



ARFhouse Happenings

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization

WINTER 2007
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

VISITING ARFHOUSE

by: *Martha Hovers*

When people want to visit and see ARFhouse, they frequently comment that they're afraid that seeing the dogs will make them sad, or that they'll want to "take them all home." But when they arrive and take "the tour" on a golfcart, they're always amazed at how well our dogs get along and how satisfied and happy they seem to be. In the summer my 25+ dogs in my "pack" lay on my porch, and follow me all over the 20 acres. They pause to swim in the pond on warm days, or play a game of chase on any day.

Diana has a group of four dogs who stay next to her house and "guard" her territory from my pack and any other interlopers...be they human or animal.

When Mary arrives daily to perform her chores (the set of kennels she's been doing for 11 years) there are approximately 10 dogs waiting to follow her around, and take every step she takes. Her canine buddies are some of our oldest residents. There's "Jethro," a 12+ year old black lab mix weighing in at 150 lbs., and there's "Timmy," a cow dog who came to ARFhouse as a tiny puppy with parvo in 1991.

Sammie has her own dogs who follow her to work every day. "Willa" and "Georgia," her two Boston terriers, "Rocky," a small



Above: Hovers' "pack" taking a rest

white/tan mix, "Abby," a 15 year old terrier, and "Ollie," an old ARFhouse dog who adopted Sammie and moved next door to her front porch when Sammie and Bo moved here last year. All these dogs get along and mingle with our packs.

At night, you might imagine the place is noisy, with barking and commotion. But unless there's a varmint around or someone who shouldn't be on the place, it's quiet and calm, with the only noise makers being the mice.

So come and visit and see how happy the ARFhouse dogs are. It won't make you sad. Maybe you'll leave with a new friend!



Here's Diana with her "pack"

OUR GOAL IS MET!

As you know, one of our supporters offered a challenge grant up to \$25,000, meeting project restricted donations dollar for dollar to complete the new fencing project. Our oldest areas would be replaced, including the boundary fence across the front of the property and all yards down the main driveway into ARFhouse. Joyce Dennehy immediately sent \$7,500 and another friend gave \$10,000. With individual gifts we received from all of you, the "challenge" was met, and the \$42,500 was raised. The materials are on-site and old fence is coming down, making the area ready for new yards. Thank you to our 3 grantors, and all our friends who made this possible.

REMINDER FOR CHRISTMAS

These great supporters sacrificed their time and effort, making beautiful gifts for our silent auction; and if you want to please your friends and/or family members with a special gift, you might consider calling one of these people to see about a hand made gift.

Ronda Krauss

Southern Charm

“wearable art treasures
Artisan Made Designer Jewelry”
www.southerncharmstore.com

Sue Miklos-Champion

Red Caboose Quilting Company
Gunter, Texas

Drew Anderson

The Quilt Playhouse
quiltplayhouse@texoma.net

Max Thode

Denison, Texas
Western and Texas original
wrought iron gifts



Christmas Gifts Honoring Friends

If your friend has everything, why not make a donation to your favorite charity (ARFhouse?) and we'll send a card acknowledging your gift in their honor.

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.

End of Year Appeal from Martha Hovers

You've heard it before, but we must say it in our Christmas newsletter. Operations are what grantors are most reluctant to fund. But operations make rescues and adoptions possible. I don't have to tell you that the fuel costs to pick up dog and cat food weekly is a huge drain on our budget. Also, without maintaining our acreage, vehicles, building, and paying the folks who care for the dogs daily, we could not save the dogs. As in every animal rescue organization, salaries are a big part of operations. Remember, the staff members are scooping every area daily, cleaning and filling water buckets, feeding and giving care; in all weather conditions. When it is 40 degrees and pouring rain, the yards must be cleaned and dogs fed. We thank you for always making this work possible. Please open your hearts to the dogs at this important time of the year.

Fall Newsletter Omission and Apology

In our fall newsletter we thanked Sue Miklos-Champion for the beautiful dog theme quilt which was donated for the silent auction. We neglected to thank **Drew Anderson of The Quilt Playhouse** in Sadler, Texas. Drew pieced the quilt, and Sue quilted it. Drew holds classes at her home to teach people this art. Thanks go out to both of them for this lovely gift, and we apologize to Drew.

