



City of Montrose Animal Services 2011 Annual Report



Photo by Jeannie Houghnon

City of Montrose Animal Services

Our Mission

To maintain animal sheltering excellence by attracting and retaining capable, professional and compassionate staff with the goal of placing adoptable, healthier, safer companion animals into caring and responsible permanent homes.

To promote, provide and maintain programs that help reduce companion animal overpopulation thus reducing the need for euthanasia.

To promote a healthier and safer community by educating companion animal owners of the benefits of vaccinating, spaying or neutering and training of their pets.

To attract and retain capable, professional and compassionate staff with the goal of promoting and enforcing City Ordinances that result in a safer and healthier community for our citizens and our animals.

To prevent cruelty, neglect and abuse of all animals and to encourage responsible companion animal ownership through education, enforcement and community involvement.



Services Provided

The City of Montrose Animal Services welcomes any stray animal from the City or County of Montrose, City of Olathe, Ridgway State Park, and Switzer State Park. The Animal Shelter takes owner relinquished animals. The Animal Shelter also holds animals for rabies or dangerous and nuisance animals pending a disposition by the Court. We also hold animals whose owners are involved in accidents, are incarcerated by law enforcement, or have an emergency situation that is referred to us by governmental or non-profit agencies. We provide animal rescues and emergency management in cooperation with other regional agencies. There are 4 full-time Animal Control Officers who provide animal control services, 3 full-time Animal Shelter Technicians and 2 part-time Animal Shelter Custodians providing care for animals at the shelter.

Adoption Only

Due to an extreme amount of effort by every staff member at our facility, we were able to maintain our “no-kill/Adoption Only” status for the second year in a row. This status gives our customers confidence in leaving animals in our care, with the assurance that we will find them a home. Our facility was tripled in size in 2005 and six years later we are experiencing overcrowding of companion animals. We started a “waiting list” program for personal pet relinquishments, which allowed us to help regulate the flow of impounded animals to some degree.

With our “Lost Pet” list, “Found Pet” list, “Wish” list, and “Free Pet” board, we were able to find homes for many animals without having to impound them and to quickly reunite animals with their owners.

Lost and Found Pets

	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
Found	93	25	4	122
Lost	350	157	5	512
Total	443	182	9	634



Pet Relinquishment Waiting List

	Dogs	Cats	Total
Impounded	14	7	21
Not Impounded	84	38	122
Total	98	45	143

We welcomed a new Veterinarian to our community. Renee Rumrill DMV became the new owner of Alta Vista Veterinary Hospital and came with high reviews from her previous practice in the Eagle Valley.



We were honored to have Shelter Manager/Officer Kari Kishiyama voted Employee of the Year for 2011 for the entire City of Montrose at the annual Awards Banquet.

With 2012, we were able to start two projects. Improvements are long awaited and much needed with the ever-tightening budgets. The first was a much-needed improvement of tiling the kennel walls in the Adoption kennel area. This will prevent the harboring of germs in that area. Secondly, we were able to begin construction of permanent shade for the outside dog kennels, primarily funded through a generous donation.

Animal Services 2011-2012 Community Policing Projects

Over the past couple of years, we have received many complaints of dogs running off leash and at times defecating in our public parks and on area bike paths. Animal Control Officer John Bennett proposed having a large stencil made with language that addresses these two problems. Using the stencil, he painted signs on the sidewalks at the entrances of parks and strategic points on bike paths. We have received many positive comments on the signage. We have also increased foot patrol in populated areas in the parks.

Historically, we have experienced the largest feral cat populations in area mobile home parks. In an effort to reduce this problem and help prevent overpopulating the Animal Shelter with stray cats, Officer Kory Bailey has been working on a project, which involved using door hangers with Animal Control City Ordinances printed on them and encouraging owners to spay / neuter their pets. She has also been communicating with the park managers with suggestions to manage their pet populations

Involvement in the community is important to our department and encouraged by Police Chief Tom Chinn. We gave “Be Kind to Animals” presentations to every elementary school in the district, gave presentations to the MHS Youth Academy, participated in the Middle School “Career Day”, gave a presentation to the “Hug-a-Bear” kids, DMEA Line crews, and many tours to the “After School Program” for kids, as well as presentations to several civic groups in town. Additionally, we attended community fundraisers for the Animal Shelter with hosts Unifirst Mortgage and 21st Century After School Program – Olathe Kids Cooking for the Community. Scott’s Printing made another generous donation through their Christmas Tree program. Double Diamond Kennels in Montrose closed and donated all of their stainless steel dog bowl and some crates to the Animal Shelter. Adopt-a-thons were held through Murdoch’s, Pet Co, and Main in Motion.



Animal Control Officer Kim Scott gives a presentation for the annual Citizen's Police Academy.

Animal Control Supervisor Mike Duncan gives a presentation on Animal Control equipment to a group of students from a local elementary school.



Volunteers

Our volunteers at the Animal Shelter logged in 1,055 hours in 2012, down from 1,421 hours in 2011. Court Ordered Useful Public Service volunteers logged in 1,045.5 hours in 2012 compared to 1,026 hours in 2011. Our Pet Transfer volunteer Beth Jones in cooperation with Animal Shelter Technician Georgia Northrup transferred 394 animals to other “adoption only” shelters throughout the state, which was a major contribution to our shelter maintaining its “no kill / adoption only” status for the second year in a row. This transfer number was up from 385 in 2010.

The Robert Brown Center (minimum security juvenal detention facility) kids came over to the Animal Shelter almost every afternoon to clean dog kennels. We recognized their efforts with a Pizza appreciation luncheon.

Volunteer statistics compiled by Bob Cornelius

CFAWA (Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies)

We continue to be active in State animal legislation as a board member of CFAWA.

BAP (Bureau of Animal Protection (State Ag. Dept.))

One of our Animal Control Officers (Kim Scott), is a State BAP Officer, which gives her authority to write citations for violations under State CRS code, typically for felony cases of Cruelty to Animals.

Emergency Preparedness

In an effort to maintain our Emergency Preparedness skills, we conducted an Emergency Shelter Evacuation and Sheltering exercise. All of our Officers and Technicians participated as well as several Officers from the Police Dept. The exercise heightened everyone’s awareness of how to prepare for disasters in our area.



