



# Alliston & District Humane Society

Alliston & District Humane Society

P.O. Box 1455

5545 Concession 4 Tosorontio  
Everett, ON L0M 1J0

Serving—New Tecumseth, Mulmur,  
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**Spring/Summer 2017**

705-458-9038

[www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com)

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The Alliston & District Humane Society News is a bi-annual newsletter.  
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## ADHS FACES A ROCKY FUTURE



ADHS Volunteer Edie Steinmayr and Jack enjoy the fall day on the shelter property. This enjoyment will end and there can be huge health issues for ADHS animals if the gravel pit slated for the property line is not stopped. **See page 2 and 3 for the whole story.**

**The Alliston & District Humane Society would like to thank our local business sponsors for their support.**

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## **Help ADHS Fight the Gravel Pit**

So, what's all the fuss about this gravel pit I've been hearing about? Isn't it just a hole in the ground somewhere with a bunch of big trucks and equipment and guys digging? What does it have to do with me anyway and why should I care?

Those are all really good questions, especially for anyone living in this area. You're right about it being a really big hole in the ground, and guys digging. But why are they doing that, why here, and what are the impacts and consequences?



First of all, a gravel pit is a business, where aggregate (sand, gravel, rocks etc.) is extracted to be sold and used in construction. In this case, a 180 acre parcel of land located at 5556 and 5670 County Road 13, 2.5 km south of Everett at the intersection of the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>, has been re-zoned by Adjala-Tosorontio town council to allow for aggregate extraction. The Nelson Aggregate Company is looking to lease the property for the purposes of extracting more than a million tons of aggregate each year from below the water table over the next twenty years.

A number of different organizations and businesses have come together to fight this. Concerned Citizens of Adjala-Tosorontio (CCAT),

Walking shelter dogs on our many walking paths will be a thing of the past if the gravel pit site on our property line goes forward.

Somerville Nurseries, Breedon's Maple Syrup, First Nations and Alliston & District Humane Society (ADHS) make up the five parties that have initiated a legal challenge. This challenge is now in front of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) which is part of the justice system in Ontario that exists primarily to resolve land use disputes in a more informal, and less costly manner than in the courts.

While each of the five 'parties' share concerns for many of the same issues such as the potential negative effects on the environment, the loss of natural habitats, water concerns with regard to quality and quantity, increased traffic and damage to our roads, increased taxes, and decreased property values, each party has their own specific reasons for fighting the gravel pit.

At ADHS, we are focussed on protecting the animals we care for in our shelter; in ensuring their health and well-being as well as that of our volunteers; in protecting our property for our use and enjoyment in walking and exercising our dogs; for protecting our water sources including our well; and for protecting the turtle ponds; and wildlife and wildlife habitats on our property.

A gravel pit next door to us has the potential to undo this and to undermine (no pun intended) all the efforts our wonderful volunteers make each and every day to give our animals a chance at a new life. The mining operation, aside from being an eyesore along County Road 13, is expected to produce loud noises, probably on a fairly constant basis; fine silicate dust in the air, ground vibrations, and odours. There is also the potential for contaminant spills which could make their way into the water system. It is especially the noise, dust, ground vibrations, odours and the effects these will have on our animals, as well as the effects on our well, ponds and wildlife that are of major concern for ADHS.

**Continued from page 2**

Most people know that dogs, cats and small animals have hearing that is three to four times more sensitive than ours. We use our property extensively for walking and exercising our dogs. Anyone who has ever seen a dog during a thunder storm will know that they do not tolerate loud noises well. Can you imagine a dog being walked along the path that borders our property and is within 20 or so feet of their internal truck routes? They hear a gravel crusher, or one of the gravel trucks that goes by every 85 seconds. As one volunteer put it, "Walking the dogs will be impossible. They'll rip my arm off". Using our outdoor space is a big part of our operations. How will we be able to continue using it in the midst of all that?

