



ARFhouse Happenings

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization

FALL 2008
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Another ARFhouse Project

by: *Martha Hovers*

As most of you know, we've just completed new fencing down the entrance to ARFhouse. We have approximately 30 "yards" in other areas that require shade canopies, either because there are no trees in them, or the trees do not provide shade all day. Therefore, for years we've relied on 8' x 10' commercial shade tarps, attached to frames with

bungies. They've worked fairly well except during very strong winds. Of course, they must be replaced yearly.

Our fence contractor, Curt Sauer, suggested that we (he) build permanent shades in those areas, using steel posts set in concrete and metal that would withstand the weather. They will be larger than our current shades.

Thanks go out to Texas Manufacturing in Whitesboro, TX for donating the pipe which will support these structures.

Materials are expensive and we didn't have the funds for this project, so we asked JOYCE DENNEHY if she would be willing to provide funding. She sent off a check for \$10,000 immediately. We're thrilled and thankful to have this great friend who always gives to the animals.

Thank you, Joyce.

Appeal From Martha Hovers

For many years, ARFhouse relied on a small number of supporters for a large portion of operational funds which would arrive in June and take us into December. This year those monies did not arrive, and we ended June "in the red." Unfortunately, with the recession in full swing, we're spending more to transport food and animals, and receiving less.

Since January we have supplemented donations with funds from our reserves and, if this trend continues, our savings will

be depleted by next June. Everyone is cautious about spending right now . . . but if we're to continue saving discarded dogs, and helping homeless cats, we must have your support. If you know someone who loves animals, please ask them if we may add them to our mailing list. (We do not share this list with anyone.) Our database is quite small, and naturally those \$20 and \$50 donations are important. Remember that YOU make this work possible.



Meet Tater



Hi, I'm "Tater." If they had let me do the wish list, it would have one item: A SWIMMING POOL!



The Dogs Keep Coming



“Jan” and “April” were abandoned at the bridge 1/2 mile from ARFhouse. One of our staff, Mary, fed them daily. They were shy and wouldn’t let anyone touch them initially. But Mary persevered and eventually, after about a week, she was able to push each one inside a crate and bring them to ARFhouse. Now they’re gentle and low key. Thanks to Mary, they will have a good life.



“Diesel” is a hilarious Siberian husky, which is typical of the breed. He was a stray who appeared at our gate. Fortunately he doesn’t jump fences (or he just likes it here). He loves to hang out in the big barn/garage, loves water, runs like crazy when it’s raining, and never listens unless food is involved. He loves another one of our residents: “Spoozie”, and they play and wrestle until she gets tired and rebuffs him.



“Spice Girl” appeared at the home of the daughter of one of Hovers’ schoolmates. We couldn’t say “no” to her. They could not keep her because they were at their limit on dogs. “Spice” is shy and always rolls over when we go inside her yard to care for her and pet her. But she’s becoming bolder every day.



“Elam” (Remember Jack Elam?) has an injured eye, which we’re treating. He was found running a country road. He was very thin and starving. The eye is healing, with drops applied several times a day. He’s a typical Boston terrier; he likes everyone.



I’m Gus and I came from a breeder who allowed one of my enemies to beat me up and put out my eye. They didn’t want me anymore so they turned me out. A nice boy who knew about ARFhouse called and asked the ladies if they would let me come to live. Lucky me! They didn’t think I was so ugly with just one eye. I heard someone say I looked like a little pirate without the patch. Now if they would just find me a parrot.



Tater



Dot

“Tater” was near a railroad track in a rural area. Roxanne heard some whimpering and started searching. As you can see....she won’t have trouble finding a forever home. What a face!

“Dot” was another stray. She’s now “Tater’s” best friend.

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.



Remember the “Edsel”? Not a very pretty car.

This poor pitiful dog isn’t too pretty either, so we decided to name him Edsel.



Today when our volunteer, Jennifer Hillary, was leaving ARFhouse, she spotted this skinny dog at the end of our road . . . where it curves and goes over to highway 82. She stopped and he leaped in her car.

We believe he’s a stray that two volunteers spotted out on the highway several weeks ago. He looks as though he hasn’t eaten in all that time. He adores people and won’t let us out of his sight.

Fortunately he hasn’t caused much of a stir among our other residents. He won’t stay inside a yard; leaps over a fence to follow humans.

He went to the pond with the pack this evening and seemed puzzled at first by the water. Then he decided to do a little wading.

We think he’ll fit in with the group that runs the property because he’s very low key with the other dogs.

Hopefully he’ll look a little better in the next newsletter, but he’ll probably always look like an Edsel.



