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Finding a Furever Friend: The Benefits of Pet Adoption

STILLWATER, Okla. – Each year, approximately 7.3 million pets across the United States spend time in an animal shelter, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

“As the number of homeless animals continues to arise, the need for animal adoption is incredibly urgent,” said Renee Huddleston, Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue director. “Rehoming and care of pets is dependent upon organizations who put the needs of animals first.”

Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue volunteers in Stillwater, Okla., work hard to take in orphaned kittens who otherwise would not have a chance at life, said Huddleston.

“Without an organization like Tiny Paws fulfilling this role, kittens such as these are ordinarily euthanized or simply left to perish,” Huddleston said. “Bottle-fed kittens are a highrisk, high-needs population for which most rescues aren't adequately funded, staffed or equipped to provide the necessary care.”

Tiny Paws volunteers fulfill the need for kitten care that otherwise may not have been possible, Huddleston said.

“Adoption is our driving force,” Huddleston said. “Without adoptions, we couldn't carry on our life saving work because we would run out of space and resources.”

For many, pet adoption is the best solution to finding a furry friend.

Cheyenne Gervais, a shelter pet owner from Woodward, Okla., had the opportunity to purchase her blue-heeler dog, Scout from a local shelter, she said.

“Ultimately, I chose to purchase my dog from the local shelter, because of how rewarding it felt,” Gervais said. “Adopting Scout from the shelter felt like I was giving him a second chance at a good life.”

Adopting animals from the shelter is a much more affordable alternative to buying directly from a breeder, Gervais said.

“I purchased Scout for a rehoming fee of \$40,” Gervais said. “As a young adult, this option was the most affordable option for my fiancé and I.”

Animals bought from a breeder almost always receive a chance at life, where buying a pet from the shelter could be the difference between life and death, Gervais said.

For those interested in animal adoption, but don’t have the means to do so, there are several ways to help.

Charlie, a bird dog at the Stephens County Humane Society in Duncan, Okla., is awaiting his forever home, said Courtney Myrmel, shelter operations manager.

“Charlie has been in the shelter for over 100 days,” Myrmel said. “He is a bit rambunctious, but he is just a big puppy.”

For those interested in becoming Charlie’s forever family, there are several upcoming adoption events this month, Myrmel said.

“Next month, we are set to host three adoption events,” Myrmel said. “On Feb. 1 and 8, we are set to host adoption events at the Duncan Tractor Supply, and on Feb. 15 we will be visiting Lawton Petco.”

My favorite part of working at the shelter is the puppy breath and giving animals the love they deserve, Myrmel said.

For those interested in adoption but do not have the means to do so, there are several ways to help, Huddleston said.

“Informing people of nurturing and spaying to prevent overpopulation, supporting local adoption centers and becoming an animal foster parent are several ways to make an impact,” Huddleston added.

Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue volunteers invite all that are interested to attend the baby kitten shower on March 2, where community members are encouraged to donate supplies to the cause,” Huddleston said.

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