WISH LIST

This list is obviously an appeal to our local supporters. We are feeding more and more canned dog food as our dogs age and need it for reasons of medication or teeth issues. Our source for donated canned food is unable to keep up with our needs. At this time of year, if you wish to give our dogs a Christmas present, please consider a case of Pedigree canned food. We will pick up any in the Sherman/Denison area, or can give you a drop off location if that suits you. Please know that your gift will help the oldtimers.





NEWCOMERS



All these dogs were abandoned at a local boarding kennel when their owners never returned for them.



“Mister” was also abandoned at a local boarding kennel. He is 14 years old, but acts much younger. He takes great pleasure in food, lying in the sun, and just hanging out.



“Duke”



“Hank”



“Lilly”



“Brother”



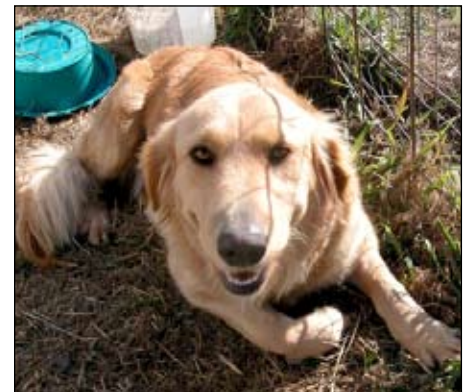
“Lola” is one of the dogs left at the boarding kennel. She is so sweet and docile, she fits in with Tommy, Dennis, and even Daffy Duck.



My name is “Biscuit,” and I’m a mini-pin. The ARFhouse let me come to live here because I’m little and they believe someone will want to give me a forever home since I’m so cute. But I have a slight tremble that makes people not want me. It’s

nothing serious like seizures; I take a tiny pill every day to calm the tremors. Even though I’m warm and safe in the ARFhouse building, I love people and want a nice warm bed to sleep with a human. Any takers out there? Pleeeeze?

“Sandy” is my name, but I don’t answer to that yet because I’ve been at ARFhouse for only 4 days. I was tied up on a leash, but was able to chew through it. I came onto the



ARFhouse place because I was following the sounds of other dogs. I heard one of the ladies here say I was in heat, but I thought it was pretty cold that day. I have a nice warm place here, but am looking forward to having my own person to love just me.

Thanks

TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP OUR DOGS

Louis & Fay Elrod
Tom Thumb Distribution Center
Sherman Wal-Mart
Denison Wal-Mart
Danny & Dr. John Brakebill
Stacey & Dr. Clay Morris
Brakebill Veterinary Clinic Staff
ORECK
Lloyd & Chris Ritchey
Niemann Publications
Susan Khammash
IAM's

My name is "Jelly Bean," and my guardian is in the army. She thought she wouldn't have to go someplace called Iraq for at least one year, but I heard her crying and telling the ARFhouse lady that she must go in November. I don't know why she has to go, but the people at ARFhouse said I could come here until she returns home. They have a funny looking dog named "Dewey" here who's waiting for Mark. (I heard that ARFhouse always helps military orphans.) Dewey doesn't act so sad. He seems to be having a lot of fun, and I think I will too.



"Sugar" (blonde sharpei mix) and "Chuckie" are great playmates. They were both strays who will find forever homes soon.



SOME GOOD NEWS FOR TEXAS DOGS

As of October 1st, legislation was passed making it against the law to keep a dog tethered outdoors between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am.



"Gina" was a stray who had been abandoned 1/2 mile from ARFhouse. She had taken up residence in a small RV park and was chewing up water and sewer lines at that location. The people there were losing patience with her destructive behavior. One of the ARFhouse

employees happened to be staying in the park and inquired about bringing her over. At first she didn't fit in because she could climb out of any fenced area. She eventually found her place at Diana's house, (which is on the front of the property), and has joined Diana's "pack," with their leader "Blue" (he has a blue eye and a brown eye).