My name is “Cinnamon.” That’s what Diana (one of the ladies at ARFhouse) named me. I’m a beautiful red color. I didn’t have much hair when I arrived here with some ARFhouse friends who found me. I got a bath as soon as I arrived. Now my coat is shiny and rich looking. I’m sort of small but Diana keeps me with her little dogs, so that’s okay. I’m a bit shy, but warm up to people with some encouragement. I’m looking forward to a forever home.

The people at ARFhouse named me “Chief.”

A couple of Martha’s friends, and they’re also volunteers of ARFhouse, brought me here. They say I’m a beautiful Border Collie. I had a bad accident weeks ago and my leg was shattered before I came here. Dr. Morris had to amputate it. That hasn’t slowed me down ANY. I’m ready to run with the big dogs if they’ll just let me out of this air conditioned building!



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.

Wish List

As most of you know, Dr. Ralf Poineal and Dr. Kim McNeal donated a beautiful Toyota Tundra to ARFhouse in December. We utilize this truck to pick up pet food at local stores, and to transport a medium size dog since it will fit in the back seat. However, when we need to take multiple animals to Sherman, or a sick animal that must lie down in the bed of a vehicle, or for our adoption events, we take our aging Suburban (a.k.a. “The Beast”). We love the Beast and he has never failed us. However, he has over 400,000 miles on his speedometer and is groaning with age. If you have a later model vehicle this size and need a tax deduction, rather than selling it . . . the dogs of ARFhouse would love to have it.

We always need Pedigree canned food and all sizes of trash bags.

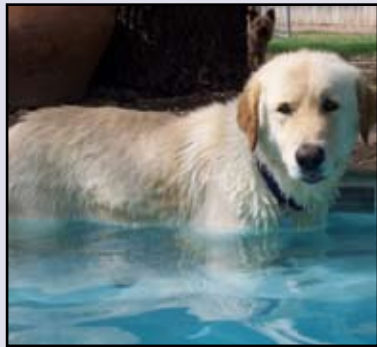
Last year we had a large supply of Bio-Spot donated. It was very effective in preventing ticks. We’re purchasing it this year, but naturally need a new supply monthly.



ADOPTIONS



“Cody” was adopted by Tim (“The Tamale King”) and Gina who drove all the way from Austin to pick him up in their Caddy. (Tim owns a restaurant called “The Tamale King”.) You may remember Cody from our Spring newsletter. He was rescued by a family who found him, but their yard was too small to accommodate a dog Cody’s size.



We put “Cody” on our PetFinder site, but didn’t receive any calls on him until one night a big booming voice on the phone said: “This is Tim and I’d like to have Cody.” I’m always a bit cautious when someone is very aggressive about wanting a dog. Most folks ask some questions first and naturally want to meet the dog second. But Tim knew what he wanted. However, I told him a small fib about having someone who was interested in Cody and could I get some information from him first. The more I talked to Tim, the more I KNEW he was the man for Cody. No reservations whatsoever.

In a few days Tim and Gina made the plans to come and get Cody. When they approached our gate, Cody (who was in a big yard only about 50’ from that gate) began to jump on the fence and “talk” to Tim. It was love at first sight for both of them. Tim went inside the yard and put Cody on a leash. He was perfect. Actually they both were. Tim and Gina asked if Cody might be good with their two yorkies (“Willie” and “Waylon”). Good grief! Cody had been with several yorkies in his previous foster home and loved them!! Tim and Gina say that Cody is the best dog they’ve ever had. House friendly, but loves their yard. As you can see, he likes the pool too.

Since adopting Cody, Tim and Gina told some friends about us; that nice couple drove from Austin this week and adopted a golden mix puppy we had (see next article). We love these happy endings!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.arfhouse.org

We received this email from Joan on June 26. It was easy to see that these folks make wonderful guardians. “Jake” was a sweet little golden mix who came with his brother and sister to ARFhouse from the streets:



Martha,
Good morning! Gina Chittim told us about you guys and recommended we contact you. We recently lost our beloved 9 year old yellow lab mix to Auto Immune disease. We worked with an Austin Specialty Clinic for over 30 days to try to save her – but to no avail. We said goodbye on May 19th. We have been checking all of the Texas Rescue and Humane Societies looking for our next family member. Millie, the dog we lost, was a stray that we found when she was only 5 weeks old.

How can we get on your mailing list to find out about the dogs you have that are ready for adoption? We used to live in Plano – so the drive to Sherman is no big deal – especially to get our next puppy.