Respiratory systems in animals are more sensitive than ours. Breathing in the silicate dust will be like breathing in sawdust. Ground vibrations will be scary, and the noxious diesel fumes will have the potential to make the animals sick. All of this will impact the health and well-being of our animals. It can increase our medical costs and jeopardize the chances for the early placement of animals into their forever home due to behavioural or medical issues that were not there before. Longer stays mean reduced capacity at the shelter. It may also affect our volunteers – not only in terms of their own health but in terms of their willingness to expose themselves to much of this; they will have to fight harder each day to achieve the same results as they did in the past.

The excavation will be below the water table and this has the potential to affect not only the quantity of our water which we get from a well, but also the quality. Should our water source become contaminated, our concern is that we may only know once the animals become sick, or worse, die from it. The drilling also has the potential to lower the water levels in our ponds that house a variety of turtles, including 'species of concern'; the dust can choke out and poison the vegetation in the pond and the turtles can starve. The loss of vegetation, in combination with the noise, will drive away wildlife on the property.

This is a fight we need to fight. The next OMB pretrial hearing has now been scheduled for June 2017. We expect it will be costly in terms of legal and other necessary fees. It's so unfortunate that we have been placed in this situation, but we feel we have no choice but to challenge this decision. If you feel you can support us in this, your generosity is most appreciated in the form of a charitable donation which can be made on-line through Canada Helps on our website at [www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com) or through a cheque dropped off at our shelter, or mailed to us at ADHS, P.O. Box 1455, 5545 Concession 4, Everett, Ontario L0M 1J0. E-transfers may be sent to info@allistonhumane.com. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. **Please indicate this donation is for the gravel pit fight.** With your help and support, Jack and Edie, hopefully, will be able to continue to look out over nature rather than silicate dust and gravel trucks. For more detail and information on this topic go to [www.nogravelpit.com](http://www.nogravelpit.com).

Jackie Akeson, ADHS Director and Cat Team Volunteer

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## Consider becoming a member of ADHS!

**JOIN NOW!**

**Become a member and show your support!  
Support your local humane society!**

All membership fees go directly to the care of the animals. An individual membership is \$25 dollars and a family membership is \$35 dollars. Go to [www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com) to complete an electronic membership form and pay via PayPal or print the form, complete and mail in or drop off at the shelter. We could not help all the animals we help each day without your continued support. Thank you!

## Mark your calendars for ADHS's annual Walk-a-dog-a-thon!

**Earl Rowe Provincial Park**

**Saturday June 3, 2017**

**Registration 10:00 am**

**Walk Begins: 10:45 am**

Fun dog games!

Enjoy a BBQ Lunch!



First 75 walkers registered receive a doggy goody bag courtesy of our sponsors.



Admission to park is free to participants with their pledge forms and pledges.

Prizes for fundraising pledge levels. Prizes include pet products, dinner for two, gift baskets, gift certificates, artwork, micro-chipping for your pet and much more!

RSVP attendance to [info@allistonhumane.com](mailto:info@allistonhumane.com) before 12:01AM June 3, 2017 to have your name entered to WIN an early bird prize.

Pledge sheets available at the ADHS Shelter, Pet Valu Alliston, Boyne Vet, Animal Hospital of Beeton and online at our website [allistonhumane.com](http://allistonhumane.com)

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New to the area?

BE SURE TO CALL DIANNE 705-435-2588



Our representative will bring gifts and greetings, along with helpful information about the community.



Dr Stefani Warmington

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**905-729-2929**

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# Volunteer Corner

*This is the fifth in a series of articles about volunteers that help make our organization run.*

## Behind the Scenes with Vanessa Verma and Pat Skelly

Volunteers can do more than walk a dog or clean a cage to make a difference! Vanessa Verma and Pat Skelly are long-time ADHS volunteers who work in non-animal related roles.

Vanessa Verna has been a volunteer at the ADHS shelter since 2011. The organization first came to her attention when she was seeking help and rescue for two neglected neighbourhood dogs, Zena and Zeus. Emily Day, dog coordinator at ADHS, took the dogs into the shelter. Vanessa was impressed with the volunteers, the dedication of the people she met and the support and encouragement Emily provided when she decided she would adopt Zeus. Vanessa felt she was too emotional to work with the animals so she decided to take on the job of cleaning caretaker and laundress, a role crucial to the shelter.