SPECIAL THANKS



IESI - Through their commitment to supporting non-profit work in our community, they are providing our waste disposal service twice weekly at no cost. We did not ask; the local manager called our office and stated that they wanted to do this. We've always been satisfied with the good service they've given us (and as you might imagine, our trash pick-up is extremely important). We're grateful for this generous "gift." **IESI** really does support local organizations in their community.

Tom Heeney, thank you for volunteer work you do for the dogs, the treats you bring for employees, and the refrigerator to cool those treats!

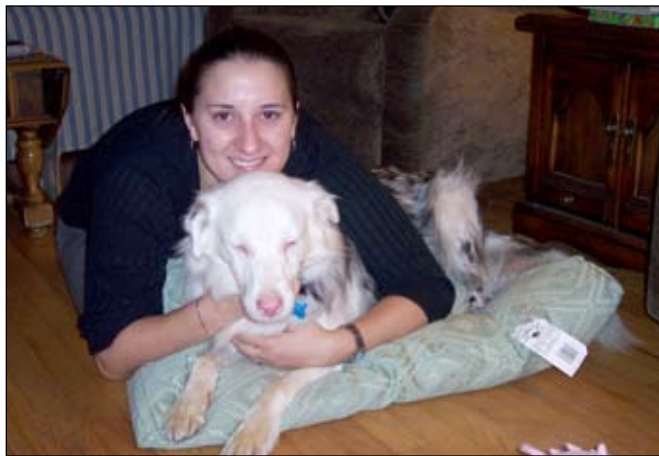
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.arfhouse.org



ADOPTIONS



My name WAS “Mossie,” and several months ago I was rescued by a nice school teacher named Kay. I was wandering in a cemetery in Sherman. She saw that I was starving and couldn’t bear to leave me there. Thank goodness there are people like her. Kay couldn’t keep me, so she asked the ladies at ARFhouse if they could make a place for me. They thought I was so beautiful and sweet (I am), that they could find someone to adopt me. Sure enough, Jeremy and Laura saw me and couldn’t resist my charming personality and good looks. I have a new name.... “Luke,” and it suits me. I also have a great friend to play with all day. Her name is “Lucy” and she’s a weenie dog. We love to run in and out the doggie door and chase squirrels in our yard all day long. Some day we’re gonna catch one, and he’ll be so sorry for teasing us! HMMMMM, maybe we’ll be sorry too.



“Hodge” Finds His Place

We were skeptical that “Hodge” could find a home. He is at least 4-5 years old, deaf, and his eyesight is poor. As many of you know, we have an affiliate group, ‘ARFhouse Chicago,’ that helps us by taking multiple dogs several times a year when they are holding large adoption events. Many of our smaller dogs go there; and a few, like “Hodge,” find homes in Chicago. We help this rescue group by taking in an occasional unadoptable that they have and they in turn help us by placing many of our dogs into great homes in a short period of time. They have several fosters, plus a boarding kennel to house the dogs until prospective adopters are checked out and the animals can then go with their new families. Linda Widmer is the president of this group, and she makes the final decisions about who at ARFhouse can easily find a home in their city. In spite of Hodge’s handicap(s), Linda insisted she could find a forever person for him, and as you can see....that’s what she did. He’s happy, and so are we!



LOOK AT ME! I’m “Suzanne.” Last June I was very upset because my elderly loved one had to go to a nursing facility. The folks at Brakebill Veterinary Clinic kept me there and were so kind to me for several months. Then my lady passed away. When ARFhouse lady, Roxanne, saw me, she said she KNEW her mother would want me to love, even though I’m a “senior” myself. And Roxanne was so right! Here I am, posing with her mom, Paula, and husband, Joel. I didn’t think this much happiness and love could be in my future, but I guess it’s never too late!

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.

In Loving Memory



I'm "Dennis the Menace" ("Dennis" for short). I stay at Martha's house and follow her every step she takes all day long. When she's gone I wait in the driveway until she returns. She says I act obnoxious, but HEY, a guy's gotta have fun, and I DO!