July 20

We are the people who adopted “yellow pup 1” – now named Jake. He is doing just great. All puppy – just a ball of energy. Getting along great with our other dogs. He sleeps with us – and sleeps all thru the night. He is so sweet and so loving. A very sweet little guy. I have attached a few pictures for you so you can see how he is doing. We live on a lake – but have not introduced him to the water just yet. He and our other dogs share a huge oak-shaded yard during the day. He loves the huge yard and likes to run around in circles. Joan is trying to reach him to fetch a tennis ball – but he will take a bit more work as his attention span is just not all that long. He eats like a horse – and is starting to put on weight. We are so glad that he is a part of our family. Thanks so much for Jake . . . he is the best.

–Mark & Joan Blankenship
Lake Buchanan, Texas



ADOPTIONS



Here's an e-mail and photo we received about "Simon's" new adventures. He made the trip to Chicago with the ARFhouse Chicago gang. As you can see, it turned out well for him:

Caroline says:

However Simon's story started, life is looking up for my little friend and we're having the best time together. We've had lots of fun "firsts" the last couple of months -- the photos that I am attaching are from Simon's first swim in Lake Michigan. He had the best time playing in the water and trying to figure out those things called waves! He also has made very



good friends at the local firehouse, as he quickly learned that they had fresh water and lots of treats. I think he's hoping for a ride in the big truck soon, as he LOVES to go for rides in the car.

I am just smitten with this scruffy little guy and so thankful to everyone at ARFHouse and his wonderful foster family for bringing us together. As I write this note, he's sound asleep with his head in my lap -- I think our walk tonight totally wore him out! He's definitely "a woman's best friend" :).

Caroline and Simon



Norman and D'nese fell in love with "Noel" when they visited a few months ago. Noel had been at ARFhouse for a while and we were afraid she might not "integrate" into a home easily. But here's what her guardians have to say about her:

"Noel bonded with Flash, our older dog, immediately and she is very sweet and affectionate. Noel is truly unique and special to us. I am attaching a picture of Noel, Flash and myself. Noel is so dark we had a difficult time getting a clear picture of her."



Jennifer Hillary has loved Chip since the first day she started volunteering. This week she couldn't bear to leave without him . . . especially when he slipped through the fence and chased her car down the road. Chip has been here for a couple of years, showing up at our gate one morning. He can be a little grumpy, but it looks as though he's won the lottery.



Helping ARFhouse



Ronda Krauss-Rehder makes these beautiful jewelry pieces with ARFhouse's name. I wear my dog tags almost every time I leave the house and people always compliment them. Ronda makes a donation to ARFhouse any time she sells one of these special pieces made especially with us in mind. Her handmade jewelry can be viewed at her website: www.southerncharmstore.com

All of her designs are unique and beautiful. Thank you, Ronda, for thinking of ARFhouse and the dogs and including us in your artwork.

ARFhouse Sponsors Silent Auction

This spring, for the second year in a row, ARFhouse sponsored a silent auction in cooperation with Southwest Airlines (Dallas) Customer Service Agents. And, again, the effort was a success. The auction raised over \$2000 for general upkeep expenses at ARFhouse.

The agents felt a need to help again this year because of the anemic

economy, and the growing needs at ARFhouse. Mark Zschoche, a long-time supporter, and Dallas based agent, said: "It is nice to have the opportunity to help ARFhouse because I know the funds will be well spent on care for the animals."

Joy Davis, another supporter and friend of ARFhouse, started the ball rolling, entering the first bid of the

auction, bidding for specially made Kahlua cakes.

This effort would not have been possible without the help of our prize donors, who, for the second year, generously donated highly-prized gifts which helped to ensure success.

We want to gratefully thank:

- Anonymous, a repeat donor for the gift of 2 SWA travel passes
- Dunston's Steak House in Dallas for a \$100 gift certificate
- Miga & Wells Kahlua Cakes for the gift of 2 Kahlua Cakes
- Red Door Spa at Willowbend in Plano for 2 Spa Makeover Party certificates

Please support our sponsors. This helps them to help us.

THANK YOU EVERYBODY!

– The "residents" of ARFhouse

In loving memory of one of the icons of ARFhouse:

"Jethro"

Everyone who visited ARFhouse seemed to love "Jethro." He was abandoned on Spalding Road 17 years ago as a puppy. He grew to weigh 130 pounds, quite a hefty dog to live so long. He was always up to some shenanigans.

When we would bring in a load of canned dog food, he'd always find a way to get into a box and open all the cans with his teeth. He once knocked over a whole wall of shelves (with product on them) just to chase a rat. When we'd raise our voice at him, he would squint, like that might make us shut up.

On Sunday, June 20, he decided to wade in the pond. But he had some trouble getting out of the water, and when he came on shore, he laid down quickly as though he had no energy. The following day, "Jethro" could no longer get up and walk. His back legs just could not raise that big old body. Dr. Morris gently euthanized him.