Montrose Animal Protection Agency (MAPA)



The Montrose Animal Protection Agency continued to be a major resource for animal population control and education about animal wellness. The organization provides financial aid to low-income families for spay/neuter of their companion animals. Despite the slowed economy in 2011, MAPA received \$19,000 from five major granting agencies: Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund, the Animal Assistance Foundation, the Bates Foundation and Trust, the Foundation for the Protection of Animals, and the Freda Hambrick Foundation. Also, the Montrose community was especially generous through personal donations and major fundraisers, such as the Spay-ghetti Dinner and Auctions, Trivia Night, and the Christmas Letter appeal. From those sources, MAPA was able to give aid for spay/neuter for 362 animals, an increase of 50 over 2010, at a cost of \$19,460. MAPA works with nine area veterinarians to provide reimbursement vouchers for the surgeries.

MAPA’s educational staff taught programs and gave books to school children about how to treat animal and care for their needs. The teachers also developed a summer program for school children to be given through the Montrose Recreational District in 2012. They arranged three speakers for adults at the Montrose Animal Shelter on topics of interest, such as how to pick a pet and care for aging animals. Additionally they broadcast PSA’s about situations harmful to pets– weather extremes, riding loose in cars, and tethering unsupervised animals.

Low Cost Spay/Neuter, Vaccination and Microchip Clinics

In 2011 the City of Montrose hosted 6 Spay/Neuter, Vaccination and Microchip Clinics at the Animal shelter resulting in 177 additional pets being spayed/neutered in our community. Since November 2005, when we began offering low cost spay/neuter clinics to the public, 1,311 pets have been spayed/neutered, 2,155 vaccinations have been administered, and 315 pets have been microchipped.

Spay / Neuter

Canine Spays.....	42
Canine Neuters.....	41
Feline Spays.....	46
Feline Neuters.....	48
Total Surgeries	177

Vaccines

Canine Rabies Vaccines.....	196
Feline Rabies Vaccines.....	101
Canine Distemper.....	140
Feline Distemper.....	62
Canine Bordatella.....	3
Leukemia.....	0
Total Vaccinations	504

Microchips Implanted.....36





WeCARE (Western Colorado Animal Resources)

Our thirteen County coalition remains strong and a vital resource sharing organization. The group was able to bring many training opportunities to the Western Slope of Colorado, saving significant travel costs for local agencies.

Maddie’s Fund Grant continues to be a focus from the two major groups within the coalition. Mesa County Animal Services Director Penny McCarty is the backbone of this project including the gathering and reporting of the national standardized Asilomar Accords statistics.

About Maddie’s Fund

Maddie’s Fund, the Pet Rescue Foundation, is a family foundation established in 1999 to help fund the creation of a no-kill nation. Since its inception, Maddie’s Fund has awarded animal welfare organizations and universities \$71.6 million to save dog and cat lives.



The Pet Rescue Foundation

Maddie’s Fund aims to create a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats are guaranteed a loving home. To achieve this goal, Maddie’s Fund is investing its resources in:

- ◆ community collaborations where animal welfare organizations come together to develop successful models of lifesaving
- ◆ Veterinary colleges to help shelter medicine become part of the veterinary curriculum private practice veterinarians to encourage greater participation in the animal welfare cause.
- ◆ The implementation of national strategies to collect and report shelter statistics.

This information was taken from the Maddie’s Fund website at www.maddiesfund.org/

Now that there’s a standard language that all shelters can use, we can more easily compile statistics to help us compare the work that we do at the City of Montrose Animal Services with other shelters both locally and nationally.

Animals Saved (adopted, returned to owner, transferred)	1327
Placement rate for healthy dogs and cats	100%
Live Release Rate	86.6 %
	Up from 81.4% in 2010

The Live Release Rate is the percent of all dogs and cats received that were adopted, returned to owner or released to other rescue organizations. This percentage is determined under standardized criteria established by the Asilomar Accords.

This does not include 16 dogs and cats that died in the shelter/care.