I'm "Radar." Everyone here at ARFhouse is always on the lookout for me. I love to amaze them and hear them talk about my powers of "transport." One minute they see me at the pond. In a short while, they see me in the pony pasture, laying next to the shetland ponies (what a boring species they are), and the next time they see me I'm sauntering down the driveway. I'm a man about town. I mean a DOG about town!



Bibi Ann Engelmann

Colleen Engelmann, friend to ARFhouse, wrote the following about her beloved Bibi Ann:

When Bibi Ann, an American Eskimo/cocker spaniel mix, was 5, her owners claimed that she was too aggressive and surrendered her to American Eskimo Rescue. I adopted her immediately and took her to an animal specialty clinic where her "aggression" was diagnosed as epilepsy, which was subsequently kept under control with a small daily dose of phenobarbital. Apparently her previous owners had mistaken epileptic seizures for aggressive behavior and had never sought professional advice. Bibi is lucky she got a new home and treatment for her condition.

Bibi lived with me and my four other dogs for ten years and was a perfect little companion to all of us. Not only was she not in the least aggressive toward people or animals of any species, but she also accompanied a local dog walker on her twice daily rounds and assisted in bringing a calming influence to the 5 or 6 dogs of various breeds being walked. She also enjoyed serving as a seeing eye dog for two blind dogs, guiding them on their daily walks with the dog walker. Children also loved her and she really loved children, even when they occasionally played rough, as children sometimes do. But then everyone who met Bibi Ann loved her and enjoyed being around her. Bibi Ann's favorite indoor activity was playing her version of basketball (she was quite good at making bank shots), then lying in front of a tiny fan to cool down – wherever she moved in the house, she knew that someone would bring her fan to her so she could continue being "cool."

Bibi Ann died 5 months after being diagnosed with liver cancer. We all miss her terribly and hope that wherever she is waiting for us to join her, she still has her own tiny fan.

Brakebill Veterinary Hospital Made The Following "In Memory" Donations

"Whoopie"
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Perdue

"Chloe"
Karen Lawson

"Dallas"
Rosa Welch

"Pedro"
Mr. & Mrs. Baxley

"Skinny"
Diane Barnes

"Lila"
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Cushman

"Biggs"
Christy Gregg-Fudge

"Annie"
Jack & Ann Orr

"Maggie"
Mr. & Mrs. Brent England

"Effi"
Jacqueline Klassen

"Tigger"
Kimberly Shepherd

"Bob Tail"
Gail Baker

"Hadie"
Alyson DeWebber

"Grey"
Martha Taylor

"Alexis"
Carla Hubbard

"Elvis"
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Melton

"Sampson"
Ken & Kim Williams

"Queenie"
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilkerson

"Lucy"
Mr. & Mrs. John Lowery

"Jaz"
Mr. & Mrs. David Osbourne

"Sunny"
Martha & Sandy LaFoy



CORRECTION

In the fall issue we misspelled a pet's name in memorials made by Brakebill Veterinary Hospital. We listed "Charley" and the corrected name is "Harley."

"Harley" & "Trouble"
Cliff Nickerson

Memorials for Animal Lovers

Earl Howard
of Arlington, Texas
"a true dog lover"
by: Judy & Ray Parker

Donations In Memory of Beloved Pets

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

"Shadow"
Lynda Uphouse

"Charles"
Sharon Wilson

"Anna"
Loving and sweet dachshund who we
will never forget. She was blessed by
being a member of the Driver Family
Springfield, MO
by: Janet Payne

"Fae" & "Allie"
by: Jane Crout

"Clara Bella Magnolia Blossom"
English Bulldog of Mrs. Candace Sutter
by: R. Colleen Able

"Missy"
beloved family member, constant
companion, and great listener of
Karen & Don Evans
by: Marilyn Barren

"Teddy"
beloved beautiful Aussie adopted
from ARFhouse
by: his best friend and
guardian, Joy Davis

In Honor

"Sassy Two"
Margaret Graham

"Shotcie" & "Votcie"
the dachshunds of
Leonard & Wanda Hale



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.

3377 Spalding Rd. ♦ Sherman, TX 75092

Phone (903) 564-7056

Website address: www.arfhouse.org

Animal Refuge Foundation

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Sherman, TX 75092

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