Vanessa's cheery presence and her efforts to clean, wash floors, organize shelter items, and deal with the recycling, make a huge difference to the shelter environment. ADHS is a workplace and it is a huge morale boost for all to see the difference once she has whirled through the shelter weekly, cleaning and sprucing up all of the work and animal areas. Vanessa has also provided leadership and direction about health and safety hazards in the shelter, identifying problems and reporting on the solutions to things like mice infestation. She also operates our liquor bottle program, driving bottles to be cashed in several times a week. ADHS does about five loads of laundry per day, and Vanessa notes the huge improvement this past year, when an industrial washer and dryer were rented and she is no longer spending her time fighting with machinery. Friendly, outgoing, and always ready to lend a hand, Vanessa is always a popular presence in the shelter.



**Vanessa Verma**

Pat Skelly is a "behind the scenes" volunteer who has been with ADHS for 12 years. She originally joined ADHS when she was looking for a way to make a difference in memory of her beloved wolfhound Kelly. Working directly with animals was not an option due to her health, but she immediately dove into answering the lost and found line, a demanding job that requires answering and responding to several thousand calls a year while attempting to match up owners with found animals. She answered this line for four years, and moved on due to her health, as well as the sheer volume of calls, including the demoralizing and upsetting day after day calls about abused, abandoned and lost cats. At this point Pat took on ADHS's administration line, fielding calls and giving advice on everything from donations, to intake requests to community group inquiries. This past year she also stepped up and filled a gap answering our wildlife line. She enjoys providing assistance, looking for answers for callers, and making a difference in the organization and the community. Pat supports ADHS's no kill philosophy and believes that the volunteers work "from the heart."



**Pat with beloved wolfhounds  
Dillan and Finnegan.**

She notes that ADHS pioneers like Ernie and Glenna Ogle and Wendy Haugen overcame the challenges of the early years when there was no physical shelter and animals had to be taken into foster homes. She marvels at how far the organization has come and tries to make it yearly to ADHS's annual walk-a-dog-a-thon to help out and be "a part of it all". Answering ADHS phone lines is not for the faint of heart or those prone to distress over the situation of animals. Pat brings her pleasant manner, ample knowledge and willingness to help to our phone lines 365 days a year! ADHS continues to operate in this community due to the generosity and hard work of volunteers like Vanessa and Pat!

## Fun Feline Facts 2016

Lots of changes in 2016 in the ADHS cat department!

### Did you know?

- ◆ 246 cats and kittens found their fur-ever home through ADHS in 2016
- ◆ ADHS cats went free roaming in 2016. Cats who are healthy and able to socialize with others now have a room where they roam uncaged, free to lounge, hang out in a cat house or even go outside into our outdoor run and climb centre!
- ◆ ADHS has a team of volunteers who feed, clean and interact with cats daily, 365 days a year. New in 2016 was a cat socialization/snuggle team led by Gail Garisto. Many of our felines come to the shelter, stressed, angry and unsocial or hostile. Gail and her team devote one on one to the cats weekly and have seen the improvement in trust and friendliness that allows many of these cats to be adopted into homes.
- ◆ New partnerships helped many ADHS cats this past year. A partnership with Shelburne Feral Cat rescue saw Sharon Morden helping Simcoe County citizens with feral cats that ADHS could not accommodate, as well as providing an indoor and outdoor reclamation centre for cats who are not people friendly. Action for Animals Durham provided a big helping hand to ADHS this year as well, coming a long distance to assist feral cats in distress.
- ◆ ADHS's cat team continues to support businesses with cat issues as time and funds allow. Pridham's Park in Adjala and Canadoor in Alliston received help with outdoor cats in 2016.
- ◆ Barn Buddies program found heated and supervised living quarters for several dozen cats in 2016.
- ◆ New venues for displaying cats for adoption helped increase our adoption numbers. Thanks to Fluffy Puppies in Aurora, Pet Valu in Bolton and Pet Valu in Alliston for providing cat viewing accommodation.
- ◆ ADHS continues to be a no kill shelter. Our special needs cats are given ongoing vet treatment and placed in loving homes. 2016 saw cats adopted with chronic upper respiratory disease, leukemia, epilepsy, and AIDS. Thanks to all our loving adopters who are willing to take a chance on a less than perfect cat.
- ◆ ADHS continues to place senior cats and bonded pairs into loving homes. At least half a dozen bonded pairs found homes together while seniors continue to wait but do eventually find a fur-ever home.
- ◆ ADHS saw so many kittens this past year that special housing had to be purchased to accommodate the overflow. Our kitten foster homes continue to grow, allowing ADHS to take more abandoned kittens.