The Pet Rescue Foundation

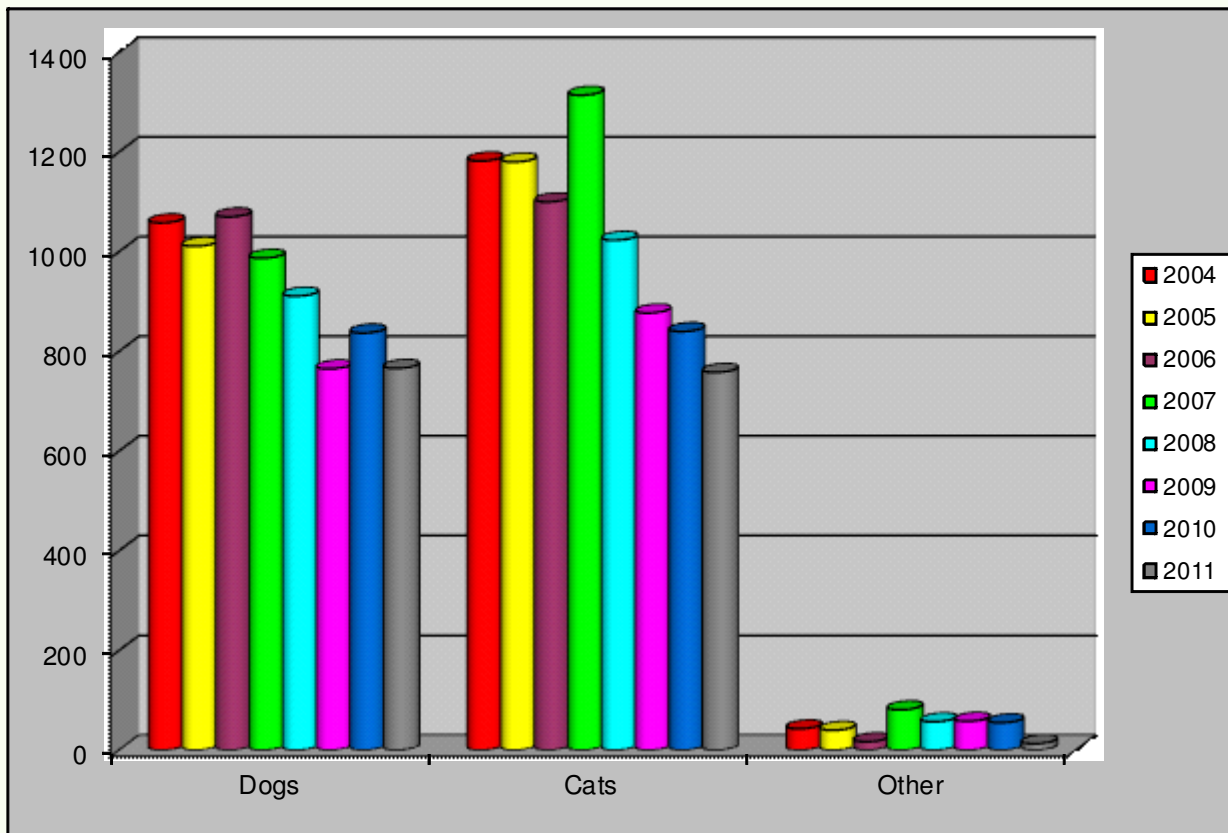
January 1, 2011-December 31-2011	Dog	Cat	Wildlife	Other	Total
BEGINNING SHELTER COUNT (January 1, 2011)	30	23	0	2	55
INTAKE (Live Animals Only)					
From the public					
Healthy	658	413	3	6	1080
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	54	152	0	0	206
Treatable - Manageable	51	49	0	0	100
Unhealthy & Untreatable	2	144	2	2	150
Subtotal Intake from the Public	765	758	5	8	1536
Incoming Transfers from Organizations within Community/Coalition					
Healthy	1	0	0	0	1
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs within Community/Coalition	1	0	0	0	1
Incoming Transfers from Organizations outside Community/Coalition					
Healthy	0	0	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Intake from Incoming Transfers from Orgs outside Community/Coalition	0	0	0	0	0
From Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia					
Healthy	0	0	0	0	0
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	0	0	0	0	0
Treatable - Manageable	0	0	0	0	0
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Intake from Owners/Guardians Requesting Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0
Total Intake	766	758	5	8	1537
Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	0	0	0	0	0
ADJUSTED TOTAL INTAKE (Total Intake minus Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	766	758	5	8	1537
ADOPTIONS (only animals adopted by the public)					
Healthy	271	158	0	7	436
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	29	41	0	0	70
Treatable - Manageable	17	10	0	0	27
Unhealthy & Untreatable	1	3	0	0	4
TOTAL ADOPTIONS	318	212	0	7	537
OUTGOING TRANSFERS to organizations withing Community/Coalition					
Healthy	3	0	0	0	3
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	1	0	0	0	1
Treatable - Manageable	0	5	0	0	5
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs within Community/Coalition	4	5	0	0	9
OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Organizations outside Community/Coalition					
Healthy	46	227	0	0	273
Treatable - Rehabilitatable	5	62	0	0	67
Treatable - Manageable	7	21	0	0	28
Unhealthy & Untreatable	0	17	0	0	17
TOTAL OUTGOING TRANSFERS to Orgs outside Community/Coalition	58	327	0	0	385
RETURN TO OWNER/GUARDIAN	377	26	0	1	404
ANIMALS EUTHANIZED					
Healthy (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	0	0	3	0	3
Treatable - Rehabilitatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	4	14	0	0	18
Treatable - Manageable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	2	7	0	0	9
Unhealthy & Untreatable (Includes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	20	158	0	0	178
TOTAL EUTHANASIA	26	179	3	0	208
Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	0	0	0	0	0
ADJUSTED TOTAL EUTHANASIA (Total Euthanasia minus Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia)	26	179	3	0	208
SUBTOTAL OUTCOMES Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	783	749	3	8	1543
DIED OR LOST IN SHELTER/CARE	1	15	2	2	20
TOTAL OUTCOMES Excludes Owner/Guardian Requested Euthanasia (Unhealthy & Untreatable Only)	784	764	5	10	1563

SHELTERED ANIMALS



	Dogs	Cats	Other	TOTAL
2005	1011	1180	40	2231
2006	1070	1100	17	2187
2007	987	1314	81	2282
2008	911	1023	57	1991
2009	765	877	58	1700
2010	837	840	55	1732
2011	766	758	13	1537

* Other animals includes rabbits, chickens, rat, mink, iguana, parakeet, and skunks.



Due to our “adoption only” status and our improved transfer program, the average days an animal is cared for at our facility is 8 days for dogs and 16 days for cats. Additionally, every animal that is adopted from our facility is fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered.

