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Living

To the rescue: Your guide to local shelters and agencies

by Lockie Hunter, Special to the Citizen-Times published February 11, 2008 12:15 am

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When it is time to find your next pet, consider adopting from one of several local rescue organizations.

"We are very lucky to live in an animal-friendly community that is so progressive when it comes to animal welfare," said Krista Luck of Animal Compassion Network.



There are many tangible benefits of rescuing an animal, as well as hidden ones. Joan Bednarek of Transylvania Animal Alliance Group said, "to us it seems animals involved in rescue seem to know they've been saved."

Denise Bitz, founder of Brother Wolf Canine Rescue, agrees.

"As an animal rescuer, the reasons to adopt a dog from a shelter or rescue versus buying one from a pet store are clear as day," Bitz said. "In my humble

opinion, mixed breeds make the best pets. They are unique and very appreciative of being given the chance to be a part of your family."

The pets from TAAG, Brother Wolf and Animal Compassion Network can be found at area pet stores on adoption days. Agencies pair with local pet stores to host these adoption events, which are held most weekends.

Many rescued animals have been in a home before through the foster programs that some shelters provide.

"(At Brother Wolf), we rescue dogs from local shelters, owner surrenders and dogs who are strays," Bitz said. "By taking these beings into our homes, we are able to provide them with a loving, nurturing environment where we can learn a lot about a particular dog. While living with us, the dogs learn basic obedience, behavior modification and other traits that will help them to transition into their forever homes more easily. We get a good feel for what an ideal family would be for a particular dog because we spend so much time with them."

Most adoptions include current vaccinations, spaying/neutering and worming. In all cases, there is an adoption questionnaire and interview process; this helps ensure a great match. The fees, which range from \$40-\$100, include the vaccinations and spaying/neutering, and often include extras like one month of pet health insurance, complete medical records and microchip locators.

Joelle Sample, of Pet Soup Rescue, said she feels that one big benefit of adopting is that very act of saving a life.

"If your children go to a shelter or a rescue then they see that reality," Sample said. "Sadly, children need to know that reality. It may help them to know to spay and neuter their own pets. There are an outrageous amount of unwanted pets. The children can benefit from saving a life and can learn to prevent other pets from getting into that situation in the future."

"According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 60 percent of animals that enter shelters are euthanized," Bitz says.

Contact Lockie Hunter at lockie@lockiehunter.com.

Volunteering



credit: Lockie Hunter, Special to the Citizen-Times

Kira is all wrapped up and ready to go at the PetSmart in Arden. She is available through TAAG.

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Asheville

1. Animal Haven of Asheville

65 Lower Grassy Branch Road, Asheville, 299-1635, www.animalhaven.org, info@animalhaven.org

2. Pet Soup Rescue

Call or e-mail to find out about upcoming spring adoption days.

215-I Oak Terrace Drive, Asheville, 665-7745, petsouprescue@bellsouth.net

3. Brother Wolf

Adoption days are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at Pet Supplies Plus, 1865 Hendersonville Road, near the new Earth Fare, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. They also hold an adoption day on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Greenlife Grocery, 70 Merrimon Ave., in the lower parking lot, also 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

808-9435, www.brotherwolfcaninerescue.org, Rnvet@aol.com

4. Asheville Humane Society

72 Lee's Creek Road, Asheville, 253-6807, www.ashevillehumane.org

Hendersonville

5. Blue Ridge Humane Society

88 Centipede Lane, Hendersonville, 685-7107, www.the-aarc.com

6. Baldwin Animal Rescue & Farm (mostly Shepherd dogs)

Please e-mail for a listing of available animals.

Fruitland Road, Hendersonville, 272-6255, DBaldwin77@aol.com

Elsewhere

7. Animal Compassion Network

Adoptions are held at PETsMART at the Wal-Mart Supercenter Plaza in Asheville. For dogs: on the first and third Saturday of every month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For cats: on the first and third Saturday of every month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., all other Saturdays from 1-3 p.m., and every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

258-4820, http://animalcompassionnetwork.org

8. Sarge's Animal Rescue

Please go to the Web site and contact the foster home directly using the phone number or e-mail address in each listing. Also, go to their Web site to view upcoming adoption days and locations.

508-3300, admin@sargeandfriends.org, www.sargeandfriends.org/links.html

9. Madison County Animal Shelter

389 Long Branch Road, Marshall, 649-3190, www.madisoncountync.org/-shelter.html

10. Transylvania Humane Society

84 E. Main St., Brevard, 884-6577, transhumane@citcom.net

11. Transylvania Animal Alliance Group (TAAG)

Adoption days at PETsMART on Airport Road in Arden almost every Saturday.

966-3166, taagwags@citcom.net

12. MARYPAWS (offers cats only)

Adoption events every Thursday afternoon, weather permitting, at Earth Fare at Westgate shopping center in Asheville. Weekly adoption events are also held every Sunday afternoon at SuperPetz, 825 Brevard Road in Asheville.

622-3248, www.marypaws.org

13. FurEver Friends Animal Rescue Network (mostly cats)

Adoption days are every Sunday at SuperPetz on Brevard Road in Asheville

722 Bat Cave Road, Old Fort, 670-6723, fureverfriends@att.net



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