# Would you like to contribute to ADHS ?

There are **FOUR** ways to donate money to ADHS. Donors may contribute monthly or make a single donation by credit card or PayPal or through Canadahelps.org. These options are available on our website [allistonhumane.com](http://allistonhumane.com). Click the DONATE NOW or PayPal button. E-transfers may be sent to info@allistonhumane.com.

Please mail donations by cheque to:  
P.O. Box 1455  
Everett, Ontario  
L0M 1J0

The shelter's physical address is:  
5545 Concession 4, Tosorontio, Everett, ON  
L0M 1J0 or Call us at 705-458-9038.

You can also contribute by volunteering, providing a foster home, running a fundraising event and donating items listed on our wish list.



Eva Bradley from Tottenham raised over \$2400.00 for the Alliston & District Humane Society in 2016 by coordinating several bus trips to Casino Rama. She would like to thank everyone who supported her fundraising campaign and encourages anyone to do the same. "It's good to give back to the community and help those in need " she says.

# Find us on

We are on Facebook— Please friend us!! You can find us by searching for **Alliston & District Humane Society** in the top search bar. We are using Facebook to help spread the word about all our wonderful animals looking for homes, and also to share the many events we hold and participate in every year. We hope that those of you who have adopted from our shelter will share updates about how your new family member is doing. We love to hear how our pet clients are adding to your lives.



Please help ADHS reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned animals in our communities.

## SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS

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**Fax:** 905-898-4321

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Barrie, ON

L4N 3V9

**Phone:** 705-734-9883

or 705-734-9882

**Fax:** 705-720-7321

[www.spayneuter.ontariospca.ca](http://www.spayneuter.ontariospca.ca)

## ADHS's Small Animal Department: Hard Work and Generous Donors

The ADHS small animal department was set up in 2011, when an ambitious volunteer named Stephanie Matthews decided that the organization could make a difference to the many small animals abandoned yearly in this province. The initial shelter plan did not include small animals, so the area started with the conversion of a utility closet. The shelter boardroom and the utility closet began to fill with birds, rabbits, and guinea pigs and other small pets. Interest in the community was huge and adoptions were steady. However, it was clear that the lack of space and proper ventilation were a huge issue. A small renovation in 2014 provided more space but quarters were cramped for both animals and volunteers.

Despite the many challenges along the way, the small animal team managed to build a strong program. We provide opportunities for volunteer community/high school hours, co-op students and options for youth and their parents to volunteer. We have hosted the Girl Guides and Cubs. The rabbits often attend local festivals and events. Our rabbits even participate in the annual egg hunt held by the shelter. Our team has been involved with rescuing a large number of small animals. We get transfers from other shelters that would otherwise have to be euthanized due to lack of space, resources or behavior issues. We took in rabbits who were abandoned into the outdoors and were at risk of being poisoned by home owners who were not happy with the rabbits eating in their gardens and digging in their lawns. We have also helped rescue a large number of birds, reptiles, amphibians and other exotics.



Tracy and Evan Fiebig enjoy working together in the small animal area.

were so patient with us during the expansion. Our volunteers and animals are very happy, especially Leon the rabbit who often breaks out of his cage to fully enjoy the new space. We go into 2017 with a great team and a huge new room; we are ready for the new challenges to come!