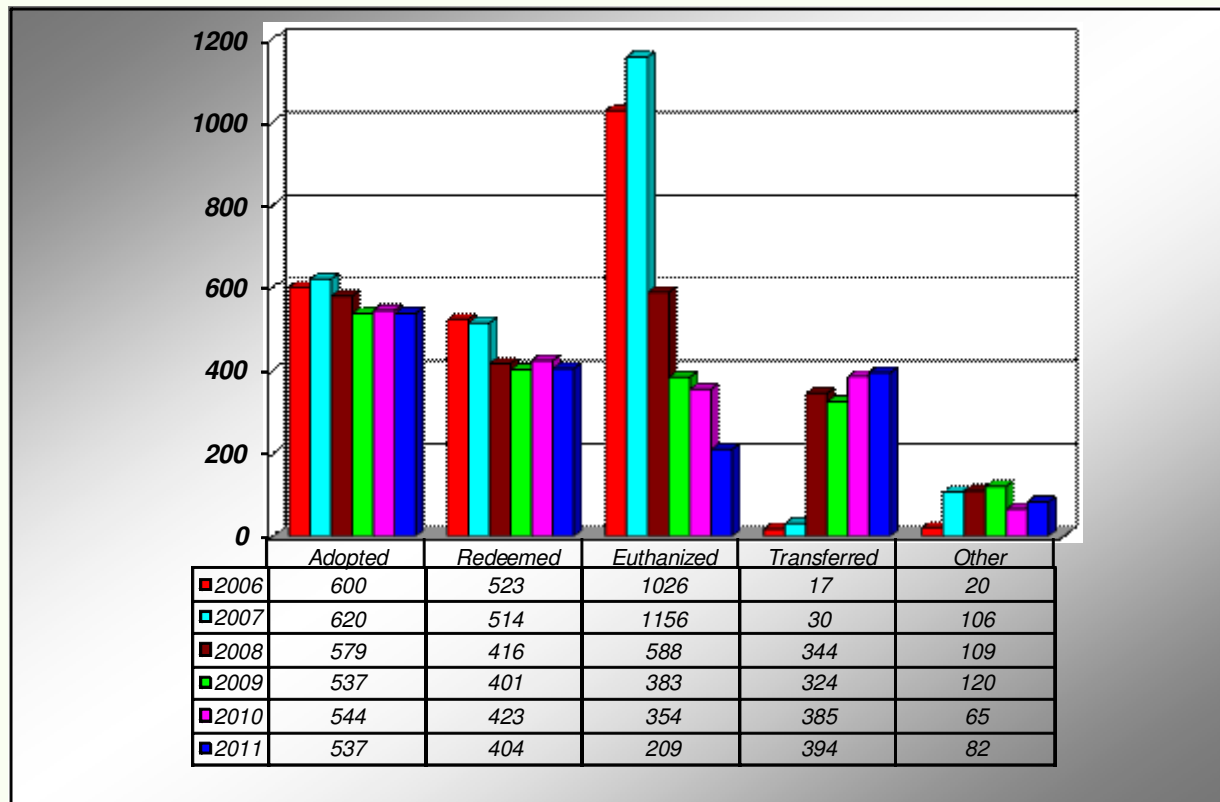


PET ANIMAL DISPOSITIONS

2011

	Adopted	Redeemed	Euthanized	Transferred	Other/ Wildlife	TOTAL
2006	600 - 27%	523 - 24%	1026 - 47%	17 - 1%	20 - 1%	2186
2007	620 - 26%	514 - 21%	1156 - 48%	30 - 1%	106 - 4%	2426
2008	579 - 29%	416 - 20%	588 - 29%	344 - 17%	109 - 5%	2021
2009	537 - 30%	401 - 23%	383 - 22%	324 - 18%	120 - 7%	1765
2010	544 - 31%	423 - 24%	354 - 20%	385 - 22%	65 - 3%	1771
2011	537 - 33%	404 - 25%	209 - 13%	394 - 24%	82 - 5%	1626

* Other indicates DOA animals and animals that died in care.

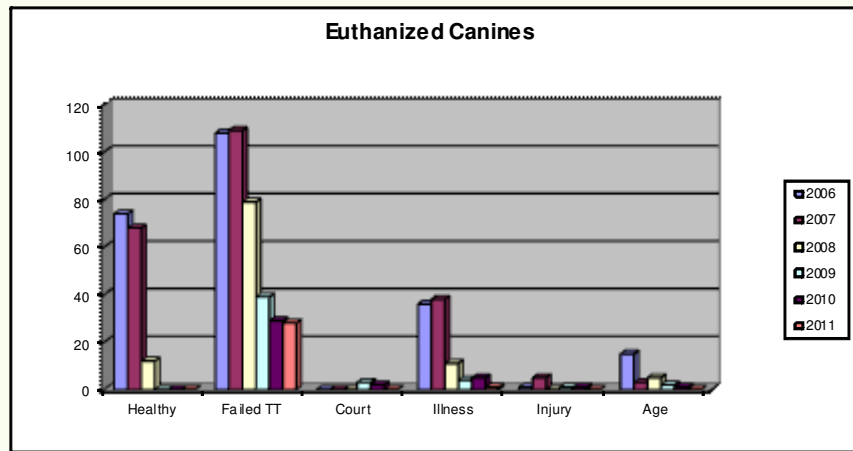


Graphs produced by Janice Oatman.

EUTHANASIA STATISTICS

EUTHANIZED CANINES

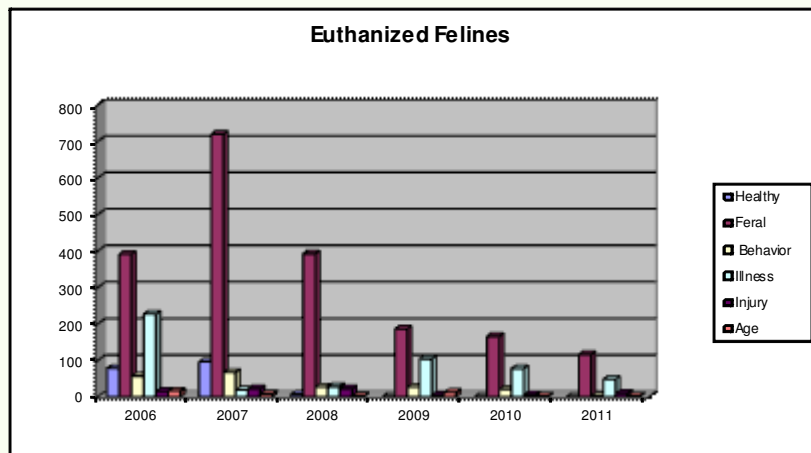
Euthanized Canines							
	Healthy	Failed TT	Court	Illness	Injury	Age	TOTAL
2006	74	108	0	36	1	15	234
2007	68	109	0	38	5	3	223
2008	12	79	0	11	0	5	107
2009	0	39	3	4	1	2	49
2010	0	29	2	5	1	1	38
2011	0	28	0	1	0	0	29



