

While we share our numbers routinely there is a lot more going on behind the scenes of our shelter every day. The public that comes to adopt sees the pets that have been with us a while, been cleaned up, received all their vaccinations, and generally recovered from any negative health issues they might have had. What the general public does not see is the day in, day out work our staff is doing to help so many pets recover from neglect, starvation, sickness, injuries, and overall mistreatment that may have gone on for a significant period of time.

In any given week we will likely have a number of dogs recovering from severe hair loss due to mange, flea allergies, poor nutrition, injury, lack of grooming or prior filthy living conditions. These cases generally take a lot of time to recover and Laverne, Aubbie, Greta & LuLu are four of those dogs still with us that proved to be simply gorgeous dogs now that they are healthy.

Too many times each week we receive animals that are terribly underweight from starvation and/or severe intestinal parasites. Re-feeding a starved pet is not just putting food in front of them as they may need multiple small meals during the day to get their recovery started. Pets with large internal parasite loads have to be de-wormed carefully so as not to shock their system. Traveler, Heplin, Camilla are three such dogs that came to us horribly emaciated but are now happy and healthy and just waiting for their adopters.

Sometimes we receive a pet that is badly injured requiring surgical repair by an area veterinarian and then time to heal. Finn is one of those dogs that came in with a badly broken leg that had been ignored for two weeks by his owner, so the veterinarian had no choice but to amputate his left front leg. Finn recovered in one of our experienced foster homes and is still there as he learns to cope on three legs. But thanks to his foster he is doing great, loves children, and is just waiting to find his future home.

Flea and ticks can be much more than a nuisance as we see far too many pets that are simply covered in these parasites and are anemic and weak from the loss of blood as a result. Yes, fleas and ticks can kill young animals and our staff often has to work fast to kill these blood-sucking parasites so the puppies or kittens can recover.

Many, many cats and kittens come to us with upper respiratory issues that can be from contagious cat diseases or just bad overall health from poor nutrition, internal and external parasites, and stress. Goopy eyes & runny noses are more the norm for large numbers of kittens during the high kitten intake months of May, June & July and our kitty quarantine area is generally full during those months as we work to help many of these kittens get well enough to be placed for adoption.

What about all of those puppies and kittens too young to be without a mother? Our staff whips up kitten and puppy 'meals' geared to their needs and that means a lot of goopy foods and dirty puppy and kitten faces needing cleaned up after they eat throughout the day. That is a lot of puppy and kitten cleaning going on depending on the time of year. If we have a nursing mother that is able and willing to take on new babies it makes life a lot easier and we are certainly grateful for some wonderful mother dogs and cats who prove to be incredible 'moms!'

Shelter work is a lot more than just putting food and water down for them daily. There are medications, vaccinations and parasite preventives to be given, feeding to be monitored, baths to keep them clean, illness/injury issues to be dealt with, exercise to help their physical and psychological health, and behavior assessments so that we can help pets and adopters find great matches. All of this means there is truly very little 'down' time in a shelter as there is no end to caring for 150-200 pets every day. But you can trust that our staff is there to help all that come to us to the best of our ability as we all love animals and work to find them better futures.