Crystal Roth, ADHS Small Animal Coordinator



Leona Chalmers enjoys the new spacious work area at ADHS.

All of these efforts led to the decision that the small animal team needed more space. With a large donation from Bridge Tite Group, we expanded again in the fall of 2016. The new renovations were completed in October 2016, making our room even better. Another wall came down and another office was re-purposed. New and effective ventilation was installed. This makes our daily activities of feeding, cleaning and caring for the animals much easier.

**A huge thank-you to Tania Perrier and Jeary LaBelle for donating the labour and materials to create our new space.**

Also thank you to the volunteers shelter wide, who

**Scrubadub Doggies Pet Grooming**



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Janice Preiss  
Karine Blaison  
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By appointment  
705-250-dogs (3647)



# Alliston & District Humane Society

**CALL: 1-705-458-9038**

P.O. Box 1455, 5545 Concession 4  
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## Sponsor-A-Cage Form

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Note To Corporate Sponsors: We will be contacting you for a digital file of your logo for your plaque.

Please make cheques payable to the **Alliston & District Humane Society**.  
All donations over \$20 are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. Thank You!

You can also complete this form online at [www.allistonhumane.com](http://www.allistonhumane.com) and make your donation via PayPal.

## A Cat Living with CLASS

About a year ago, ADHS volunteers at the shelter began a pilot program bringing individuals from various group homes into the shelter to visit our animals. For the individuals involved, it was an opportunity to participate in the community, but also to provide some good loving to our animals. Each supported individual comes to the shelter with their own preferences, goals, and expectations. We do our best to make sure that each individual gets what he or she is looking for, and that each animal gets the attention they need. The only unfortunate part about this whole arrangement is that the individuals are only able to spend a limited time with the animals. There is no question that both the individuals and the animals benefit from this interaction.

I think most of us can agree that what makes a house a home is the family that resides in it. With very few exceptions, that family includes a pet. I have a cat and a bunny. My neighbour has a dog (yes, it came from our shelter). Many of us have our animal family members, and our lives would be very different if we didn't have them. Seeing as the entire point of a group home is to provide a HOME for the residents there, it only made sense to make an attempt to integrate some animals. So once an appropriate group home was found, we began the task of finding a perfect pet for them. Some of the residents came to the shelter. Animals were seen, cuddled, and loved. There were discussions with management at CLASS (Community Living Association for South Simcoe). There were discussions with the board of directors at the shelter. Eventually, it all came together. One of the residents from the home came and adopted an amazing cat named Cheyenne.



**Cheyenne lounging on her chair!**

Cheyenne is a special cat; she was stepped on by a horse, and as a result, lost one of her hind legs. Cheyenne has shown many of us something that I have only experienced with the people that I support in the past. Cheyenne showed us that regardless of what may be considered a "handicap", she is capable, she is loving, and she is just as deserving of a loving family as anyone else.



Cheyenne has settled very happily into her new home. She curls up in bed with some of the residents. She can often be seen relaxing in what is unquestionably "her" chair. The staff of the house love her as much as the res-

idents, and have noticed positive changes in the residents since Cheyenne has joined them. There couldn't have been a better fit for both Cheyenne and her new family. I was there the day Cheyenne left. As she got in the van, with resident James Smith, I could just tell it would work out perfectly. Although I'm sure she knew that we all loved her at the shelter, she didn't even look back. I think she knew!

Jeremy Nagy, ADHS Director and Dog Team Volunteer.

## **When is the right time?**

As the Dog Adoptions Coordinator for ADHS, I have many people come out to view our dogs. Many of them come because they have lost their dog, sometimes from old age, sometimes under tragic circumstances. Every person and story is unique. Some are ready to adopt; some come out just to see what dogs we have, but most of them come out to reminisce about their dogs and their stories. They know we are dog people and sometimes we cry with them. Sometimes they just need someone to understand their pain and we do.