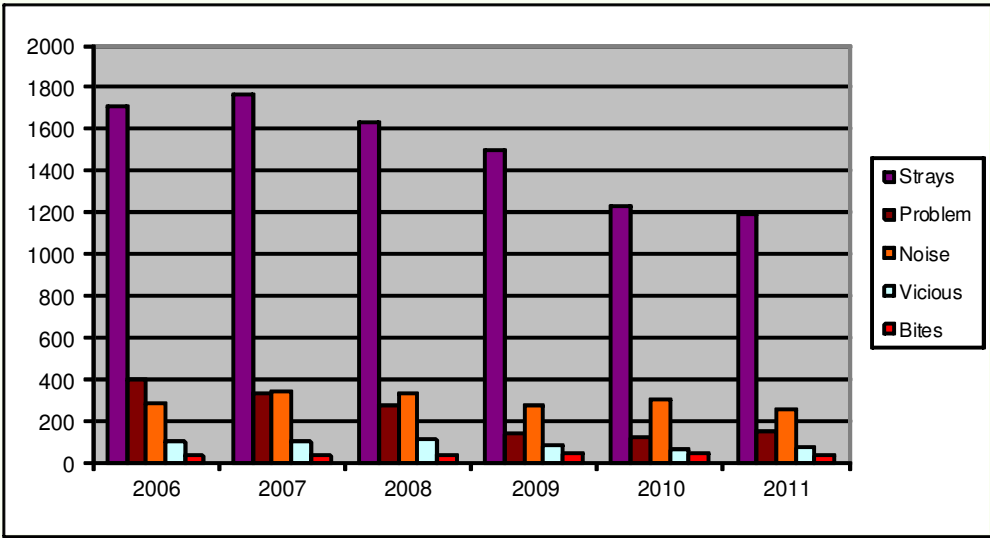
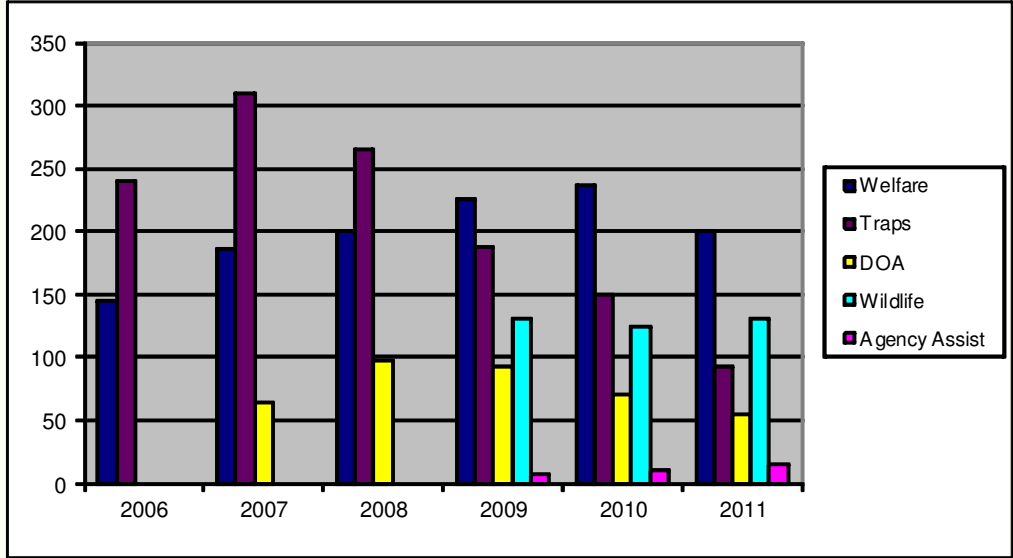
*Dogs that failed the temperament test were unadoptable due to aggressive or vicious behavior

EUTHANIZED FELINES

Euthanized Felines							
	Healthy	Feral	Behavior	Illness	Injury	Age	TOTAL
2006	78	391	57	227	15	16	784
2007	96	720	67	19	22	9	933
2008	7	392	27	28	22	3	479
2009	0	186	27	104	5	12	334
2010	0	166	21	77	6	2	272
2011	0	116	3	48	10	2	179



ANIMAL CONTROL CALLS FOR SERVICE



Calls for Service

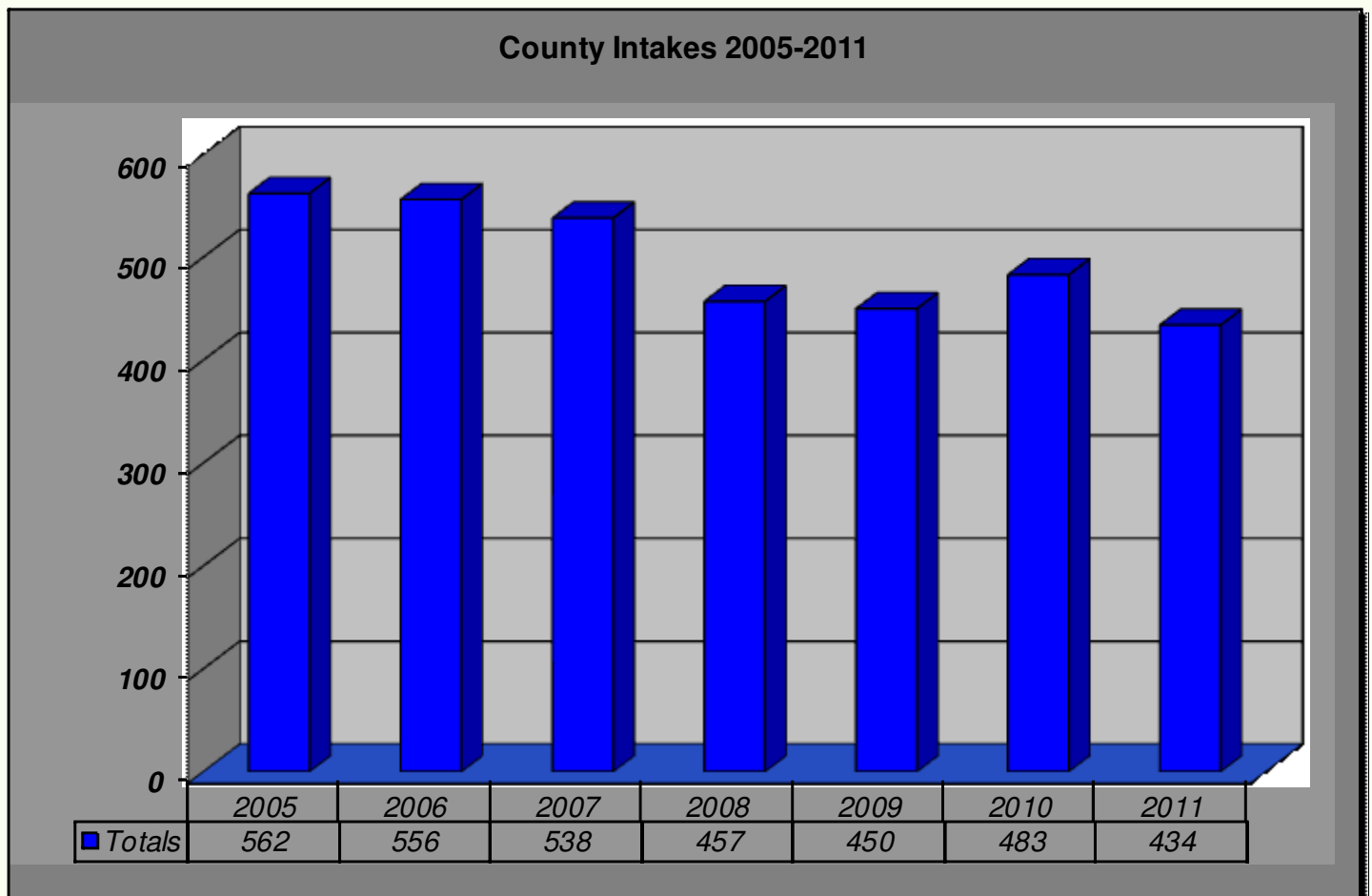
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Strays	1712	1763	1628	1500	1231	1196
Problem	401	330	274	137	123	145
Noise	281	344	333	274	299	255
Vicious	97	98	107	80	66	75
Bites	30	36	35	43	43	38
Welfare	145	186	200	225	236	201
Traps	240	309	266	188	149	92
DOA		64	97	92	70	54
Wildlife				131	125	131
Agency Assist				7	10	15
Total	2906	3130	3534	2677	2352	2202

