

# Humane Society of Davie County

## *Newsletter – Winter 2010*

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P.O. Box 153 291 Eaton Rd. Mocksville, NC 27028 336-751-5214 [www.davienchumane.org](http://www.davienchumane.org)

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*The Humane Society gratefully acknowledges your support in 2009. We anticipate continuing challenges but also promising new and better ways of accomplishing our mission of rescuing and adopting out abandoned dogs and cats in Davie County, and promoting spay/neuter. May we count on your continuing support in 2010? Thank you from HSDC.*

### **SPAY-GHETTI DINNER ON FEBRUARY 3**

Mark your calendars to attend our annual Spay-ghetti Dinner at **First United Methodist Church** on North Main Street in Mocksville, Wednesday evening **February 3**, with doors open at **5:00PM**. The delicious dinner of baked spaghetti, salad, bread, and great desserts is free of charge. All donations go directly to the spay/neuter assistance programs of the Humane Society. The Faithful Workers Sunday School class of First Methodist and the Advancers community group organize and manage the event on behalf of the Humane Society. The evening promises good food and fellowship for a good cause. We hope to see you there.



### **CAUSE FOR PAWS ON MARCH 20**

Plans are underway for our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Cause for Paws dinner and auction, scheduled for **Saturday, March 20** at **Hillsdale United Methodist** on US Highway 158 in Advance. The event features a buffet dinner and silent auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Humane Society. Chuck Houska will provide an update on the Clemmons Dog Park project. Libby Bagby will share the story of Lucky's Plott. Sponsorships and auction item donors are requested at this time and must be received by March 1 in order to be listed in the event program. Tickets are on sale for \$20 each through March 1 and \$25 thereafter. The form for both sponsorships and tickets is enclosed in this newsletter and may be found online at [www.davienchumane.org](http://www.davienchumane.org) on the **Events** page. We thank you for your support of this major fundraiser for HSDC.

### **SPAY DAY CAMPAIGN IN FEBRUARY**

Spay Day is an annual campaign of The Humane Society of the United States to inspire people to save animal lives by spaying or neutering pets and feral cats. Officially the last Tuesday of February, Spay Day includes events and activities taking place throughout February across the United States. HSDC has registered its **spay/neuter community transport** on **Wednesday, February 10, 2010** as its Spay Day event. Local pet owners may sign up to have their dogs and cats spayed or neutered at the Humane Society of the Piedmont clinic in Greensboro. Pets will be dropped off at the HSDC adoption center at 7:00AM on Wednesday, February 10, and picked up at the same time on Thursday, February 11. Limited spots are available and reservations are valid only upon payment. Call the adoption center for details on this program. Tell your friends and neighbors and help us save lives through spaying/neutering more pets in Davie County.

### **DOG PARK FOR OUR FURRY FRIENDS IN TANGLEWOOD PARK**

*By Carolyn S. Peterson*

When **Chuck Houska** believes in an idea, he takes it all the way. "As a member of the Clemmons Rotary, I know that

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#### ***Mission Statement***

*The Humane Society's mission is the prevention of cruelty to animals, the relief of suffering among animals, the rescue of adoptable dogs and cats, and the promotion of spay/neuter education.*

anything can be done with passion and perseverance and I am passionate about having a dog park in southwest Forsyth County. With the hard work of many volunteers, all sharing a love of spending time with their dogs, we now are in the actual planning stages of a dog park in Tanglewood Park,” said Houska.


Veterinarians will tell you that dogs need to exercise and to socialize with other dogs in order to be well adjusted, both physically and mentally. “After talking to several vets in our community, I learned that a 30-minute exercise period with other dogs is better than two hours of walking on a leash. Just like their human counterpart, dogs need cardiovascular activity which they get at a dog park, but they also become better pets through the other dogs they encounter at a dog park,” said Houska.

Like most dog lovers, Houska has a special pup in his family’s life. “My wife Jane and I own a Brittany Spaniel named Bodie who was born with hip dysplasia and underwent surgery before he was a year old. I would take Bodie to exercise at Happy Hounds Dog Park in Germanton. After a chance meeting with Mark Serosky, the Director of Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department at the dog park in Germanton, we talked about the need for a dog park in southwest Forsyth County. I like to take Bodie to Tanglewood Park, but the leash law keeps me from allowing him to run. I decided that I was going to take an active role in getting a dog park built in our community,” said Houska.

