

*www.* ***Straydog*** *.org*

**Funds are very low! Please help!**



"This recession's got us worried pretty bad!" says Duncan.

***Straydog*** Inc. P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Tx 75147

September 2009



The Arnold Family's Happy Home for Strays, a No-Kill Dog Shelter  
A TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION \* With 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status from the IRS \* DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
PO Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147 \* (903) 479-3497 \* Email: Straydog147@yahoo.com

Dear Friends of Straydog,

For 15 years (since October 1994) we have been struggling here at Straydog just to stay afloat. We've gone into negative numbers on more than one occasion, and you (our contributors) have helped us to raise enough funding to get us back up into the black ink once again. Unfortunately we are again approaching a zero balance in our Daily Operating Fund, which is our only fund, and we are indebted to Morton Small Animal Clinic in the amount of \$9,118 as of September 1, 2009. We are very grateful for the very generous donations that came in after publication of our *July 2009 Straydog Newsletter*, when over \$8,200 in contributions came in directly to Morton Clinic, leaving us with a zero balance for a few days before doggies in need of medical attention had to be taken to the clinic, starting the cycle all over again.

Pat Arnold and I brought with us a total of 11 dogs when we came to our current Straydog property to live in the small cabin we now use as our kennel feeding building, where the dog food bowls are prepared and distributed to our feeders and then to the dogs. When the first article about us was published in *The Dallas Morning News* in March 1997, our shelter population had risen to 24 dogs. When Pat Arnold passed on at the beginning of June 2003, she had given sanctuary to 65 dogs, not counting the many we had adopted out over those first eight years. (See the column by Jacquelynn Floyd published in *The Dallas Morning News* on June 3, 2003, two days after Pat passed on.) Since that fateful day in 2003 we who are carrying on Pat's mission have added 65 more dogs to the Straydog population, bringing our total population up to 130 dogs at this point in time. Another statistic that we should emphasize more is that we've adopted out into good forever homes approximately 150 dogs over this fifteen-year period. To us, finding homes for 150 dogs is not nearly enough, but we are gratified that at least the dogs we have rescued have lived and are living long, healthy, happy and descent lives, either in individual forever homes or here in our sanctuary--Straydog.

Still, the saddest part of all of this (and the thing that weighs heaviest on us) is that even with all of your generous contributions, along with all of our efforts to do everything that we possibly can to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home as many dogs as possible, it's still not nearly enough, when we consider the number of dogs who are euthanized daily in the kill shelters across the county. What does keep us going, giving us some satisfaction with the results of our work, is to go around to each and every dog here and look into their eyes and see the extreme love and gratitude they show us, their caregivers. Also the kind notes and letters from you, our contributors, inspire us to "Keep going!" as a contributor once wrote on the bottom of his contribution check. Those are the things that make it all worth it. We also feel a sense of accomplishment knowing that through our efforts at Straydog and through the efforts of so many other no-kill shelters everywhere, we as a society will some day educate everyone to spay and neuter their pets so that the overpopulation problem (which is still an overwhelming tragedy) will disappear and we will have achieved a sustainable population level of dogs (and cats) on earth. ... Some day.

**Please send contributions to either (or both) of the following addresses:**

**Morton Small Animal Clinic, P.O. Box 1356, Athens, Texas 75151 903-675-5708**

***Straydog* Inc., P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147 903-479-3497**

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold, *President and Co-Founder of Straydog, Inc.* (which began its mission in October 1994) - *September 2009 Straydog Newsletter*