For many years, Rick Rehder (Ronda's husband) has sponsored "Jethro." He was always Rick's favorite. He'll be buried in our cemetery with his brick engraved: **"Mighty Jethro, an ARFhouse legend"**



We're grateful to Bo Kershaw for burying Jethro in our cemetery. It was a difficult and painful task, both physically and emotionally.

Thanks

TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP OUR DOGS

Louis & Fay Elrod	Brakebill Veterinary Clinic Staff
Tom Thumb Distribution Center	Tom Heaney
IESI	Bo Kershaw
IAM's	Jennifer Hillary
Sherman Wal-Mart	Niemann Publications
Danny & Dr. John Brakebill	Susan Khammash
Stacey & Dr. Clay Morris	Linda Widmer
	Colonial Monument

In Honor

"Toni"

Ron & Terry Cullen

"In honor of Bailey Jones-Walker, given by his friend Sassy"

"For Henry"

by: Russell & Bonnie Hill

In Memory of Animal Lovers

Zava Hayes

from Siv Anderson "with love"

Allie Anderson

from Siv Anderson "with love"

Alan Petray

from Danny & John Brakebill

Nadine Loving

from Danny & John Brakebill

Jennifer Shipman

by Mrs. Ross M. Fountain

George Phillip Speaker

"father of Alice Jones, my best friend"

by: Marilyn Barren

Brakebill Veterinary Hospital Made The Following "In Memory" Donations

"Tina"
Mrs. Emma Baze

"Bandit"
Leslie Bassham

"Lucky"
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Perdue

"Bandit"
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cummings

"Turbo"
Darren Puls

"Missy"
Mr. & Mrs. Don Bundshun

"Callie"
Mr. & Mrs. George Gravely

"Diane"
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Carsten

"Marlee"
Brandy Hall

"Crickett"
Mr. & Mrs. James Groves

"Mark"
Mary Murphy

"Shiloh"
Anna Croney & David Barnes

"LeRoy"
LuRuth & Ted Taylor

"Rembrandt"
Mr. & Mrs. John Andrews

"Hank"
Mr. & Mrs. David Stange

"Freda"
Martha & Sandy LaFoy

"Kiwi"
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Westurn

"Hugs"
Chris & Stell Carsten

"Jack"
Nell Evans & John West

"Abraham"
Sharon Blakeman

"Bella"
Mark Collum & Jill Phillips

"Missie"
Sherry Thompson-Corona

"Miss Kitty"
Martha Gourley

"Eli"
Jacqueline Klassen & Todd Penner

"Coco"
Eric & Sandra Underwood

"Walker"
Linda Rockins

"Thor"
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Setterberg

"Fat Kitty"
Glenda Kelley

"Brandy"
Marolyn Weatherwax

"Mr. Spock"
Hugh & Nelda Campbell

"Tootie"
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Rogers

"Spence"
Mr. & Mrs. Brent England

"Chaz"
Patricia Gammil

"Kandi"
William & Mary John

"Pooky"
Regina Krause

"Tails"
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Whitmire

"Marcus"
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lawson

Donations In Memory of Beloved Pets

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

"Toni"
"Beloved companion to
Ron and Terry Cullen"
by: Sandy and Susan

"Fae" & "Allie"
by: Jane Crout

"Elvis"
Steven & Latressa Melton

"Jelli"
"Dog, age 12, long-time companion of
Clay Higbee."

"Lady"
Carol Roelke

"Buster"
Beloved pet of Lou & Martha Vaughn
by: Michael & Linda Tarzis

"Misty"
"Beloved dog of Mr. & Mrs.
Troy Moore"
by: Dr. Roxanne Donaghey Smith

"Harley"
Ronald & Jane Schulz
"Harley"
Ronald & Jane Schulz

Sally Sparks made a Kuranda bed
donation "in memory of our
sweet Buster Bear".

"Fluffy"
Guardians: Terry & Alyssa Able
by: R. Colleen Able

"Harley Knox"
"Harley was loved and lived like a
prince with his human parents,
Dan & Erin Knox."
by: Jane & Ron Schulz

"Lucky"
Beloved dog of
Bobby and Barbara Ray
by LaTressa & Steve Melton
Lucky was a sweet bundle of love and
affection. He loved to go for walks
in the neighborhood and meet the
neighbors, especially the children. He
had the kindest disposition. We named
him Lucky, but we were the lucky ones
to have him as a part of our family. He
was truly a precious blessing and we
will always love him.



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
3377 Spalding Rd.
Sherman, TX 75092

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