“We have 2.5 acres in Tanglewood Park at the western edge of the soccer fields for the facility,” stated Houska, “and we continue to get support from the community. Our local elected officials in Clemmons are looking at the dog park as another amenity in attracting people to our community. The park would also provide a place for organizations such as the Humane Society to hold pet adoption fairs.” Like any project, a dog park requires research and visiting other parks, learning what are the pros and cons of each one. “I have visited many dog parks and have learned so much about what dogs and their owners need in a facility. Morning sun and afternoon shade are a must, along with benches for owners to sit and visit with each other and a water feature for the dogs. Daily maintenance is a must to keep the park clean and attractive. Rules of conduct for both dogs and owners must be followed to ensure the safety of all visitors. Having an area for smaller dogs and larger dogs to play separately is very important. Incorporating an area for an eco-friendly bioretention system, which ensures the ‘washing’ of the field and filtering of the water, is a must. We want owners to feel that we took everything into consideration before actual construction begins. Do it right the first time and everyone is happy with the end product,” commented Houska.

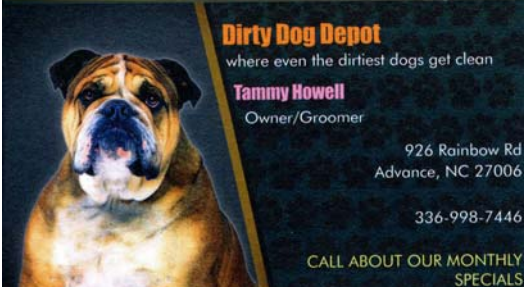
For Houska, the ideal situation for the funding of the Tanglewood Dog Park would be a community effort, involving the selling of engraved bricks honoring dogs, past and present. The Winston-Salem Foundation is handling the contributions for the group. “A benefactor would be nice for the funding, but I believe this should be a community effort. The

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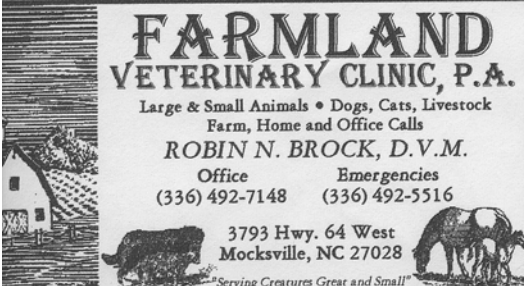
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*‘You can’t change the world by adopting one animal, but you can change the whole world for that one animal.’* Author unknown

initial cost, since we are using land owned by Forsyth County, will be around \$100,000, with the largest expense being paving the parking lot," said Houska. Fundraising efforts with the brick sales began last fall and the park's opening is projected for some time in 2010. For more information on the Clemmons Dog Park visit [www.ClemmonsDogPark.org](http://www.ClemmonsDogPark.org) and join the effort at <http://groups.google.com/group/clemmons-dog-park>.

## HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S. URGES ACTION

**Please make a brief, polite phone call to Representative Virginia Foxx (202) 225-2071.** When you call, remember to give your name and address so the office knows you are a constituent. You can say: "Hello, my name is [your name] and I'm calling from [your town] to urge [Representative's name] to co-sponsor H.R. 1326, the Great Ape Protection Act. Chimpanzees shouldn't be warehoused in research labs at great taxpayer expense. These endangered animals have been poor research models for human illness, so most of them aren't even being used in active research. They deserve to be permanently retired to sanctuary, which will be cheaper and much better for them too. Thank you."

## HAPPY ADOPTION TAIL

*Ellie, formerly known as Blossom, is thriving! She loves us as much as we love her. She's a smart girl, loves to cuddle and has added much joy to our lives. Ellie's 8-week training starts tonight at PetSmart. We'll keep you posted....Happy New Year to you all!*



## PUPPY MILL BILL NEEDS YOUR VOICE

Kim Alboum, NC State Director of the Humane Society of the United States, hosted a "Lobbying for Animals" seminar at the Davie County Public Library in Mocksville in November where participants learned how to make a tremendous difference for animals in North Carolina. The North Carolina state legislature is considering legislation that would significantly impact animals, such as a bill to improve conditions for dogs living in puppy mills and a bill to end fox and coyote penning. Readers are asked to lend their voices in support of these pending bills.

