to the article, approximately 38 children die each year as a result of being left inside of a hot car.

This statistic surprised me. I began to wonder: how many dogs die from being left in hot cars each year? So I started searching for the information. No one keeps track of how many pets die in cars annually, but some articles suggest these tragedies are in the “thousands.” In retrospect, not having an average made sense. After all, reporting the death of an animal is not mandatory.

While I do not understand why anyone would leave a living thing locked up in a hot car, it seems to happen far more than most of us realize. So what should you do if you see an animal left in a hot car? First, make sure the animal is not in any distress. Second, call the local police department. Thirdly, get the make, model, and license plate of the car and ask surrounding businesses to page the owner to return to the vehicle. If the owner does not arrive, call 911. Fourteen states have enacted specific laws that protect dogs in hot cars, as have many municipalities—but even in places lacking such a law, including Alabama, leaving an animal in a hot car may constitute cruelty.

How do you know if the animal is in distress? Look for these signs/symptoms:

- Excessive panting
- Excessive drooling
- Increased heart rate
- Trouble breathing
- Disorientation, stumbling or poor coordination
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Collapse or loss of consciousness
- Seizure
- Respiratory arrest

Better yet, be proactive. Help educate your friends and family why it might be better if the dogs stay home. Some of us have seen pictures of cookies being baked on the dashboard of cars in order to demonstrate how hot a car can become during the summer. What I did not realize was that if the automobile is left running with the air conditioner on, it will shut off if the engine overheats. If ever in doubt about leaving your dog in a vehicle, put on your winter coat and go sit in your car with the windows up. If it is too hot for you, it will be too hot for your dog!

Sincerely,  
Sheree Ward  
President, Board of Directors, PAHS