MONTROSE COUNTY ANIMAL INTAKE REPORT

Montrose County Intake Report

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	53	21	54	40	43	34	35
February	35	26	43	27	34	21	24
March	36	37	21	27	28	36	48
April	29	29	29	40	29	33	21
May	33	53	44	37	50	38	37
June	65	59	47	31	43	61	45
July	60	57	48	55	40	50	40
August	70	65	58	43	38	58	48
September	57	64	55	39	51	38	39
October	42	51	55	43	37	52	42
November	43	57	43	36	25	32	29
December	39	37	41	39	32	30	26
TOTAL	562	556	538	457	450	483	434

These numbers include animals brought to the shelter by the public and by the County Animal Control Officer.



Montrose Municipal Court Report

Court Report	Filings
6-2-2 Cruelty to Animals	10
6-2-11 Nuisance (Barking, Excessive Feces)	17
6-2-2 Rabies Control	6
6-2-2.A Licensing of Dogs in the City of Montrose	43
6-2-4 Limit on Dogs and Cats	6
6-2-6 Running at Large Prohibited	108
6-2-7 Poultry at Large	1
6-2-9 Dangerous Animals	<u>30</u>
Total	221

Court Summary

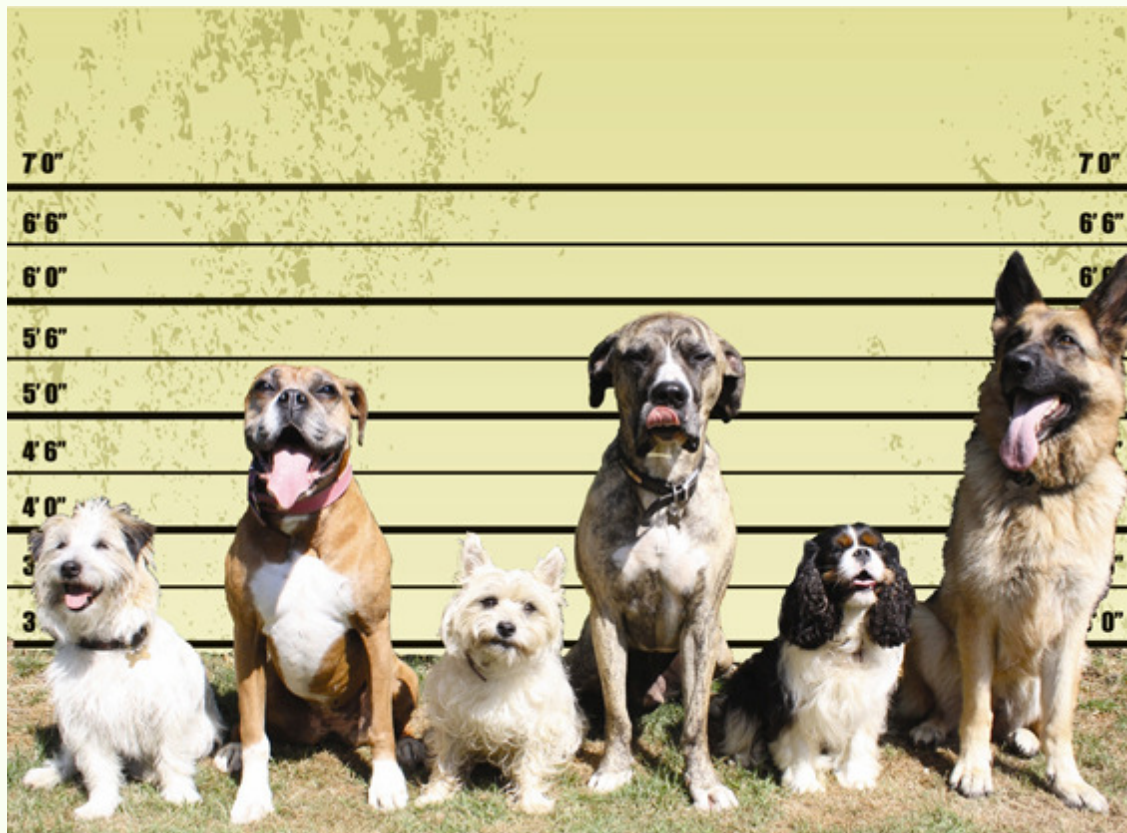
Plea Not Yet Entered	21
Guilty	117
No Contest	65
Acquitted	2
Withheld	3
Dismissed	5
Dismissed Prosecution	<u>8</u>
Total	221

DANGEROUS DOG COMPLAINTS AND DOG BITE SUMMARY 2011

In 2011, the Montrose Police Department and Animal Control responded to 72 complaints of Dangerous/Vicious dogs. Of these 72 complaints, 22 citations were issued for ownership of a Dangerous Animal. 50 complaints involved dogs off the owner's property acting aggressive towards people without biting, of those 50, 13 dogs and owners were never located. 13 complaints involved one or more dogs running loose and attacking other animals, 3 complaints were of dogs acting aggressive, but not leaving the owners property, 2 complaints involved dogs acting badly while in their owners vehicles, 3 complaints involved dogs scaring people while the dogs and owners were out for a walk. 1 complaint involved 2 dogs attacking another dog from the same household. Overall, the numbers of Dangerous Dog complaints in 2011 were up from 2010 by 9 complaints.