Visit the website for the NC State Legislature at [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net) and search on **House Bill 460**, Commercial Dog Breeder Regulation. The bill defines a commercial breeder as any person who owns or maintains 15 or more intact female dogs of breeding age and 30 or more puppies primarily for the purpose of sales, and a commercial breeding operation as a physical location or facility at which a commercial breeder breeds or maintains intact female dogs of breeding age and puppies. S.B. 460 excludes kennels or establishments operated for the purpose of boarding or training, hunting, sporting, herding, show, or working dogs. S.B 460 requires the Board of Agriculture to establish standards for the care of animals at commercial breeding operations, including provisions for adequate daily exercise, adequate veterinary care, appropriate housing and record keeping. The bill passed in the Senate and has been referred to the House Finance Committee. Please write or email the members of the Finance Committee to express your opinion; the more voices heard, the better the chances for passage of the bill. Committee members' contact information may be found by clicking on **Committees/House Standing Committees/Finance**. Committee members include Davie County Rep. Julia Howard.

*'You can't change the world by adopting one animal, but you can change the whole world for that one animal.'* Author unknown

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## COMMUNITY GROUPS LEND A HAND

There's no age requirement when it comes to helping those in need. Ten-year-old **Katie Shoaf** from Advance understands that as she often helps with projects at her church or with her parent's Civitan group. This time she wanted to take the

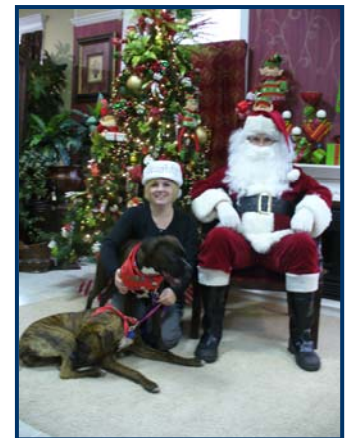


lead. Getting the idea from her *American Girl Magazine* (Nov/Dec 2009 issue), Katie hosted a "Heartwarming Party" on Sunday, November 29th. Four of her girlfriends attended the "Party with a Purpose", contributing fleece fabric, their creativity and lots of giggles as they made fifty colorful dog-chew toys and twenty comfy cat



blankets. The chew toys and blankets were then donated to the Humane Society of Davie County. Katie delivered the presents to the Humane Society's Rachel Dunn on Thursday, December 3rd with the delightful approval of "Yukon" their greeter. Thank you, Katie, from the pets at the adoption center!

Santa visited **Dero's** in Clemmons in early December and a number of lucky pups got their photos taken with him. Several elves worked hard to make the event happen and HSDC extends a special thank you to them: Gretta Parnell, owner of Dero's, hosted the event in her store beautifully decorated for the holidays; Tammy Howell of Dirty Dog Depot offered pet grooming before their photo shoots; Chip Savidge served valiantly as the event photographer; Diane Britt offered her pastel or charcoal pet portraiture; Stephanie Rideout and Pat Land brought two beautiful Clydesdales for visitors to admire and pose with for photos; Patti Ann Lynch, Dolly Urdanick, and Lynn Messick greeted guests and kept things moving. Thanks to all, and a special thanks to Santa!



Employees at **VF Jeanswear** are helping the Humane Society every time one of them indulges their sweet tooth. Candy bar sales to employees benefit HSDC; several hundred dollars have been collected and donated in just the past three months. In addition, a bulletin board at the plant displays information on the programs and activities of the Society, and HSDC tee shirts will be available for ordering very soon. Thanks to Ronnie Beamon and the rest of the workforce from the Humane Society!

## IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY

In honor of *Sue & Bob Blair*  
 In honor of *Jean Bryan*  
 In honor of *Gracie Clark*  
 In honor of *Wayne & Melissa Hardy*  
 In celebration of *Rock*  
 In honor of *Mike Hendrix*



In memory of *Chloe*  
 In memory of *Harry*  
 In memory of *Nikki*  
 In memory of *Carrie Sue Smith*  
 In memory of *Star*  
 In memory of *Todd Urdanick*

***"They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind."*** Tuscarora

Donations made to the Humane Society of Davie County in honor and in memory of someone are acknowledged both to the donor and the honoree or family, when requested.

*"You can't change the world by adopting one animal, but you can change the whole world for that one animal."* Author unknown



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**Mark Your Calendar:**  
**Feb. 3 Spay-ghetti Dinner**  
**Mar. 20 Cause for Paws**

**Humane Society of Davie County**  
**Officers and Board Members**

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**Membership Application**

Membership fees subsidize adoption center pet care, adoption, and spay/neuter programs. Please join today.

**Membership Levels:**

- Single \$15.00
- Family \$25.00
- Shepherd \$50.00
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