All of the stories are heartbreaking. Some of the more memorable ones are the couple that lost both their dogs within 24 hours, and the gentleman whose German Shepherd became spooked and he bolted out in front of a tractor trailer. My heart still breaks when I think about them, but I know 100 more stories just as sad. Most people are embarrassed that they start crying as soon as they start looking at the dogs in our care, but there is no need to worry; it happens all of the time. We expect it to be an emotional journey.

But how do you know when it is the right time to adopt again? When are you ready to add a new family member to your home? There isn't a right answer; everyone is different. Some people are ready immediately; they can't stand their empty house or not having a companion. Sometimes they know how many other dogs are waiting for homes and decide that they need to help a dog right away. They want to adopt another dog to honour their own dog. Sometimes they wait months or years to get a new dog. There is no right or wrong answer.

Sometimes families walk in the door and have an instant connection with a dog, but not always. We don't always have what they are looking for. Some people see signs from the dogs that the dog in front of them is the dog. One lady who came to look at our dogs believed in adopting another dog right away and she was actively looking and had been to many shelters and rescues but had not seen the sign she was looking for. The dog that she came to see at our shelter was a German Shepherd and they hit it off wonderfully, but she had not seen the sign she was looking for. She was about 85% sure this was the dog for her but still no sign. Until...we went to put the dog back into his kennel and she looked up and saw the name of his kennel and it was Sydney. Sydney was her last dog's name and that did it: he was the dog for her. She came back and picked him up a few days later and now he is living a wonderful life; he blended into her life like he had always been there. I know it doesn't always go so smoothly but sometimes.....What is more important than the timing of the adoption is what you are looking for. It may have been a long time since you had a puppy; do you really want a puppy or is an older dog more what you are looking for? Does breed matter? How about colour – often black dogs are overlooked and take much longer to get adopted. Whatever and wherever your journey with your dog takes you, know that when you are ready to start looking we will be there to help you find you new family member and share the stories about your dogs and ours.

By the time you read this newsletter I will have my own new sad story to tell. I have a very old mastiff/lab mix who is now in the final stages of his life and will probably be gone by the time our newsletter is published. He has been an amazing dog and I am a better person for having him; when his time comes my heart will be shattered. I wonder when I will be ready for a new dog?

Rhonda Doucette, ADHS Director



**Buddy, my 13 year old boy**

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# OPEN HOUSE!

Please join us the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month for our Open House from noon to 4 pm at the shelter. Come and visit all the animals and meet our great volunteers, and drop off donations. One of our recent visitors sent us a lovely commendation:

"What a great place! I left with a smile on my face. Thank you all for working to make this wonderful organization. Everyone benefits from your hard work and enthusiasm. I became inspired, on such a dreary day, and I will be sure to pass on word about your shelter to others too."



**HONEY**

Recognize any of these symptoms?

- \*Excessive Shedding
- \*Dry, flaky or greasy skin
- \*Smelly ears or skin
- \*Recurring ear infections
- \*Frequent paw licking
- \*Parasites — Mites, Worms, Fleas
- \*Stiff joints/arthritis
- \*Hairballs
- \*Diarrhea/Constipation
- \*Allergies
- \*Overweight

These are signs that your pet's current diet should be reviewed.

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**ALLISTON**  
113 Victoria St. W.  
705-434-3311

**SHELBOURNE**  
226 First Ave. E.  
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**ORANGEVILLE**  
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ALSO — PET NAME TAGS ENGRAVED ON SITE IN OUR ALLISTON LOCATION

# Adoption Corner

**Call (705) 458-9038**

The ADHS is a registered charity. All board members, volunteers and foster homes are unpaid. All funds raised pay for the current services provided, as well as future programs. All cats and dogs over six months of age are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and de-wormed.

## Adoption Fees

Kittens \$60 Cats \$120

Puppies \$300 Dogs \$275

Rabbits \$55

Guinea Pigs and Degus \$25

Hamsters, Rats and Gerbils \$10



**Cokey Bear (9) and Fritz (12)** are a senior bonded pair looking for their forever home. Very loving, affectionate and loyal.



I'll find the  
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*Jaime Karsch*  
Sales Representative

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