In 2011, the Montrose Police Department and Animal Control responded to 31 reported dog bites, which resulted in 8 citations issued for Dangerous Animals. Of the 31 reported bites, 10 incidents involved dogs running at large off the owner's premises when they attacked and bit their victims, in 8 of these incidents, the dogs and owners were located. 4 of the reported 31 bites involved the family dog, of those four bites two where children in the household, the other two where adults. 11 dog bites were on the owner's property and involved mostly visiting friends and their children, 3 reported bites occurred in the presence of the owner while off the owner's premises. The Animal Shelter reported 1 employee bitten by a shelter dog and the last 2 reported bites involved a dog in a vehicle and a stray that was being held by the public. In 2011, only 1 of the reported 31 biting dogs was a repeat offender.

Report compiled by ACO/BAP Officer Kim Scott



Animal Welfare Complaints 2011



In 2011, the Montrose Police Department and Animal Control received 201 animal welfare complaints. Of these 201 complaints, 60 involved insufficient food, water or shelter, 50 were regarding dogs left unattended in vehicles in warm weather, 39 for ill, injured or animals hit by vehicles in the roadway, 17 complaints of physical abuse, 10 abandonment issues. The remaining 25 complaints involved unspecified issues such as general lack of care and complaints such as cats in trees. 165 of the total 201 complaints were regarded as “unfounded” meaning no violation of the law had occurred or were minor situations corrected by educating the owners. The remaining 36 complaints resulted in 26 warnings and 10 citations for Cruelty to Animals being issued. Animal Control Officers impounded animals from 5 separate cases as a result of cruelty investigations.

Report compiled by ACO/BAP Officer Kim Scott



FINANCIALS

REVENUES

Shelter Fees :

Relinquishments —	\$ 2,435.00	
Adoptions —	\$31,906.00	
Impound Fees —	\$ 4,289.00	
		\$ 38,630.00

Licenses : \$ 2,536.80

Municipal Contracts:

County of Montrose —	\$48,130.00	
City of Olathe —	\$ 480.00	
		\$ 48,610.00

Total Revenues: \$ 89,776.80

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Costs:	\$ 463,689.98
Animal Care:	\$ 45,850.65
Operating Expenses/ Facility Repair/Utilities:	\$ 26,846.48
Spay/Neuter (shelter animals):	\$ 36,625.63

Total Expenditures: \$ 573,012.74

Total Budget: \$ 592,992.00

ANIMAL BENEFIT FUND

The Animal Benefit Fund was established as an avenue for the public to make donations, which directly benefit the companion animals at the City of Montrose Animal Shelter. Sometimes the donors make specific requests for the use of the donation. A few particular donors have asked that the funds be used specifically for spays/neuters of pets and for purchases of items such as kennels, cages, and kennel covers.



Funds are also used for the treatment of an illness or injury that is above what we could normally justify, such as an amputation or an extraordinary surgical procedure. At Christmas time people will ask that we use their donations for blankets, pet toys, pet food, and treats.

We feel that this fund allows us to use donations in the way that will directly benefit our stray, abandoned, injured, and ill companion animals.

Despite the economic situation, our community continues to support our efforts with generous donations.

The fund balance at the end of 2011 was \$45,720.93. The following is an expenditure summary:

		YTD Actual	Budget	Unexpended	Percent
270-6000-221-000	Operating Supplies	863.29	2,575.00	1,711.71	33.5
270-6000-353-000	Other Professional Services	4,720.64	7,550.00	2,829.36	62.5
207-6000-348-000	Spay and Neuter	0	10,000.00	10,000.00	0
270-6000-544-000	Equipment (<\$5,000)	2,345.33	2,000.00	-345.33	117.3
270-6000-366-000	Building Repairs	3,827.00	0	-3,827.00	0
	TOTAL	11,756.26	22,125.00	10,368.74	53.1



Scott's Printing
Christmas Tree Program
Donation.
December 2012

WHEN A SHITZU GOES MISSING

On October 1 an elderly couple came to Montrose from Ridgway. With them were their two small dogs. The couple stopped near the hospital for a scheduled doctor visit and then Wendy's for lunch. They made one last stop at Home Depot as they headed south out of town.

Upon arriving in Ridgway they discovered that their white female Shitzu, Libby, was missing from the car. Neither of them knew when or where the dog had gotten out of their vehicle except, that it was somewhere in Montrose. They feared the dog might have been stolen.

The husband was so upset he couldn't sleep and both blamed themselves for the loss of their pet. The event was so traumatic for the 87 year old couple that their daughter from Missouri, flew to Montrose to help them try to find Libby. She placed an ad in the "Daily Press" and on Craigslist. Contacts were made at the doctor's office, Home Depot and Wendy's. Friends in the Montrose area were contacted and one of her early calls was placed to the Montrose Animal Shelter.

At the shelter a "Lost and Found Pet Book" is maintained. At any one time there are hundreds of pet and livestock entries in the book; dogs, cats, ferrets, horses, goats, pot-bellied pigs, chickens, snakes, parakeets all find their way into the book. The staff receives calls daily on pets and farm animals that have become lost and those that have been found by and are in the care of private citizens. Libby's name and description were placed in the lost dog section.

Weather was cold and rainy and things were looking grim for the recovery of Libby. The owners began to lose hope and even came to the shelter to view other small dogs they would consider adopting to replace their lost dog.

Libby had been missing for eight long days when a call was received by one of the shelter staff. The staff member recognized the woman's description of a small white dog with a bushy tail and a distinct overbite as possibly Libby. The woman who owned a business on the west side of town said that she and her husband hadn't been able to catch the dog the previous evening but were able to trap it in the garage that was associated with their business. She said they had given food and water to the dog but because it was so terrified they were afraid of getting bit and wanted an animal control officer to come and get it. Instead, the staff member asked her to first call the possible owners from Ridgway listed in the Lost and Found Pet Book.

