

Deanna Persson, President

Facebook postings for the Northwoods Humane Society – Sawyer County were buzzing”

Two weeks ago Alecia Austin, our Shelter Manager posted that we were receiving forty six – 46 – puppies and dogs on September 4 at 7 a.m. in the morning. These precious animals were again coming to us from northern Texas. All were scheduled to be euthanized because of over-crowding in their shelters.

The call went out that foster homes will be needed. After the post the NHS phones began to ring and our website was busy with people filling out applications. Alecia posted photos of some of the incoming dogs. Some applying just wanted to be foster parents and others wanted to adopt. Before any could be permanently adopted they would need to be spayed or neutered and have the full range of vaccinations. When the dogs come to us from out of state, they are rabies vaccinated, fecal checked, heartworm tested and sometimes spay or neutered.

Each incoming dog had a home to go to.

Alecia posted the following: “I am sending a huge Thank You out to all of our amazing volunteers who came in this morning to help us with the 46 new dogs and puppies that arrived this morning from critically over full shelters in Texas and Oklahoma. The dogs were all unloaded, health evaluations done, microchipped and vaccinated if not done, bathed, walked for potty breaks, and then handed off to their new amazing foster homes. Some of the fosters drove from over 3 hours away to help us save as many as we could. The fosters will be spending time with them and getting to know them while we set up appointments to get all of their medical needs covered. In a while, the fosters will give us write ups about each dog and great pictures so we can all see a little bit of their personalities. From start to end it was a 14 hour day getting everything ready to the last dog leaving for their temporary home. It was amazing working side by side with all of these people who were there for one reason, the sweet souls we received. I have said it takes a village many times, our village is growing and it is Awesome!!!! Thank you all, for everything you did today, we needed and appreciate each and every one of you!!”

Receiving 46 dogs at one time requires organization, compassion, preparedness and hard work. Each dog has folder prepared with information sent by the transport group. Each health record is updated with services provided by NHS, each kennel coming out of the transport bus is tagged and as the volunteers take a puppy or mature dog from the van then go to their assigned kennel with blankets, water, food and a toy. Each kennel has a photo of the dog and a number and history plus the name of the foster family.

Most of the volunteers and staff members have done this several times before and they are pros. Thanks you to Diane Kline, Joyce Palucci, Glenda and Bob Van Arb, Susan Sams, Ruth Peterson, Bobbi Love, Katie Butterfield, Michelle Bonekowski, Pat Ton, Peg, Susan Barbieri, Cherie Arzola, Jamie Rothfus, Ann Schultz, Danny Peterson. The leader of this massive operation was Alecia Austin. Thank you everyone and thank you to Linda Graham for providing lunch.

Again, if you follow our Facebook page – Northwoods Humane Society – Sawyer County, you will see that the cat and kitten rooms are super busy. Lisa Lew and Angie Larsen have posted pictures of the many precious kittens and cats waiting for homes, ones that have been adopted and the ones going into their foster homes for more socialization and care.

Note 1: August 30th was our Bark and Roll with the Been There Done That Band. If you go on Facebook, you will see our drummer, Ray Austin workout. The event was a super success with a beautiful crowd. We raised double what we had anticipated!!!! Cindy Ferraro, owner of the Sawmill was the best to work with. She supported us every step of the way.

Note 2: I recently wrote an article about artificial sweetener and how they are poisonous to dogs. The sugar free sweetener contain Xylitol. My friend Amy Hanson had read the article and shared that her dog Lilac found a container of ‘sugar free’ Tic Tacs’ and she ate little candies. Within a half hour Lilac was listless and vomiting. She was rushed to an emergency vet clinic and was treated though the night and survived the ordeal.