There was a great celebration after the couple, along with their daughter drove from Ridgway and were reunited with their little dog in Montrose. This is an often repeated story at the shelter; the moral being when ones animal goes missing make a call to the shelter and let us help you increase your chances of having a great celebration of your own.

Story written by Robert Cornelius

ANIMAL SERVICES STAFF



City of Montrose Police Department Animal Services staff includes:

Left to right: Bob Cornelius-Animal Shelter Custodian, Georgia Northrup - Animal Shelter Technician, John Bennett-Animal Control Officer, Janice Oatman-Animal Shelter Technician, Mike Duncan- Animal Services Supervisor, Kari Kishiyama-Animal Shelter Manager/ Animal Control Officer, Kory Bailey-Animal Control Officer, Kathy Harris-Animal Shelter Custodian, Kim Scott-Animal Control Officer, and Panther-Animal Shelter mascot.

Under the direction of Police Chief Tom Chinn (not pictured) and Commander Keith Caddy (not pictured).

HAPPY TAILS



Written by the foster parents (who eventually became the new owners) of "Brooks" & "Dunn".

The dogs are settling well. We went on a long walk, in a snowfall, yesterday when we got home and the boys really enjoyed it. We've had one pee pee accident (Now Dunn, can you really call it an "accident" when you purposefully lift your leg on the table leg?) but he's really sorry and promises not to do it again. As you can see by the pictures they are making themselves at home. They both "kenneled up" last night and slept in

their crates by our bed. Brooks is a great sleeper and quiet where Dunn is a bit more nervous and restless. He can't seem to get comfortable. There was also a couple growls emitted from his kennel last night... I think Brooks may have been "looking" at him and it was a "brother" thing. Their crates face each other, so they can see each other.



There was also a bit of posturing among the two of them when Dunn thinks Brooks is honing in on his attention from us. Dunn has also claimed laying under the dining room table when Kevin and I are playing cards so he let Brooks know that was his space. While Dunn seems to want to establish an "alpha dog" position they still get very antsy when we take one of them outside without the other one. They're both learning their name and quickly adapting to the rules of the house. They can't be behind the island in the kitchen, go into the bathrooms or get on the furniture. Other than that they have the run of the house and are loving it.



Dunn has been assigned to Kevin since I think he's a bit skittish around men and we're working on that. When I leave the room they both follow me and take up residency around my feet. When I fed them this morning I made a point of hanging around their dishes and petting them while they ate. Brooks was chill, wagging his tail, no problem, and Dunn did well but you could feel him tense up under his fur so I'll work more on ensuring they're not protective and grouchy around their food.



Hi there!

I really wanted to give an update on Judy, the senior kitty we adopted from Petsmart over a month ago. We were told her owner had gone into a nursing home, so if you'd like to share it with him/her, please feel free. Our other kitty was cautious but watched from afar when she came out. They aren't best of friends just yet, I'm thinking Judy gets a bit irritated with the "young whippersnapper", who wants to play. But they're eating side by side and I think it's just a matter of time. I don't know if Judy had exposure to dogs before, but certainly has put our two golden retrievers in their place. They are giving her space, though the older female golden sniffs her just a little longer nowadays, and though she complains verbally, Judy is tending to tolerate her more and more. She is very vocal and if you don't pick her up she will put her paws on your leg with a bit of claw just to get your attention. :-)

I work from home so she is having to learn that she can't sit in my lap all the time. She has a great spot on the futon with soft blankets that she sleeps on when I can't. She loves having her chin rubbed and pretty much everything else, too. She gives love and is happy to receive love, too...our other cat is a bit more aloof and we're all enjoying Judy's insatiable desire for affection. Oh, I have to throw in that she's got this great habit of grabbing what she wants -- usually your hand -- by reaching out her paw and dragging it to her to get petted. Anyway, she is an incredible love and we couldn't feel more blessed. Thank you for sharing her with us!



HAPPY TAILS



Duke joined my family in October after a bumpy ride home he settled right in. He is gaining weight, and much better at riding in cars. In his spare time he is learning to pull the dog sled with help of his sister Marley. He loves to cuddle on the couch when we are done. Thank you for introducing me to my lovely boy.

Montrose has a real nice animal shelter and I want to thank those folks personally for their assistance. We have always supported the dog shelters wherever we have lived, and they become great additions to any community. They get a thumbs up from us. As I walked beside the kennels, I noted two or three Coon Hounds. Nice dogs! But from our house near the edge of the bluff a half mile away, we could probably hear them in the dead of night. They have a voice that can be heard a long ways off. Nope, we could not deal with that. There was an old Australian Shepherd—twelve years old about. I felt sorry for him because who would adopt a dog that old? He seemed like such a nice dog. Some elderly person would find him to be a wonderful companion during their later years. I was about to circle back to the main building but there was another dog in the same pen with the Shepherd that had gone unnoticed initially. She looked up at me and I looked straight back until our eyes met. Wow, I almost melted on the spot. Those eyes looked just like Jake. In fact, the entire dog reminded me a lot of Jake. I slipped back through the main office and quickly thanked them for allowing me to meet the dogs, but I am sure they were aware of my wet eyes. I could hardly speak. I waited for about an hour and called Pat, who was with her art group. I asked her to do me a big favor and drive by the pound on her way home. She told me to join her which I did. Well, her reaction was the same as mine. “I saw those eyes and I was shocked” she said. “For a moment, I thought it was Jake.” “Even her size was about the same.” The dog was one year old and a real charmer. No contest! We have a new member coming to join the Jeffers household, and after the vet does his thing tomorrow, we will bring her home with us Saturday. Believe me, this dog is going to get the Royal treatment. She is going to be a joy to have around. More about “JOY” in a few moments. We had a big discussion last evening about a name. We compromised. Pat will call her Sammie. I will call her Sam. They rhyme, and Sam will never know the difference. Every town should have an animal shelter. Georgia and Janice were running the establishment this week and they were most helpful and they rate a strong three cheers from us. An A++ in fact.





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